

Bradford on Avon Area Board – 11 May 2011

Agenda Item 11 B) – Appendix 1

Note of Grants Advisory Group held on 28 April 2011

Present: Bil Bailey, Limpley Stoke Parish Council
 Matthew Midlane, Monkton Farleigh Parish Council
 Alan Mines, Wingfield Parish Council
 Peter Dunford, Bradford on Avon Community Area Manager (secretary)

Apologies: Terry Biles, Westwood Parish Council

Community Area Grant Scheme - End of Year Summary Report and Scheme Review for 2011/12

PD outlined the key statistics for 2010/11 in terms budget expenditure, leverage of matched funding, monies rolled-forward, the range of projects supported and the distribution of grant support per parish.

PD then outlined the review of the scheme for 2011/12 financial year. The Area Board will now not consider applications from Town and Parish Councils for purposes that relate to their statutory duties or powers to fund local projects through the Precept. However this does not preclude bids that support community projects that provide new opportunities for local people or those functions that are not the sole responsibility of the Town or Parish Council. These changes have been approved by the Cabinet of Wiltshire Council and became operative as of 1st April 2011.

There was some feeling that the scheme criteria continues to lack clarity and remains too woolly. The changes will mean that the Community Area Manager will have to exercise increasing levels of judgement as there are still significant 'grey areas' of eligibility. Regret was expressed that the review of the scheme had been carried out without prior consultation with the area boards.

PD suggested that the membership of the Grants Advisory Group be subject to re-election in July 2011 and thereafter on an annual basis. The group members were supportive of this.

Community Area Grant Applications:

- i) Staverton Parish Council – £ 980 sought to install a footpath in a play area to give access to disabled persons in wheelchairs and to parents with prams to access a swing suitable for disabled children
 - No matching funding, volunteer labour or fundraising efforts demonstrated

- Footpaths should be put forward through the CAT-G highways prioritisation scheme for funding
- The Parish Council has overspent on other projects and sees the Community Area Grant as an opportunity to raise funding
- Considered to be a core parish council project and therefore not eligible under the new rules: **the Grants Advisory Group recommend refusal**

ii) Bradford on Avon Arts Festival - £ 1, 500 sought for Bradford on Avon Arts Festival 2011

- The Advisory Group was generally supportive of this initiative
- Clarification sought on other sources of funding - from Bradford on Avon Town Council, Co-operative Community Fund, Colonel Llewelyn Palmer Educational Trust and local businesses – are they secured/ what elements are they funding ? *Response from applicant to clarify that the Town Council funding has contributed to the costs of ticket printing, banner printing, website maintenance and liability insurance; other sources of funding not yet secured.*
- Contributions to cash prizes (£ 350) and for contingency funds (£ 300) would not be eligible, reducing the eligible project costs to £ 2, 350
- **The Grants Advisory Group recommend funding of £ 1,175 be awarded, being 50 % of the revised eligible project costs. As this is an annual event and recurring expenditure cannot be supported, this would need to be a one-off funding contribution**

Comments received from Arts Development Officer

The Bradford on Avon Arts Festival is a community based event and well supported. My understanding is that a public meeting was held recently and a number of new people joined the steering committee, bringing with them new ideas to the festival. This indicates to me that the festival is very much welcomed in the town and it's great to know that there are volunteers working hard to pull it together.

There is no funding allocation in the 2011/12 Wiltshire Council arts budget for the 2011 festival and no application has been received from the festival to the arts project grant scheme. As far as I am aware, there is nothing to indicate that the Board shouldn't support the festival.

Peter Dunford, Community Area Manager for Bradford on Avon - April 2011