

Report to	Amesbury
Date of Meeting	19/11/2020
Title of Report	Community Youth Grants

## 1. Purpose of the report:

To ask Councillors to consider the following applications seeking funding from the Amesbury Area Board.

Application	Grant Amount	
<b>Applicant:</b> Buzz Action Foundation <b>Project Title:</b> The Element Cafe and Amesbury Youth Cafe COVID project	£3000.00	
<b>Total grant amount requested at this meeting</b>	£3000	

## 2. Main Considerations

Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2020/21 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.

Community Youth Grants will contribute to the continuance and/or improvement of cultural, social and community activity and wellbeing in the community area, the extent and specifics of which will be dependent upon the individual project.

Community Youth Grants give all local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils an equal opportunity to receive funding towards community- based projects and schemes.

<i>Area Board Budget</i>	<b>£22,322.00</b>
<i>Roll forward</i>	<b>£0.00</b>
<i>Awarded</i>	<b>£1,995</b>
<b>Balance :</b>	<b>£20,327.00</b>

If the grant is awarded, the balance in the Area Board youth activities budget will be: £17,327.00

## 3. The application(s)

<b>Applicant:</b> Buzz Action Foundation <b>Project Title:</b> The Element Cafe and Amesbury Youth Cafe COVID project	Amount Requested from Area Board: £3000.00	
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This application meets grant criteria 2014/15.

**Project Summary:** Resumption of Element Cafe youth club for vulnerable young people and pastoral youth work for the open access Amesbury Youth Cafe project through Positive Activities in Amesbury during the Pandemic.

**Please tell us WHO will benefit and HOW they will benefit from your project and benefit your local community:** Our project supports local needs in creating provision for vulnerable young people to socialise in a secure environment and receive pastoral support which they are unable to access elsewhere. When we started offering Youth Activities of this nature Amesbury Police reported a 17 drop in Youth Crime so we have a good track record of addressing local needs. Prior to the pandemic we were typically supporting between 30 and 75 young people per session per week with over 100 young people taking part in this project. Unfortunately during the pandemic Amesbury Youth Cafe and element cafe both had to close their doors. The Element Cafe is now re opening This is a targeted project aimed at young people who are vulnerable for a variety of reasons. Our current membership are vulnerable due to bereavement life limiting illness living in protective care learning difficulties and hidden disabilities. Over the next few months we would expect to return to supporting similar numbers of young people although some of this support may be done virtually as youngsters may need to be shielding. To ensure our service continues to be accessible to everyone we offer zoom sessions so youngsters can continue to socialise and feel connected in to a support network. We charge a nominal entrance fee of 50 pence and are discretely flexible about payment where this would prevent a youngster from being able to take part to ensure that financial circumstances do not act as a barrier. So far members have engaged with us in our pastoral roles where we have offered Positive Activities at local parks. Our Element Cafe will be opening in a Covid-secure environment at Amesbury Bowman Centre. The Amesbury Youth Cafe is working towards a safe re-opening but cannot currently operate indoors. Therefore the Youth Cafe will start presenting some outdoor winter events provided by the Buzz Action Roadshow. These projects will integrate the membership of Amesbury Skate Association Youth Cafe and the Community Circus. Our plan is to offer a safe outdoor space with some lighting music a gazebo as appropriate so they can gather and socialise responsibly. We encourage all of our members to volunteer and play a positive role in their community by taking part in a variety of community events such as the Amesbury Festival of Youth Amesbury Carnival Purbeck Valley Folk Festival. We have a continuing scheme with the iWill Project which provides the structure for this and we work in partnership with Circus Wessex to ensure that there are roles that are appealing and appropriate for every one of our members. This guarantees that these opportunities are open to all regardless of ability or background. We work in partnership with Amesbury Town Council who give help with venues Collinwood Service who provide training for our volunteers as well as activities for our members such as bite size first aid Wessex Community Circus who organise and coordinate a programme of events which our members can access.

**Report Author:**

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