

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Melksham Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>03/02/2021</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Community Area Grant funding</b>

**Purpose of the report:**

To consider the applications for funding listed below.

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Amount requested</b>
<b>Applicant:</b> Avon Needs Trees <b>Project Title:</b> Buying 19 acres Seend community woodland orchard meadow  <a href="#">View full application</a>	£5,000
<b>Applicant:</b> Melksham Music & Drama <b>Project Title:</b> Radio Mics to perform Joseph at The Assembly Hall  <a href="#">View full application</a>	£4,000
<b>Applicant:</b> Melksham Town Council <b>Project Title:</b> Priority for People Melksham 2021 Stage 1  <a href="#">View full application</a>	£3,000
<b>Applicant:</b> BRAG Bowerhill Residents Action Group <b>Project Title:</b> Public outdoor seating for Bowerhill  <a href="#">View full application</a>	£2,511
<b>Applicant:</b> Carer Support Wiltshire <b>Project Title:</b> Counselling for unpaid carers in Melksham  <a href="#">View full application</a>	£2,500
<b>Applicant:</b> Melksham Town Council <b>Project Title:</b> Safety and Wellbeing in Melksham and Community Area  <a href="#">View full application</a>	£2,500
<b>Applicant:</b> Melksham Town Council <b>Project Title:</b> Market Place Markets - the heart of Melksham retail	£2,080

<a href="#">View full application</a>	
<b>Applicant:</b> Riverside Club Community Hall <b>Project Title:</b> Hall redecoration and new entrance doors <a href="#">View full application</a>	£1,820
<b>Applicant:</b> Bulkington Playground Committee <b>Project Title:</b> Bulkington Playground repairs <a href="#">View full application</a>	£1,000
<b>Applicant:</b> Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living <b>Project Title:</b> Facilitating connections between people in Melksham <a href="#">View full application</a>	£950
<b>Applicant:</b> Whorwellsdown District Girlguiding <b>Project Title:</b> Steeple Ashton Guides - Computer projector supporting meetings <a href="#">View full application</a>	£500

## 1. Background

Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them. Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the [Area Board Grants Guidance](#)

[The funding criteria and application forms](#) are available on the council's website.

## 2. Main Considerations

2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that funding awarded in the 2020/2021 year is made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of it being awarded.

2.2. Councillors must ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation to Area Boards.

2.3. Councillors will need to be satisfied that the applications meet the Community Area Board grants criteria.

## 3. Environmental & Community Implications

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

## 4. Financial Implications

The unallocated capital budget for community projects is £12,622. The unallocated

revenue budgets for health and wellbeing projects is £ 6,200 and for youth projects is £ 4,898.

### 5. Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

### 6. Human Resources Implications

There are no specific human resources implications related to this report.

### 7. Equality and Inclusion Implications

Community Area Boards must fully consider the equality impacts of their decisions in order to meet the Council’s Public Sector Equality Duty.

Community Area Grants will give local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Council’s equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes, where they meet the funding criteria.

### 8. Safeguarding Implications

The Area Board has ensured that the necessary policies and procedures are in place to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

### 9. Applications for consideration

<a href="#">4042</a>	<b>Avon Needs Trees</b>	<b>Buying 19 acres Seend community woodland orchard meadow</b>	<b>£5,000</b>
<p><b>Project Description:</b>  The purchase of 19 acres between the village of Seend and the Kennet and Avon canal to create a new permanent community woodland, orchard meadow and ponds. To improve biodiversity, lock up carbon, provide natural flood management and community green space. Intend to go on and buy a further adjoining five acres. Land will be surveyed and monitored for biological data and offered to universities as long-term research site. Management will involve local residents working with ANT Trustees. Vendor expects purchase to begin in Spring. We may lose option to buy if not ready. Although project costs given for one year this application is for the purchase which is time sensitive.</p> <p>Local residents will benefit from access to 19 acres of land that is currently private apart from restricted pathways. They will benefit from environmental improvements - better biodiversity, natural flood management, cool woodland on hot days, improved air and water quality and carbon sequestration. Access to green space is widely recognised as essential for mental well-being as well as physical health. Tree planting will provide phytoremediation for neighbouring contaminated land and we have already paid for a £2,000 report from Structural Soils to clarify this.</p> <p>Residents will be able to take advantage of a community orchard, free fruit and nuts and get involved in tree planting, meadow and pond creation and biodiversity monitoring. People will learn new skills including collaboration on the management of the land. We anticipate this land being a significant useful resource for all the community and have already begun outreach to local schools, scout and guide groups, ramblers, health and fitness groups and green groups. We also anticipate</p>			

making this land available for university research as we have at Hazeland. Universities often cannot secure land for long-term studies but ANT is able to provide this at no cost.

**Input from Community Engagement Manager:**

The request is for a £ 5,000 contribution towards a £ 200,000 project with matching contributions coming from events, donations and other grant funding.

**Proposal**

That the Area Board determines the application.

Application ID	Applicant	Project Proposal	Requested
<a href="#">3976</a>	Melksham Music & Drama	Radio Mics to perform Joseph at The Assembly Hall	£4,000

**Project Description:**

We had a rare opportunity to get a licence to perform the adult version of this show back in September but it had to be put off until next year so now we are trying to get it back on track.

We have been performing shows for the people of Melksham since 1960 although 2020 has been a disaster for us but we will fight back. Our members consist of young and old 14 is our lower limit but as our shows get more technical it is a learning curve for the members who get involved with lighting sound and production.

We hope to build up our banks of Radio Mics but are currently looking at a rack mounted unit that hold 8 receivers with a view to expanding on that at a later date.

**Input from Community Engagement Manager:**

Production costs include hiring The Assembly Hall plus licencing fees, music hire and costumes. Match funding is from potential ticket sales and other grants.

**Proposal**

That the Area Board determines the application.

Application ID	Applicant	Project Proposal	Requested
<a href="#">4012</a>	Melksham Town Council	Priority for People Melksham 2021 Stage 1	£3,000

**Project Description:**

This is the first stage of a Community Area-wide consultation to be followed in Stage Two by workshops and a community-wide working group tasked with developing a movement strategy for the future of the town. This is movement of

people, goods, vehicles throughout the town and will prepare for a future over the next 15 years in line with the needs of the climate emergency. This is being prepared and will be conducted in full partnership with Wiltshire Highways and other relevant bodies e.g. TransWilts Rail. Stage 1 includes - The initial “Where We Are Today” briefing document (February), the web and paper-based consultation designed to reach out to every household in the Community Area (March/April). An initial report on the findings will be produced by end-April/ early May when the findings will also be shared with Wiltshire Council. A full report will follow providing detailed considerations and commentary and proposing strands for further investigation including workshops etc as Stage 2. Note that the reports at this stage will be shared with Wiltshire Highways as they prepare the Outline Business Case for the Melksham bypass.

This exercise is relevant for the entire population of the Melksham Community Area. It addresses key concerns over traffic. It will provide a focus in particular on health and wellbeing, greater access to routes for walking and cycling, broader use of public transport, rail and bus, and the economic health of the town centre. It should also provide a source of data and background in considering the impact of planning applications and the obligations of future housing and commercial development.

This application relates to Stage 1 of the Priority for People Melksham 2021 exercise. Stage Two starting in May 2021 is set to include workshops and a community-wide working group tasked with developing a movement strategy for the future of the town. This includes movement of people and goods throughout the town and prepares for a future over the next 15 years in line with the needs of the climate emergency. The budget for Stage Two is £6,500.

This study has been initiated and will be managed by Melksham Town Council in partnership with the Area Board, Community Area Parish Councils and Wiltshire Highways. Melksham Town Council commissioned the strategic report “Melksham 2020-2036” from Townswork in 2019 and the project which is the subject of this application is an integral part of the original procurement.

#### **Comment from Wiltshire Highways:**

The Melksham Bypass Project is currently progressing towards the development of an Outline Business Case (OBC) submission to DfT later in 2021. One aspect of the scheme would be the potential for improved or enhanced active travel provision (walking and cycling) along the existing A350 corridor as a possible consequence of a reduction in the severance effect of the existing A350 route. Examples of potential improvement opportunities areas include the A350 / A365 junction (railway station to town centre connection), and the Semington Road junction to the south of the town.

We understand the “Priority for People” initiative being developed by Melksham Town Council would involve consultation on, and the development of thoughts regarding how walking and cycling facilities within and around Melksham town centre might develop in the future. Whilst not essential to the development of the OBC, if taken forward, the findings and outcomes of the Melksham “Priority for People” initiative could be helpful in terms of informing the potential for

complementary active travel initiatives associated with the Melksham bypass project. As such, the Melksham Bypass Project Team are supportive of this initiative and would welcome further engagement with Melksham Town Council on this as we develop the OBC for the bypass.

**Input from Community Engagement Manager:**

Finance has confirmed that this project would need to be funded through the revenue budget.

**Proposal**

That the Area Board determines the application.

Application ID	Applicant	Project Proposal	Requested
<a href="#">4031</a>	<b>BRAG Bowerhill Residents Action Group</b>	<b>Public outdoor seating for Bowerhill</b>	<b>£2,511</b>

**Project Description:**

To replace six existing seats which have either been broken or have reached the end of their useful life and install one new one, plus two new picnic tables, where residents have demonstrated there is a need. The seats to be replaced are located at Falcon Way, Hornchurch Road public open space, the bridleway and the canal-side picnic area. An additional seat is to be provided on the bridleway and two new picnic benches at the Hornchurch Road public open space. The wooden benches originally installed in 2014 will be replaced by items made from recycled plastic which have a longer lifespan and minimal maintenance requirements.

The project will facilitate and encourage outdoor exercise especially among the less mobile who find walking long distances without a rest difficult. BRAG also wish to develop the Age Friendly Seating Initiative promoted by the Area Board by ensuring there are plenty of places for people to rest while out on a walk. This links to the Wiltshire Council business plan 2017 to 2027 policy to promote good countryside access, including cycling and walking opportunities. These benches provide resting places on the routes from residential areas to the public open space at Hornchurch Road and the bridleway to the canal-side picnic area. Two benches have been damaged when residents moved them to the centre of the public open space. This project would replace the broken benches used by the less mobile residents walking the circuit around the public open space and would provide two new picnic benches in the centre of the grassed area where the young people prefer to socialize. This is also helping to encourage outdoor physical activity which is particularly important during the current pandemic and is likely to become a regular occurrence in the longer term.

**Input from Community Engagement Manager:**

Match funding is being provided by Melksham Without Parish Council.

**Proposal**

That the Area Board determines the application.

<a href="#">3961</a>	<b>Carer Support Wiltshire</b>	<b>Counselling for unpaid carers in Melksham</b>	<b>£2,500</b>
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**Project Description:**

Carer Support Wiltshire seeks support from Melksham Area Board to fund a counselling service for unpaid carers living in Melksham. The service would offer a total of 40 counselling sessions for 6-12 carers living in Melksham over the course of 6 months.

According to the 2011 census there are over 47,000 unpaid carers living in Wiltshire. The mental health of these carers are likely to be significantly impacted by the Covid-19 crisis for the following reasons: Face-to-face services and support networks have been suspended, many carers and those they care-for may be in the vulnerable category and will therefore be self-isolating for an extended period of time, struggling to keep in touch with their loved-ones, unable to take vital breaks from their caring role, their loved-ones health may be deteriorating with less access to health facilities. Carers UK research "Caring behind Closed Doors" 2020 has found that due to the pandemic 70 carers are providing more care with an average of 10 hours a week increase. 55 are concerned that they will not be able to keep it up and as many as 81 are being hit financially. We anticipate that carers will not only struggle now under lockdown measures but in the aftermath when others return to normality whilst they stay essentially in a similarly isolated situation caring for their loved-ones. Its estimated that there are 3,146 carers living in Melksham – that's 11.1 percent of the total population 2011 Census.

We have 668 carers living in Melksham who are currently registered with CSW. Out of the 283 carers in Melksham who have completed our Initial Assessment in the last three years, 90 percent felt tense, tearful, stressed or anxious; 84 percent feel low; and 70 percent struggle to feel positive about the future. With a view to helping these carers through this challenging time we would like to offer counselling to carers in Melksham who may be struggling as a result of the Covid-19 crisis. We plan to do this by sub-contracting a counselling service to offer a total of 40 sessions to 6 - 12 carers, each lasting for approximately 1 - 2 hours over the duration of 6 months. Counselling has multiple benefits including relief from depression, anxiety or other mental health conditions, increased confidence, greater ability to manage stress effectively, more self-acceptance and self-esteem, better expression and management of emotions, and increased resilience.

Carer Support Wiltshire has offered counselling in the past with much success, referring over 300 carers from 2013 – 2018, that is 60 per year. We have been offering telephone counselling to carers throughout Wiltshire as a result of some Big Lottery funding that we received earlier this year. However this service will only continue until the end of December. A grant of £2,500 from the Melksham Area Board would mean that we could have dedicated counselling sessions for 6 - 12 carers living in Melksham and that they would be able to access this service if and

when they need it over the coming 6 months. We already have a counselling provider lined up that could potentially offer this service which would ensure that we could start the service quickly. Sessions would take place online or by telephone unless it is safe to do otherwise. The winter can be an extremely challenging time for carers and even more so this year as carers will experience even greater social isolation and concern for the health of loved-ones. We believe that a counselling service dedicated for carers in Melksham will help them to cope better with the heightened anxiety depression loneliness and isolation they may feel at this time.

**Input from Community Engagement Manager:**

The applicant is providing match funding. The Health and Wellbeing Group will consider the matter on 25 January.

**Proposal**

That the Area Board determines the application.

Application ID	Applicant	Project Proposal	Requested
<a href="#">4035</a>	Melksham Town Council	Safety and Wellbeing in Melksham and Community Area	£2,500.00

**Project Description:**

This project will benefit businesses and residents in Melksham as well as those from with the Melksham Community Area. Such people will benefit from enhanced feelings of safety and wellbeing when visiting the town and also potentially from enhanced security at selected deployment locations in the Melksham Community Area. As such it is appropriate that the entire financial burden at this early stage doesn't fall on a single council. Therefore we are respectfully suggesting that this is a project which the Melksham Area Board can help fund on behalf of the Melksham Community Area.

An enhanced CCTV system for Melksham and surrounding areas has long been discussed. It would offer enhanced safety and reassurance resulting in higher levels of wellbeing. A CCTV system will assist Wiltshire Police and we have their support - their reports and recommendations have been submitted to the Melksham CEM. Clearly examining and evaluating the current small provision then specifying and costing the overall requirements is a key preliminary and preparatory stage and it is this crucial step we seek to fund now so next stage capital works are appropriately executed achieving required outcomes and value for money.

This first stage of the project is to evaluate the existing small CCTV provision and specify the overall requirements so the identified beneficiaries will accrue benefit from the project. Therefore the next stage capital project will be designed during this first stage to that identified beneficial needs are met. It is envisaged at this first stage that beneficiaries will include residents of the Town and Community Area,

businesses, Wiltshire Police, community groups - solving and preventing crime generating solid feelings of safety and wellbeing as residents and visitors to the town go about their lawful and legitimate business.

This project will benefit people, organisations and businesses across the Melksham Community Area. The involvement and commitment from Melksham Without Parish Council and Wiltshire Police is clear evidence of this. Therefore it is not appropriate that the entire financial burden for this first stage work falls upon one council and this is why we are requesting support from the Melksham Area Board for 50 per cent of the first stage costs. The remaining cost will be borne by the applicant.

**Comments from Sergeant James Twyford, Wiltshire Police:**

“As the eventual end-user, we’re very much committed to the Project and I’m personally very keen to help in any way I can, having reaped the benefits of a brilliant system whilst I worked in Devizes.

I also have support of the Tactical Crime Prevention Officer and Designing Out Crime Officer, both of whom work within our Crime Prevention Department. They would be invaluable at the phase where we’re looking at where to best install any system expansion, so we have the facility to support each stage of the process. These two members of Staff are there to advise on how to deploy a system to best effect, for the specific locality. My plan is to speak with them over the next month or so, to explain the scope of the Project and try to obtain an initial Crime Prevention perspective.

If the system is there for use, it then inherently becomes an expectation on Officers to utilise it to best effect; selling its benefits is very straightforward if the system is of sufficient quality, which is why I’m so keen to get it right first time”.

**Comments from Community Engagement Manager:**

This project is deemed by finance to be “capital” as it will clearly lead to capital expenditure outcomes.

**Proposal**

That the Area Board determines the application.

<a href="#">4029</a>	<b>Melksham Town Council</b>	<b>Market Place Markets - the heart of Melksham retail</b>	<b>£2,080</b>
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**Project Description:**

Melksham’s beautiful Market Place is a key focal point in the town and never more so than when it is used for events of varying types including markets. However, our markets activity needs strengthening. New and developing businesses wish to participate but do not necessarily have gazebo-type infrastructure available to them to encourage them to test their ambition and business plan.

We envisage noticeably increased entrepreneurial activity as we emerge from COVID-19 lockdown as people look to develop new opportunities due to redundancy or simply due to changes to personal priorities. We see developing our markets as a way to bring our residents and visitors back to our high street as well as providing a low risk business nursery-type retail infrastructure to support new and developing businesses. To achieve this, we seek capital funding support for some heavy-duty gazebo infrastructure.

This project will allow the popular Market Place in the centre of Melksham to be increasingly utilised as an events and markets venue. Conveniently located in the centre of town close to residential areas car parks and bus termini its location makes it easy for residents to engage with activities at this location. Crucially too buses from the out of town community area find this location accessible. The Melksham Market Place is also a short walk from the towns train station. Being convenient for access by shoppers this central location with developing specialist markets will also play an important attractant role in regenerating the town centre economy as we emerge from COVID-19 lockdowns by providing an important sales and development platform for new and developing businesses creating sales opportunities and potential to begin building relationships with new customers.

This diverse range of markets proposed as part of this project will provide broad appeal to a wide audience who value the ability to buy high quality local produce receive high levels of service meet the makers and producers and enjoy periodic variations from the normal high street offer. This project will play a major role in reengaging local people with their town and offer alternatives to the rapidly emerging online shopping trend.

This project is not part of the core statutory work of this council. Rather it is discretionary work in support of local organisations and high street development activity to support the local economy as it seeks to recover from COVID-19 also to benefit town residents and visitors from the Melksham Community Area and beyond. As such it is unbudgeted as whilst we can make financial and in-kind contributions we cannot fund the entire project.

Our income from this project will cover operating and establishment costs plus market gazebo erection and break down costs. As the project develops a sinking fund will develop allowing funding for ongoing repairs and renewals. As we anticipate this project benefitting businesses and the community in Melksham as well as its community area we consider it appropriate to apply to the Melksham Area Board for a contribution towards start up infrastructure cost.

**Input from Community Engagement Manager:**

Match funding is provided by the applicant. The project supports the COVID recovery agenda promoted by the area board.

**Proposal**

That the Area Board determines the application.

Application ID	Applicant	Project Proposal	Requested
<a href="#">4021</a>	Riverside Club Community Hall	Hall redecoration and new entrance doors	£1,820
<p><b>Project Description:</b> Refurbish the interior by decorating the hall and replace wooden entrance door with UPVC secure doors.</p> <p>The Riverside Club is a well-used venue for the older people of Melksham. There are at least two events each day catering for the older person, this includes activities like Yoga, Keep Fit classes, Social activities, Games afternoons and public meetings. At other times the hall is used by younger people and outside clubs such as W.I</p> <p><b>Input from Community Engagement Manager:</b></p> <p>During 2020 the hall income has ceased but expenditure has had to continue on the maintenance of the building. This project is match funded from reserves.</p> <p><b>Proposal</b> That the Area Board determines the application.</p>			

Application ID	Applicant	Project Proposal	Requested
<a href="#">4034</a>	Bulkington Playground Committee	Bulkington Playground repairs	£1,000
<p><b>Project Description:</b> Bulkington community playground has a number of pieces of equipment that are unsafe and need removal. The playground used to have a very active committee who oversaw general maintenance and upkeep voluntarily, however this has not been in place for a number of years and equipment has therefore not been maintained. In addition, much of the equipment is also nearing the end of its life having been installed approximately 15 years ago. We have newly reformed the committee and will actively work together on a volunteer basis to restore the park to its best possible state, however funding is required to pay for specialist removal of certain items and to pay for repair replacement of other items. Fund raising will commence in the usual way once COVID-19 restrictions allow in order to raise funds to replace larger items at the end of their life. The playground itself has seen a significant increase in use during each lockdown as residents are of course staying local and we hope that improving the safety of the site further will encourage this to continue. The annual ROSPA report supports the fact that much of the equipment is due for replacement.</p> <p>The safety of children and members of the local community and surrounding villages is paramount when using play equipment. Both cohorts will benefit from this investment in the areas identified by ROSPA that will in turn encourage not</p>			

only help to improve the fitness of children but the mental health and well-being of all children and parents attending the park. This play facility is one part of a wider system of well-being measures as the park is set in surrounding countryside. By improving the play equipment will encourage parents to make use of the wider facilities on offer in the park and walkers to call in to use the picnic facilities, sensory areas and football field. In the long term, once lockdown eases, we will aim to encourage the wider community to use the communal space once more. If the space is not tidy or safe it is not welcoming, and currently this is sadly the case. It is a matter of time before someone gets hurt on some of the items we will be removing and hopefully replacing as soon as funds allow. As a committee we feel that providing a safe space in these times of Covid restrictions is essential to the wellbeing of the young people in our community.

**Input from Community Engagement Manager:**

No match funding is required.

**Proposal**

That the Area Board determines the application.

<a href="#"><u>4015</u></a>	<b>Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living</b>	<b>Facilitating connections between people in Melksham</b>	<b>£950</b>
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**Project Description:**

A project to support adults aged 18 and over in the Melksham Primary Care Network area covering Melksham GP surgeries to connect with their community through providing small person-centred wellbeing opportunities which will build confidence promote well-being and reduce social isolation. We do not have an upper age limit. We work across services linking in with partner organisations including drug and alcohol services housing social services and third sector groups. Our aim is to help people identify what is important to them and from these ideas we create pathways to connect them with their community.

As community connectors we work with individuals who are referred to us from the Spa Medical Centre and Giffords Surgery in Melksham. Members of the practice team will refer people who are frequent attenders at GP surgeries or who attend for primarily social need. We work alongside each individual and support them to make positive changes in their lives using their own strengths and resources and those of their community. Our aim is to help people identify what is important to them and from these ideas we create pathways to connect them with their community. We find that many of the people we work with experience social isolation and loneliness. Once the pandemic is over it will be more important than ever to have a strong community with many small grass roots projects that will help bring people back together again. If we were successful in securing funding we would use this money flexibly to facilitate this community building. The small pots of funding will be for specific activities acting as a catalyst for these connections.

We are providing two examples of how this might work in practice:

1. Forest bathing project - Many of the people we work with report that being supported to connect more with outdoor activities and nature has benefitted their mental health. One of the Melksham connectors has completed a course to learn more about forest bathing and how to run such a group and this is something that people we have worked with have expressed an interest in participating in. We would facilitate the establishment of such a group by purchasing equipment e.g. weather-proof mats to sit on, camping chairs, flasks for refreshments etc. We could also set aside a small transport budget for those people who might really benefit from attending the group but had no way to travel to the venue.

2. Establishing activity groups - We would aim to bring people together through a focus on a shared activity or interest. This might be music, crafting board and card games, or whatever emerges as an activity that people would like to participate in. We would facilitate the establishment of these groups by purchasing equipment e.g. a range of craft materials, board games, musical instruments or music books etc, sourcing a venue and paying for room hire and making a budget available for refreshments. Wherever possible we would aim to facilitate the development of inter- generational links within these groups by promoting the groups as places where people of all ages could come together to learn skills from each other. The funding would enable us to make these groups happen and to facilitate bringing people together in different ways, depending on their interests, and hopefully support the start of positive friendships. Our longer term aim would be that these groups become self-sufficient and no longer require active input from ourselves to operate.

Funds will be held and controlled by Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living as a restricted fund. Our community connectors will work with individuals to identify ideas and if these require some seed funding they will ask for approval from their manager. A spread sheet will log all allocations of funding including amount and purpose. WCIL will be responsible for purchasing anything through the fund enabling an audit of spend. The individuals we work with will not be given cash or equivalent. For example if a new group wanted to meet in a coffee shop WCIL would arrange to buy a set number of drinks that would be held by the coffee shop until needed by the group. By monitoring the purpose of each spend we will also be able to identify trends and patterns and this could inform future community development projects and partnership working.

**Input from Community Engagement Manager:**

No match funding is required. The Health and Wellbeing Group will consider the matter on 25 January.

**Proposal**

That the Area Board determines the application.

Application ID	Applicant	Project Proposal	Requested
<a href="#">4020</a>	Whorwellsdown District Girlguiding	Steeple Ashton Guides - Computer projector supporting meetings	£500

**Project Description:**

Steeple Ashton Guides wish to purchase a laptop computer and projector to support weekly meetings.

In Steeple Ashton Village Hall on a Tuesday we have 10 Rainbows 24 Brownies and 36 Guides/ Rangers attend a weekly meeting. Supported by 9 Leaders and 3 Girls who are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh. However since Covid we have been meeting outside or via Zoom We have a shed on Acreshort Field which holds our equipment and is used as a base for these outside meetings. In recent times it has become more difficult for us to gain the appropriate information needed for our meetings We have found that now most things are online. It is only recently that Steeple Ashton has had Wi Fi. So useful as we have 4 children who have type one diabetes and parents are able to monitor them and add or reduce their medication. We therefore have decided as a group of Leaders that a specific computer rather than one of us bring in one from our homes would be beneficial to all. We could with the support of a projector we could run our meetings in an easier safer way. As part of our policy we do not allow our Guides to use their own phones. Under Data protection it would mean we would have a safer secure way of keeping vital information. The need has also been highlighted to us that whilst in Lockdown we have run our meetings via Zoom. One of our Leaders who is on low income has to manage using her phone. Not ideal for when she is running the meeting as she cannot participate in the zoom system.

**Input from Community Engagement Manager:**

No match funding is required, although a contribution of £ 170 is being made by the applicant towards costs.

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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