

Report to	Warminster Area Board
Date of Meeting	30 June 2011
Title of Report	Community Area Grants
Report Author	Jacqui Abbott, Community Area Manager

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider two applications seeking 2011 / 12 Community Area Grant Funding.

1. Warminster Festival: A request for £2,000 towards the Warminster Festival.

Officer Recommendation: Approve

2. Warminster Christmas Lights: £4,000 towards replacement of decorations, bulbs and carabena clips for Warminster and surrounding villages Christmas lights.

Officer Recommendation: Approve

Total request if in line with officer recommendations: £6,000

If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Warminster Area Board will have a balance of £25,460

1. Background

- 1.1. Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Community Services (15 April 2011). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance for funding.

- 1.2. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any decision of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria and/or the officer's recommendation would need to demonstrate that the application in question has a wider community benefit, and give specific reasons for why this should justify an exception to the criteria.

- 1.3. The emphasis in the Coalition Government's Localism agenda supports the ethos of volunteering and community involvement. With this in mind Community Area Grants should be encouraged from and awarded to community and voluntary groups.

- 1.4. Area boards will not consider applications from town and parish councils for purposes that relate to their statutory duties or powers that should be funded

from the local town/parish precept. However this does not preclude bids from town/parish councils, encouraging community projects that provide new opportunities for local people or those functions that are not the sole responsibility of the town/parish council.

- 1.5. Officers are required to provide recommendations in their report, although the decision to support applications and to what level is made by Wiltshire Councillors on the Area Board.
- 1.6. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.7. All applicants are encouraged to contact Charities Information Bureau who is working on behalf of Wiltshire Council to support community and voluntary groups, town and parish councils to seek funding for community projects and schemes both from the Area Board and other local and national funding sources.
- 1.8. Paper copies of funding applications will no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce volume of paper used. However, the application forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council web site and hard copies available upon request.
- 1.9. The 2011/2012 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards) or paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.

<p>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Area Grant Application Pack 2011/12 • Warminster and Villages Community Area Plan • Criteria for Area Board projects 2011/12
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2011/12 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. There will be six rounds of grants in 2011/12. The remaining rounds are as follows:

Board Meeting

Deadline for receipt of grant applications

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st September, 2011 • 10th November, 2011 • 12th January, 2012 • 8th March, 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22nd July, 2011 30th September, 2011 2nd December, 2011 27th January, 2012 |
|---|---|

- 2.3 The Board has £38,209 for Community Area Grants for the year 2011/12. There is also £3,614 rolled over from 2010/11. This makes a total of £41,823 for 2011/12.

3. Environmental & Community Implications

- 3.1 Community Area 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.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. Awards must fall within the Area Boards budget allocated to the Warminster Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Warminster Area Board will have a balance of £25,460

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1. There are no specific Legal implications related to this report.

6. HR Implications

- 6.1. There are no specific HR implications related to this report.

7. Equality and Inclusion Implications

- 7.1. Community Area Grants give all local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils an equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.
- 7.2. Implications relating to individual grant applications are outlined within section 8 – “Officer Recommendations”.

8. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Warminster Festival	Warminster Festival	£2,000

- 8.1.1. **Officer recommendation – Approve.** The application meets the grant criteria 2011/12
- 8.1.2. The project will promote and foster appreciation of and participation in the arts, sports and leisure activities in Warminster and the community for all ages.
- 8.1.3. The overall cost of the project is £5,728 and the applicant is in receipt of a grant for £2,000 from Warminster Town Council and £500 from the Fudge Trust.
- 8.1.4. The festival has been operating for 20 years bi-annually. A varied programme is provided aimed at all groups. The events are supported by local residents and visitors to the town. The events are subsidised to make sure that those who have not had the opportunity to attend larger theatres or performances can attend.
- 8.1.5. The project demonstrates a link to the Community Plan through theme 3, Culture and Leisure.
- 8.1.6. The project is community led with a wide variety of participants on the management committee.
- 8.1.7. If the funding is not provided this would prove difficult for the festival organizers and the festival might not be able to run for the full 2 weeks as planned.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Warminster Christmas Lights	Maintenance and improvement of Christmas lights	£4,000

8.2.1 **Officer recommendation – Approve.** The application meets the grant criteria 2011/12.

8.2.2 The project involves replacing some decorations, bulbs and carabena clips due to new larger catenary cables. Over time, all bulbs are required to be low energy and Warminster Christmas Lights are in the process of doing this. An upgrade of the cables is required to 8mm size which means new clips are also required. The cost of the bulbs is initially more expensive but cost effective over time.

8.2.3 The project will take place in Warminster and will be in the main roads at Christmas time.

8.2.4 The community is very supportive of the Christmas Lights project in Warminster. During one year when they failed, many people came forward to request there return.

8.2.5 There is a link to the Community Plan through Economy and Tourism as the lights encourage people to shop in Warminster and there is enjoyment for the whole community and in particular, older people, disabled people and young people and children.

8.2.6 The total project is £12,852 and match funding is in place for £8,852 from the Town Council, traders and own fundraising and reserves.