

Note of Bradford on Avon Area Board - Grants Advisory Group - held on 17 June 2011

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

Apologies: Terry Biles, Westwood Parish Council
 Matthew Midlane, Monkton Farleigh Parish Council

New applications to the Community Area Grants Scheme:

- i) Saxon Church and St Mary Tory Trusteeship, Bradford on Avon
 - No detail provided of assets or reserves or of fundraising carried out by the trust.
 - Concern it does not fit the criteria - signage is the responsibility of the town council and this is supporting a private tourist attraction
 - Requested to chase further information

- ii) 1st Winsley Scout Group
 - Reserves identified as over £ 5,000 but with a deficit showing in 2010/11 and no evidence of fundraising
 - The application form is incomplete
 - Requested to chase further information

- iii) Limpley Stoke K6 Telephone Kiosk Refurbishment Group
 - Application tabled
 - Details of beneficiaries requested
 - All to consider and comment

A further GAG meeting will be needed to consider the further information requested, to be held by mid July.

Bradford on Avon Arts Festival

Email received from applicant to explain that the festival will not go forward as planned in September 2011 – instead will be deferred to June 2012 to allow greater flexibility as

to timing of events; greater choice as to content of events; a better fit with schools and performers' schedules; and most importantly, a continued judicious use of funds by aligning with dates of notification of funding outcome. Events such as the Tithe Barn feast have in the past been curtailed as a result of creeping chill; they would benefit from expansion into the evening.

The Grants Advisory Group agreed that it would not be appropriate to carry the project forward across financial years and that the applicant should be advised to withdraw and re-submit.

The details of the application may need to change, although the principle of support has been established. No monies have been paid out towards the project.

Voluntary and Community Sector Awards 2011

Nominations have been invited in the category 'Best Community Initiative nominated by an Area Board 2011/12'.

Last year the overall Wiltshire winner was the Bradford on Avon Community Agriculture Co-operative.

This year the project recommended to go forward by the Grants Advisory Group is the Heaven Scent Graffiti Art project at Victory Fields, Bradford on Avon.

Representations to be made to Wiltshire Councillors regarding the grants decision-making processes

Points raised include:

- Some of the grant awards show a lack of value for money to the public purse
- The Community Area Grant Scheme is seen as an 'easy touch' by applicants
- Councillors are ignoring the grant scheme criteria when it suits them and on a regular basis
- Some Councillors are not declaring interests in applications with which they have had some involvement
- No good reasons are being given by members for overturning officer or Grant Advisory Group recommendations
- There has been no local input to the grant scheme which has recently been reviewed by the Cabinet
- The guidelines need to be more clearly interpreted at a local level, the terminology is too woolly
- Members of the Grants Advisory Group should be appointed for a 2 year term in order to build up grant appraisal skills
- The Grants Advisory Group needs to have clearly agreed terms of reference

Representations from the GAG should be made to the Bradford on Avon Board members and also directly to Councillor John Thomson, the Cabinet member with responsibility for the area boards and communities portfolio.

