

Report to	Warminster Area Board
Date of Meeting	22 September 2011
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report:

To ask Councillors to consider the following applications seeking 2011/12 Community Area Grant funding.

1. Warminster Town Council. A request for £4,410. The application is for funding towards replacing two bus shelters and a new Bus Shelter.

Officer recommendation: Refuse on the grounds that funding can be sought from the Community Area Transport Grant (CATG).

2. Corsley Memorial Playing Field. A request for £1,000

Officer recommendation: Approve

3. Trowbridge Tigers Football Club. A request for £233 from Warminster Area Board. Full request is £465 and the remainder is requested from Westbury Area Board.

Officer recommendation: Approve

Total request if all applications are allocated in line with officer recommendations: £1,233.

Members of the Board may wish to note that an application was also received from the "Events 2012 Working / Steering Group". However, the group have decided to submit the application to the 10 November 2011 Area Board meeting as further work is being undertaken on the details of the application.

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
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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 deadline for applications is six weeks prior to the date of the meeting, the remaining grants rounds are as follow :

Board Meeting	Deadline for receipt of grant applications
• 10 November 2011	30 September 2011
• 12 January 2012	2 December 2011
• 8 March 2012	27 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

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 £24,227.

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 Town Council	Replacement of 2 bus shelters and addition of 1 new shelter.	£4,410

8.1.1. **Officer Recommendation – Refuse** The application does not meet the grant criteria 2011/12 which states that the Council will not consider grant applications from “(h) Projects which could reasonably be expected to secure finance by other means”

8.1.2. In previous years, Wiltshire Council has funded up to 50% of the cost of shelters through its bus shelter grant fund. However, this has been withdrawn. The Cabinet Member for Highways, Councillor Dick Tonge is keen that funding for bus shelters is sought from the Community Area Transport Grant (CATG) discretionary Highways funding. This enables Area Boards to prioritise what infrastructure they require in their areas and compare bus shelter provision against other highway infrastructure improvements.

8.1.3. It is therefore recommended that the Town Council request funding via the CATG process which is the best route for bus shelter funding. The next meeting for this group is on the 11 October 2011. It will be possible to report the outcome of this meeting to the Area Board meeting on the 10 November 2011.

8.1.4. The details of the request are as follows: Two upgrades to both Firbank Crescent and the Uplands and a new shelter in St Andrews Road. The request is via the Armed Forces and local residents of St Andrews Road which has a significant bus movement in Imber Road. Families, residents, school children and older passengers would all benefit from a shelter. Early consultation indicates a positive response from residents.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Corsley Memorial Playing Fields	Replace community's cricket nets	£1,000

8.2.1 Officer Recommendation: Approve

8.2.2 The application meets the grant criteria 2011/12

8.2.3 Thirty to forty children regularly attend cricket practice in Corsley & Chapmanslade. However, the cricket net is many years old and cannot be used safely by children. The request is to replace the old net and allow children to practice on the artificial wicket.

8.2.4 Match funding has been applied for and granted from the Corsley Elizabethian evening (£300) and the Lord Taveners (£325).

8.2.5 The project is linked to the Warminster and Villages Community Plan as it supports leisure, environment and access to facilities for young people. It also fits with the County play strategy.

8.2.6 If funding is not awarded, the young people and the rest of the community will not be able to practice cricket.

8.2.7 Members of the Board may wish to note that the Corsley Memorial Playing Field have received the following grants last year:

An award of £1,500 made on 29/07/2010 for free coaching for children and young people.

An award of £5,000 made on 29/10/2010 to improve the field to reflect community make-up, improve safety and access provision for all abilities

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3	Trowbridge Tigers Football Club	to host a national 5 a side football competition to raise the participation of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/ Transgender people in football – £465 / 2 Area Boards	£233

8.3.1 Officer recommendation - approve

8.3.2 The applicant meets the grant criteria 2011/12.

8.3.3. The requested funding would be used to host a 5 a side football tournament to raise the profile of lesbian/gay/bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. Although based in Trowbridge, the team is made up from players from Warminster and Trowbridge. The tournament will take place in Westbury during the day and an evening reception in Warminster. The benefit to Warminster will be through business and commerce and also community cohesion.

8.3.4. The event will help to raise the profile and generate a positive attitude to LGBT people in the area.

8.3.5. The applicant demonstrates links to the Warminster and Villages Community Area Plan through theme 5 Sport & Active leisure. The applicant demonstrates links to the Local Agreement for Wiltshire ambition "Building Resilient Communities"

8.3.6. The applicant will contribute earned income towards the project of £600.

8.3.7 Westbury Area Board has also been asked to contribute towards the project as it will benefit this area; they meet on 6 October. A previous application was also submitted to Trowbridge Area Board but they refused to fund the project.

8.3.8 It is recommended that the Warminster Area Board funds £233 towards this project