

Report to	Bradford on Avon Area Board
Date of Meeting	17th March 2010
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 3 applications seeking 2009/10 Community Area Grant Funding

1. Bradford on Avon Community Agriculture Cooperative, £4,100 to set up a Community Farm Initiative. The group are seeking funding for infrastructure and technical expertise to aid start-up of a Community Farm initiative.

It is recommended that Bradford on Avon Community Agriculture Cooperative is awarded a grant of £4,100 to cover the start-up costs for a community farm initiative.

2. Castle Gardens Nursery School, £815 to purchase ICT equipment to improve the running of the nursery, specifically in the areas of record maintenance and publicity/communications.

It is recommended that Castle Gardens Nursery school is awarded £815 to purchase ICT equipment to improve the running of the nursery, specifically in the areas of record maintenance and publicity/ communications.

3. Priority for People, £996.85, to run a public engagement event as a follow –up to the Taming the Traffic Workshop run in 2008 and Priority for People initiative launched in Spring 2009.

It is recommended that Priority for People is awarded £996.85 to run a public engagement event. This event would enable the three groups would be able to report back on activities of last year, to debate issues raised and take forward proposals. Additional comments will be invited by those unable to attend the meeting through the website and a leaflet distributed across the Community Area.

1. Background

- 1.1 A single and simple application process was accepted by the Implementation Executive on 13th May 2009 for use during 2009/10. Appendix 1 contains the Community Area Grants Pack, which has been developed and includes details of the grants process and criteria.
- 1.2 Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to the Area Boards by the Leader of the Council (13th May 2009). Under the terms of that delegation Area Boards must operate within the policies set by the Leader and /or the Council. The Council has adopted an Area Grants policy, with funding criteria, to which the Area Boards must adhere.
- 1.3 In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any recommendation of an Area Board that was contrary to the funding criteria would need the approval of the Leader, the appropriate Cabinet Member or the Cabinet.

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Area Grant Application Pack 2009/10• Bradford on Avon Community Area Plan
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2009/10 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed before 31st March 2010.
- 2.2. There will be 4 rounds of funding during 2009/10. The final round for 2009/10 is contained in this report.

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 Bradford on Avon Area Board.
- 4.2. In 2009/10 the Bradford on Avon Area Board has been allocated a budget of £35,333. The Bradford on Avon Area Board has a remaining **£4,679** to allocate to community grants. Additionally, The Community Area Partnership has been awarded one tranche of funding this financial year, leaving **£6,313** unclaimed. This additional funding could be used for community grants or rolled forwards for bids to be

submitted in the next financial year.

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	Bradford on Avon Community Agriculture Cooperative	To set up a community farm initiative.	£4,100

8.1.1 Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2009/10 grant criteria. It is recommended that Bradford on Avon Community Agriculture Cooperative is awarded a grant of £4,100 to cover the start-up costs for a community farm initiative.

8.1.2 This application links to the Bradford on Avon Community Area Plan by responding to community concern that there is a lack of locally produced food in the community area (Bradford on Avon Community Area Plan p 7).

8.1.3 The project relates to Wiltshire Council priorities by increasing the number of local people involved in volunteer work (volunteers will both prepare the land and to be involved in planting) and encourage people to make lifestyle changes that will have a positive impact on the health of both themselves and their family. Once established, it has the potential to facilitate intergenerational activities and positive activities for young people. By creating a local food source, it contributes to other initiatives in the town that seek to increase awareness of climate change adaptation and to reduce carbon emissions (by providing local people with a source of local food which does not need to be transported. It will also create a new habitat, therefore potentially improving local biodiversity.

8.1.4 Bradford on Avon Community Agriculture Cooperative is constituted as an Industrial Provident Society. It has a core membership of 7 individuals with a wider group of 70 individuals who have joined meetings and events over the past 12 months. Landowners are also members of the IPS. The group works with the Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon Group who are supportive of the Community Farm Project.

8.1.5 The aim of the community farm project is to significantly increase the production of local fruit and vegetables in BoA. The food will be marketed to Coop members (70 people) and their friends, the Climate Friendly Group (100 people) and more widely through the community as the farm becomes established. The group aim to set up a vegetable box scheme in collaboration with other local growers known to the project, and to invite local volunteers including young people and school pupils to work with us on the land. The project addresses the need for the community to have access to more physical activities and aims to build resilience for an uncertain and resource constrained future. The box scheme will also reduce carbon emissions, not only through the approach to cultivation (chemical fertilisers will not be used), through local (as compared to regional, national or international) production), and through the setting up of local group pick up points for the boxes in the community saving on individual car trips. If funded, this project will initiate a direct link with one of the local primary schools Fitzmaurice who will set up a polytunnel to grow food in their grounds which will contribute to the school children's nutrition, education and to the box scheme. The bid for funding to the area board is for project set-up costs, specifically the preparation of the land and equipment to facilitate planting.

8.1.6 This scheme is partially targeted at people aged under 25.

8.1.7 If the area board decides against this grant application, the group will have to seek funding from alternative sources. The group is time-restricted in that they need to start the planting process immediately to facilitate a crop for this year.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Castle Gardens Nursery School	Purchase of ICT equipment to enable better record keeping and better publicity and communication.	£815

8.2.2 Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2009/10 grant criteria. It is recommended that Castle Gardens Nursery school is awarded £815 to purchase ICT equipment to improve the running of the nursery, specifically in the areas of record maintenance and publicity/ communications.

- 8.2.3 This application links to the Bradford on Avon Community Area Plan by working towards improving the quality of the pre-school experience (Bradford on Avon Community Area Plan p 10).
- 8.2.4 The project reflects Wiltshire Council priorities by working towards increasing the number of young people engaged in positive activities although it should be noted that this bid seeks to buy equipment which will improve the quality of provision but not increase the number of children receiving this service.
- 8.2.5 Castle Gardens Nursery is a charity. It seeks to provide affordable pre-school provision to children aged 3-5 years in the Bradford on Avon Community Area. Castle Gardens is an equal opportunities Pre-School, a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance, registered with the Local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and registered and inspected by Ofsted.
- 8.2.6 Grant funding is requested to purchase ICT equipment to support the running of the nursery. The purchase of a laptop would enable the pre-school leader to store records centrally, complete end of term records, update the pre-school website and complete online forms. An external hard drive and memory stick would enable information to be backed up. The childproof digital cameras costed in the bid would enhance ICT educational provision and independence.
- 8.2.7 If the area board decides against this grant application, the group will have to seek funding from alternative sources.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3	Priority for People	Public meeting/communication on Priority for People progress	£996.85

- 8.3.1 Officers are of the opinion that this application meets 2009/10 grant criteria. It is recommended that Priority for People is awarded £996.85 to run a public engagement event.
- 8.3.2 This application links to the Bradford on Avon Community Area Plan in responding to the concern of the community around traffic volume, density and congestion and danger and intimidation and hindrance for pedestrians and cyclists (Bradford on Avon Community Area Plan p16/17).
- 8.3.3 The project relates to Wiltshire Council priorities by engaging with local people to find out their priorities and to work with them to deliver solutions. As the priority for people

groups are run on a voluntary basis, it has the potential to increase the number of local people involved in volunteer activities. The event promotes the involvement of local people in working towards sustainable transport solutions which has the potential to reduce deaths through accidents and reduce carbon emissions from transport.

As work is currently being undertaken by consultations contracted by Wiltshire Council to develop the Historic Core Zone concept, it has been stressed by Wiltshire Council Officers that this event would need to support publicity work already being undertaken and not duplicate communications from this project.

8.3.4 Priority for people is defined as a 'Bradford on Avon Community Area initiative'. Four action groups progress the work of the initiative: The Historic Core Zone Group, The Safer Community Action Group, A Connected Community and Planning for the Future. Membership to these groups is open and each action group is expected to listen to and consult with the wider local community on all proposals put forward by each group. The Priority for People programme is overseen by a stakeholder body composed of representatives from all town and parish councils in the community area, the Community Area Partnership, Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust, Bradford on Avon and District Community Development Trust, Bradford on Avon Chamber of Commerce, Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon, Bradford on Avon senior Citizen's Forum, Representatives from schools within the community area, Wiltshire Council Officers from the highways and air quality departments and Linden Homes.

8.3.5 Funding is requested to run an engagement event to enable the groups operating as part of the Priority for People initiative to report back on activities of last year, to debate issues raised and take forward proposals. Additional comments will be invited by those unable to attend the meeting through the website and a leaflet distributed across the Community Area.

8.3.6 If the area board decides against this grant application, Priority for People would have to seek funding from alternative sources.

Appendices:	Appendix 1 Community Area Grant Criteria Appendix 2 Grant application – Bradford on Avon Community Agriculture Cooperative Appendix 3 Grant application – Castle Gardens Nursery Appendix 4 Grant application – Priority for People
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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