

Report to	Malmesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	9 November 2011
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider officer recommendations in respect to 1 Community Area Grant application:

1. Lea Community with Lea Baby and Toddler Group – award £4,653 towards imaginative play equipment suitable for 3-7 year olds, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

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 (CAGs) should be encouraged from and awarded to community and voluntary groups.
- 1.4. Area boards will not consider Community Area Grant (CAG) 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. In addition to CAGs councillors can submit an Area Board/councillor led project, which differs from a CAG in that they do not require matched funding. They should, however, not be used to avoid complying with Community Area Grant criteria.
- 1.6. Area Board/councillor led project applications are designed to enable councillors to tackle 'sticky' community issues or projects identified in the Community Plan. An application form is used and estimates for project work have to be completed in a similar manner to the Community Area Grant scheme.
- 1.7. 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.
- 1.8. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.9. All applicants are encouraged to contact and seek funding help from Charities Information Bureau who works 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.

- 1.10. 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.
- 1.11. 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.
- 1.12. All recipients of community area awards are expected to complete and return an evaluation form as soon as the project or activity has been completed and this should be accompanied by receipts and invoices, as well as photographs if possible. Failure to return the evaluation requested will preclude them from being considered for any future funding from the area board.

Background documents used in the preparation of this report	Community Area Grant Application Pack 2011/12 and Councillor Led Initiatives
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Malmesbury Area Board has been allocated a 2011/2012 budget of £40,593 for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives.
- 2.2. The carry forward from the 2010/2011 budget is £9,717, resulting in a balance of £50,310 for distribution during 2011/2012.
- 2.3. At the 4 May 2011 area board, councillors approved 2011/12 core funding of £8,119 to Malmesbury & Villages Community Area Partnership, resulting in a balance of £42,191.
- 2.4. In addition at the 4 May 2011 area board £5,303 was distributed to young people (in a participative budgeting event) from a separate ring fenced youth/transport budget, leaving a balance of £2,756 for youth projects.
- 2.5. On 29 June 2011, the area board agreed that the 2011/12 young people's budget of £4,059 (from Cabinet) would be topped up to £6,000 and the balance of £815 was to be returned to the general area board budget.
- 2.6. At the 29 June 2011 area board, councillors approved distribution of £6,776 to community area grants and area board/councillor led initiatives leaving a balance of £36,230.

- 2.7. At the 7 September 2011 area board, councillors approved the distribution of £8,616 to community area grants and area board/councillor led initiatives leaving a balance of **£27,614**.
- 2.8. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in 2011/2012 are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.9. There are 6 funding rounds during 2011/12. The remaining two deadlines for receipt of applications and dates when they will be considered are as follows:
- **28 November 2011 for consideration on 18 January 2012**
 - 23 January 2012 for consideration on 7 March 2012

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 Malmesbury Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in accordance with officer recommendations Malmesbury area board will have a balance of **£22,961**

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 council's equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes, where they meet the funding criteria.
- 7.2. Implications relating to individual grant applications are outlined within "Officer Recommendations".

8. Officer Recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1.	Lea Community with Lea Baby and Toddler Group	Imaginative play equipment for 3 -7 year olds	£4,653

- 8.1.1. Officers recommend that Lea Community with Lea Baby and Toddler Group is awarded £4,653 towards the purchase of imaginative play equipment for 3-7 year olds in memory of Celia Rose Brenner, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
- 8.1.2. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2011/12 grant criteria. The only exception is that comparative quotes were not available for the equipment chosen. Because of the special circumstances of this application it is hoped that councillors would make an exception.
- 8.1.3. The application for funding arises from the tragic death of Celia Brenner, aged 3¹/₂ and the desire of family and friends in the community of Lea to contribute towards some play equipment in her memory.
- 8.1.4. The equipment chosen is aimed at children aged 3-7 to encourage imaginative play and will complement the equipment already found in the Jubilee playing field, Lea.
- 8.1.5. A survey was carried out in the pre-school and primary school to help identify the type of play equipment which was currently missing for younger children. The results indicated that items to encourage their imaginations through role play were needed and a decision to purchase a play house, train and boat was made.
- 8.1.6. It should be noted that the majority of the funding for this scheme has been raised through local contributions by friends and family and the area board is being requested for a little over one third the total cost of the project.
- 8.1.7. Lea and Cleverton parish council are willing to maintain the equipment and undertake safety checks and have contributed towards the scheme.
- 8.1.8. A decision not to help fund this application would probably lead to fewer pieces of equipment being installed.

Appendices	Appendix 1 Grant Application – Lea Community with Lea Baby and Toddler Group
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report other than those requested in the funding criteria e.g. estimates.

Report Author	Miranda Gilmour, Community Area Manager Tel: 01672 515742 Mobile:07990 505882 E-mail: miranda.gilmour@wiltshire.gov.uk
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