

Report to	Bradford on Avon Area Board
Date of Meeting	23 November 2011
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

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

i) West Wiltshire Young Musicians Project

The officer recommendation is that £ 995 is awarded to West Wiltshire Young Musicians for the re-design of the WWYM website

ii) Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon

The officer recommendation is that £ 1000 is awarded to Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon for a walking cycling and bus map of Bradford on Avon

iii) To ask councillors to consider the options for the allocation of the balance of the Community Area Grants budget in 2011/12.

The Community Area Grant fund currently has reserves of in excess of £ 40,000 in 2011/12 and any unspent monies at 31 March 2012 will be lost from the Area Board budget. Options to make the most of this resource to the benefit of the Bradford on Avon community in 2011/12 include:

- a renewed publicity campaign to attract applications from voluntary and community groups.
- ring-fence part of the monies towards a fund for celebrations associated with the Olympics, Olympic Torch Relay and Diamond Jubilee in 2012.
- vire the balance of unspent monies to top-up the budget of the Community Area Transport Group for minor capital highways schemes, such as dropped kerbs and grit bins.

1. Background

- 1.1 Area Boards have authority to approve Community Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Community Services (27 February 2010). 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 as to why this should justify an exception to the criteria.
- 1.3 In accordance with the Area Board Grants Guidance, officers are required to provide recommendations in their report, however the decision to support applications and to what level is made by Wiltshire Councillors on this Area Board.
- 1.4 Bradford on Avon Area Board has been allocated a budget in 2011/2012 of £47,110 for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives. The carry forward from the 2010/2011 budget is £12,142. This gives a total budget of £59,252 for the 2011/2012 financial year. It will not be possible for unspent monies at 31/03/12 to be rolled forward into the budget for the 2012/13 financial year.
- 1.5 It has been decided that paper copies of funding applications will no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce the volume of paper used. However, the application forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council website and hard copies will be available upon request.
- 1.6 The 2011/2012 funding criteria and application forms are available on the Council's website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards) and paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Area Grant Application Pack 2011/12• Bradford on Avon Community Area Plan• Wiltshire Local Area Agreement
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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 6 rounds of funding during 2011/12, this being the fourth round.

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 Bradford on Avon Area Board.

4.2 If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Bradford on Avon Area Board will have a balance of £ 41, 259 remaining in the grants budget for the 2011/12 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 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
8.2	West Wiltshire Young Musicians Project	Re-designing the WWYM website	£ 995

8.2.1 This application meets the community area grant criteria for 2011/12.

8.2.3 The application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and Wiltshire Local Area Agreement through its contribution to the promotion of arts, culture, leisure and activities for young people. It contributes to out of school learning for 14-19 year olds

8.2.4 Members of the Grants Advisory Group have mixed views on the application but are generally in favour. They are concerned over value for money and would have like to have seen further competitive quotes; also a request to see a greater visibility of WWYM within the community.

8.2.5 The West Wiltshire Young Musicians Project will create a place where young musicians and their parents can access general information about WWYM; improve communication within WWYM; share resources e.g music and instruments; celebrate success; see progression paths for young musicians; access other musical opportunities for young musicians; involve parents and carers in running and developing the organisation; make links with the local community; improve the efficiency in organising rehearsals, concerts and endangered instrument sessions; and encourage new members.

8.2.6 Feedback from staff, parents and students has highlighted the ineffectiveness of the current website compared to those of similar organisations. The benefits to the local community of the new website include providing a one-stop-shop for the musical needs of young musicians; to sign-post families to these opportunities; to provide a platform to celebrate musical success; to link up local performers with organisers of local community events; and to provide an additional link between schools, families, musicians, the Wiltshire Music Centre, local councils and local events organisers.

8.2.7 WWYM are seeking the design and first year hosting charges for the website and will contribute from its own resources towards the future operation and development of the site, including annual charges. The impact of the website will be measured through surveys and questionnaires of users and through increased activity and visibility within the community of WWYM.

The officer recommendation is that a sum of £ 995 is awarded to the West Wiltshire Young Musicians Project

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon	A walking cycling and bus map of Bradford on Avon	£ 1, 000

- 8.1.1 The application meets the Community Area Grant Scheme criteria for 2011/12.
- 8.1.3 The application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and to the Wiltshire Local Area Agreement through its aims to promote sustainable transport, reduce carbon emissions and to stimulate tourism and spending in the local economy. It also supports the aims of the BOA2026 strategic plan.
- 8.1.4 Members of the Grants Advisory Group would have liked to have seen financial contributions from the Town Council, CFBOA's own reserves or from sponsorship (although applications for under £ 1,000 in fact do not require this). The community benefit is questioned and the project is felt to be 'a luxury, not a necessity in the current financial climate'. The GAG recommend refusal of the application.
- 8.1.5 The project will highlight footpaths, cycle routes and bus routes with the aim of encouraging residents when travelling within the town to use alternatives to the car. The map will complement the Walkers are Welcome initiative, which is aimed more towards visitors, and will show the proposed Bradford on Avon cycle network and designated rights of way. The map will be free of charge with an initial print run of 3000 copies funded through local business sponsors. It is hoped to make this available through the Tourist Information Centre. A survey will be carried out after 6 months to measure changes in travel behaviour.
- 8.1.6 The project was considered by the Area Board at its meeting in September and the matter was deferred pending further discussions and development. A supplementary statement is appended to these papers which gives further evidence of the community benefit of the proposal.

The officer recommendation is that £ 1000 is awarded to Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon for a walking cycling and bus map of Bradford on Avon

Appendices:	Grant applications from: West Wiltshire Young Musicians Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon The Grants Advisory Group did not meet to consider these applications but comments from individual members have been received by email
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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