

Report to	Malmesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	7 March 2012
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. White Lion Park Recreation Association - award £2,081 towards provision of new play facilities for children and young people in White Lion Park Malmesbury, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

To ask councillors to consider using some of the remaining area board budget to support Malmesbury Community Area Transport Group (CATG) schemes.

2. Details of two projects are provided in the Malmesbury CATG report, found elsewhere on this agenda

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. On 10 November 2010, Malmesbury area board approved that the Community Area Manager be given delegated authority of up to £500 per decision and that expenditure should be reported to the next area board meeting.
- 1.8. 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.
- 1.9. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.

- 1.10. 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.
- 1.11. 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.
- 1.12. 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. Details of funding available in 2012/13 will be available from the same website in due course. Any group wishing to apply to the 9 May 2012 area board for funding should use the current funding criteria as a guideline, recognising that there may be minor changes for 2012/13.
- 1.13. 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. On the 9 November 2011 the area board approved a single community area grant of £4,653 leaving a balance of £22,961.
- 2.9. On 18 January 2012 the area board approved three community area grants amounting to £3,860 and £3,500 towards Jubilee celebrations in Salisbury, leaving a balance of £15,601.
- 2.10.** Following minor changes to plans for Minety Village Hall, they returned £322 of their grant, leaving a balance of **£15,923**.
- 2.11. 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.
- 2.12. There were 6 funding rounds during 2011/12, this being the last one.

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 funding is allocated in accordance with officer recommendations and delegated authority, Malmesbury area board will have a balance of **£13,842**.

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.	White Lion Park Recreation Association	Provision of new play facilities for children and young people	£3,581

8.1.1. Officers recommend that White Lion Park Recreation Association is awarded £2,081 towards provision of new play facilities for children and young people in White Lion Park Malmesbury, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

8.1.2. Officers are of the opinion (following receipt of all estimates) that this application meets the 2011/12 grant criteria.

8.1.3. There are specific references in the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan 2009-2013 in respect to, 'putting things in play areas suitable for teenagers' and 'improving play areas' and this application will meet these needs.

8.1.4. The park already provides facilities for children and young people and now wants to broaden its scope to include an 'Aerial Runway', a basket ball station and an area of tarmac to provide a hard surface for games for slightly older children and teenagers.

8.1.5. The provision of a basket ball facility was highlighted in surveys undertaken by the Recreation Association some time ago and demand for the 'Aerial Runway', has recently come to light following its popularity in another play park in the town.

8.1.6. On the 18 January 2012, Malmesbury area board approved that White Lion Park should be transferred to Malmesbury Town Council under the Community Asset Transfer scheme.

- 8.1.7. This project is largely being funded by Section 106 funds, the balance being requested from the area board. No fund-raising has been undertaken by the Recreation Association towards this scheme nor have they approached Charities Information Bureau for help to seek the balance of the funding required.
- 8.1.8. Officers are of the opinion that either the Recreation Association and/or the town council should be making a contribution towards this scheme, hence the recommendation of the reduced contribution by the area board.
- 8.1.9. A decision not to help fund this application would probably lead to a delay in the work being completed while further funding is sought.

Appendices	Appendix 1 Grant Application – White Lion Recreation Association
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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.

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