

Report to	Warminster Area Board
Date of Meeting	10 May 2012
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report:

To ask Councillors to consider the following applications seeking 2012/13 Community Area Grant funding.

1. Warminster Athenaeum Trust. A request for £5,000
Officer recommendation: Approve
2. Warminster Christmas Lights. A request for £2,000
Officer recommendation: Refuse
3. Warminster Sequence Dancers. A request for £1,800
Officer recommendation: Refuse

Total request if all applications are allocated in line with officer recommendations:
£5,000

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 Adult Care, Communities and Housing (4 April 2012). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance 2012/2013.
- 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 and the nurturing of resilient communities. With this in mind Community Area Grants (CAGs) should be encouraged from and awarded to community and voluntary groups. Likewise, Small Grants (new this year) should be awarded to similar groups, as well as un-constituted groups of people wanting to improve things near to where they live.

- 1.4. Warminster Area Board has been allocated a 2012/2013 budget of £47,714 for community grants, small grants, community partnership core funding and area board/councillor led initiatives.
- 1.5. Warminster Area Board can allocate up to 20% (£9,543) of this budget for the Warminster and Villages Community Area Partnership. (See separate report)
- 1.6. Applications of up to and including £1,000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £1,000 - £5000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
- 1.7. Small Grants, new for this year will fund up to £350, where the total cost of the project does not exceed £350. This grant is aimed at enabling groups (including those not formally constituted) to implement projects, involving local people to make their community a better place to live.
- 1.8. 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.
- 1.9. In addition to CAGs and Small Grants, councillors can submit an Area Board/Councillor Led Initiative. This enables area boards to tackle sticky community issues and/or community identified priorities. Cabinet have emphasised that they do not wish these to be used to avoid complying with Community Area Grant criteria or for filling gaps where there are council service shortfalls. The application process and form has been updated to bring it in line with the other grants.
- 1.10. Officers are required to provide recommendations in their funding reports (except in the case of Area Board/Councillor led initiatives), although the decision to support applications is made by Wiltshire Councillors on the Area Board.
- 1.11. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.12. Applicants are encouraged to contact and seek funding help from Charities Information Bureau (CIB) who work on behalf of Wiltshire Council. CIB 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.
- 1.13. The 2012/2013 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.

- 1.14. A decision was been made in 2010/2011 that 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.
- 1.15. All recipients of area board funding 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. This applies to all grants made by the area board.
- 1.16. A budget ring-fenced for the needs of young people will again be made available in 2012/2013. How this will be allocated will be the decision of the area board.
- 1.17. Warminster Area Board has a separate Community Area Transport Group (CATG) budget of £15,226 for 2012/13.

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Area Grant Application Pack 2011/12 • Warminster and Villages Community Area Plan
---	--

2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2012/13 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 2012/2013. The first is contained in this report the remaining will take place on the following dates:

Board meeting

5 July 2012
6 September 2012
8 November 2012
10 January 2013
7 March 2013

Deadline for applications

25 May 2012
27 July 2012
28 September 2012
30 November 2012
25 January 2013

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 £42,714

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 Athenaeum Trust	Athenaeum Development Phase 4	£5,000

8.1.1 Officer Recommendation – approve

8.1.2 The application meets the 2012/13 grants criteria.

8.1.3 The application demonstrates a link to the Community Area Plan as detailed on page 12 where there is a commitment to support the development of the Athenaeum.

8.1.4 The Athenaeum Trust is a registered charity which aims to support the Athenaeum for the benefit of the people of Warminster and the surrounding area.

8.1.5 This particular project is to reconstruct the toilet block to improve facilities for all users including disabled people. There will also be energy and water usage reduction benefits.

8.1.6 The total project cost is £110,000 and £105,000 has been raised from a variety of sources including Plain Action, Landfill and other trusts and foundations.

8.1.7 If the Area Board decides not to fund the project, the impact will be that the project is delayed.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3	Warminster Christmas Lights	Improvement to Christmas lights	£2,000

8.3.1 Officer Recommendation: Refuse

8.3.2 The application does not meet the grant criteria 2012/13. The Community Area Manager would like to draw the Board's attention to criteria "h" which states that we do not fund repeat requests for annual events. This is the third application from Warminster Christmas Lights in succession.

8.3.3 The application is linked to the Community Plan through economy and tourism development.

8.3.4 The Christmas lights project aims to give a good display of Christmas lights in Warminster for the benefit of the town and surrounding villages. Last year a number of lights failed due to water penetration and some negative comments were received. The funding would be refurbish and renew 20 control units on lamp posts and also to re-position some RCD units to lower positions which will make the lights safer to manage when there are problems.

8.3.5 The cost of these improvements will be £5241 with £3241 raised through the Fudge Trust and own reserves.

8.3.6. If funding is not received not all of the improvements will not be made.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4	Warminster Sequence Dancers	Monthly organist	£1,800

8.4.1 Officer recommendation: Refuse

8.4.2 The application does not meet the grant criteria 2012/13. Criteria “f” states that we do not fund ongoing running costs. Although a monthly activity, the organist is an ongoing running cost for this project and is part of their day to day activities.

8.4.3 The application is linked to the Community Plan through arts and leisure activities and the aim to increase these.

8.4.4. Sequence dancing provides an important and popular social and health activity for over 70s. It operates at the Civic Centre in Warminster. Prices are going up and the project requires funding for the organists.

8.4.5. The total cost of the project is £3873.72 with £2073.72 match funded from free reserves.

8.4.6. If the funding is not agreed, the project will not be able to use the organists this year.

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

Report Author	Jacqui Abbott Warminster Community Area Manager Tel: 07771 844 530 Email: Jacqui.abbott@wiltshire.gov.uk
----------------------	---