

Report to Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board
Date of Meeting 30th May, 2012
Title of Report Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To consider the following applications for community area grant funding

A summary of the applications together with the Community Area Manager's recommendation is set out below.

Application (and amount requested)	Recommendation
1. Royal Wootton Bassett & District Sea Cadets: Purchase a new two seat slide-seat rowing boat complete with oars and road trailer (£2,000)	<i>Approve</i>
2. Lyneham Primary School: Creation of a Jubilee Woodland Walk (£2,213)	<i>Approve</i>
Total requested:	£4,213
Prior to consideration of these applications the Area Board's discretionary fund balance stands at:	£51,680
If all applications are approved the Board's balance will be:	£47,467

1. Background

Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community Services. Under the terms of the delegation, Area Boards are required to follow the [Community Area Grant guidance and funding criteria](#).

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 are made by Wiltshire Councillors on this Area Board.

The Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board has been allocated a discretionary budget for 2012/2013 of £51,680.

A decision has 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 the volume of paper used. However, the application forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council web site and hard copies available upon request.

2. Main Considerations

Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded meet the criteria set by the Council and are made to projects that can proceed within a year of the award being made. While neither of the current applications meet the criteria in full, the Community Area Manager is recommending approval in both cases for the reasons explained in the 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

Financial provision has been made to cover this expenditure. If grants are awarded in line with the Community Area Manager's recommendations, the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board will have a remaining balance of £47,467.

5. Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

6. Human Resources Implications

There are no specific human resources implications related to this report.

7. Equality and Inclusion Implications

Community Area Grants give all local community and voluntary groups an equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.

8. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
1.	Royal Wootton Bassett & District Sea Cadets	Purchase a new two seat slide-seat rowing boat complete with oars and road trailer	£2,000

9. This application seeks funding to purchase a 'Yole' slide-seat rowing boat complete with oars and road trailer for use by the Wootton Bassett and District Sea Cadets. The Yole, with good levels of maintenance which will be funded by the unit, will go on indefinitely. The purchase will enable the cadets and adult volunteers to gain British Rowing association qualifications in both rowing and coaching which will not only demonstrate the success of the project in tangible terms but allow the project to continue with those people using their new skills to instruct others. The Yole is lighter and more manoeuvrable than more traditional rowing boats making it particularly suitable by all the cadets including the unit's junior section who usually have to wait until they are older to successfully begin rowing training. This will be the only boat of its kind in the area would allow the unit to offer training to cadets from Swindon, Chippenham and Trowbridge.
10. This application fails to meet the Council's grant criteria on two counts.
11. Firstly, because the application seeks more than £1,000 from the Board the applicants are normally required to provide match funding. In this case the applicants are contributing £1,500 towards the cost of the purchase, leaving a shortfall of £500. The application shows that the Wootton Bassett & District Sea Cadets hold free reserves of £874. The Cadets have received £1,000 from Sport England and have contributed a further £500 from their own funds. In the circumstances the contribution of £1,500 is a sizeable amount. Seeking an additional £500 would leave the Group with a very low reserve, putting it at financial risk from unforeseen contingencies that may occur during the year.
12. The application does not provide competitive quotes for the purchase of the Yole but on further investigation it has been shown that there is only one provider of the equipment required. Therefore the requirement for competitive quotations does not need to be applied in this case.
13. In view of this, it is recommended that the Board accepts the contribution of £1,500 waives the requirements of the criteria in respect of match funding and awards the grant as requested to enable this worthwhile local project to proceed.
14. It is **recommended** that, taking into account of the circumstances set out at 11 and 12 above, the Royal Wootton Bassett & District Sea Cadets is awarded a grant of £2, 000 to assist with purchase a new two seat slide-seat 'Yole' rowing boat, oars and road trailer.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
2.	Lyneham Primary School	Creation of a Jubilee Woodland Walk	£2,213

15. This application seeks funding to enable the community to create a Jubilee Woodland Walk within the extensive grounds of Lyneham Primary School that can be enjoyed by the whole community and provide a lasting legacy of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations that will take place on the weekend of 2nd June 2012. The applicants state that the desired outcome of the project is to create a lasting community facility that enhances the local environment and which can be enjoyed and used as a learning resource by all members of the community.
16. The walk will comprise a meandering woodland pathway approximately 150m long through the grounds, planted with small copses of trees, with seating and sculptures that can be enjoyed by all.
17. Soil removed to create the pathway will be used to create a landscaped, turfed 'mound' alongside the pathway to add more interest to the walk.
18. The project will cost £3,963 with £1,750 being raised locally from a variety of sources including grants, fundraising, sponsorship and voluntary labour. In that the application seeks more than 50% of the total project cost it is contrary to the grants criteria. However, in view of the level of funding secured locally, the lasting legacy and the number of people who will enjoy the walk both now and in the future it is considered appropriate to waive the requirement for match funding and award the full amount in this case.
19. It is **recommended** that, taking into account of the circumstances set out at 18 above Lyneham Primary School is awarded a grant of £2,213 towards the cost of creating a Jubilee woodland walk for the benefit of the local community.

Background papers:	Grant Application – Royal Wootton Bassett & District Sea Cadets Grant Application – Lyneham Primary School
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Report Author	Steve Milton, Head of Community Governance Tel: 01722 434255 steve.milton@wiltshire.gov.uk
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