

Report to	Amesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	20 September 2012
Title of Report	Area Board Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider :

(A) 3 Grant Applications seeking 2012/13 Community Area Grant Funding

1. Tilshead Village Hall Committee – Refurbishment of Village Hall
Funding sought : £3,500 :
Recommended for **Approval**
2. Bulford Children’s Centre (Spurgeons) – The Freedom Programme
Funding sought : £1386 :
Recommended for **Approval**
3. P.O.P Youth Dance Project – To extend the project for another term
Funding sought: £1,000 :
Recommended for **Approval**

(B) A proposal to earmark £3,000 of Community Area Grant funding for the Crime & Community Safety Community Plan Priority, specifically in regard to the issue of Domestic Abuse

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. Amesbury Area Board has been allocated a 2012/2013 budget of £50,455 for community grants, small grants, community partnership core funding and area board/councillor led initiatives. An overspend of £6990 from 2011/12 has since been deducted from this figure – leaving £43,465 available. Subsequently, the Area Board has approved grants totalling £11,013 at the 24 May, and 19 July board meetings. This leaves the 2012/13 available budget at £32,452.
- 1.5. 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.
- 1.6. 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.
- 1.7. 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.
- 1.8. 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.

- 1.9. 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.
- 1.10. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.11. 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.
- 1.12. Paper copies of funding applications no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce paper. They are however available on the Wiltshire Council web site with the area board agenda papers and hard copies available upon request.
- 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. 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.
- 1.15. 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. £3,000 of this £5,053 budget was earmarked at the 19 July 2012 board meeting for the Bourne Valley Youth Transport Budget.
- 1.16. The Amesbury Area Board has a separate Community Area Transport Group (CATG) budget of £17,500 for 2012/13.

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Board Grant Guidance 2012/13 as presented for delegated decision • Amesbury Community Area Plan
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in 2012/13 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 took place on the 24th May, the second on the 19th July, and the third is contained in this report. The remaining rounds will take place on;

- 22 November 2012
- 24 January 2013
- 21 March 2013

3. Environmental & Community Implications

- 3.1. Area Board Grants 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 Amesbury Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, the Amesbury Area Board will have a balance of £23,566.

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 and Small Grants will give 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 section 8 – "Officer Recommendations".

8. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Tilshead Village Hall Committee	Village Hall Refurbishments	£2,380

- 8.1.1. Officer recommendation – **to approve**

- 8.1.2. This application meets grant criteria 2012/13.

- 8.1.3. This application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan, as it will support a project to improve and enhance a local community hall which provides a vital facility to one of the 22 parishes in the Amesbury Area.
- 8.1.4. Tilshead Village Hall Committee is a well established and hard working committee, committed to refurbishing the hall to a standard that will better serve the local community. The hall is used by many different groups, both for community purposes and for private functions. This grant is for a part of the overall refurbishment programme, which is organised in two phases, to take place over the next two years.
- 8.1.5. The funding applied for in this grant will contribute towards the cost of replacing windows at the hall, and new fascia, soffit and guttering.
- 8.1.6. Without the Area Board funding, the Village Hall Committee's plan for refurbishment will be delayed.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Bulford Children's Centre (Spurgeons)	The Freedom Programme – intervention for female victims of domestic violence	£1,386

8.2.1 Officer recommendation – **to approve**

8.2.2 This application meets grant criteria 2012/13. Whilst Bulford Children's Centre receives funding from Wiltshire Council, The Freedom Programme is an additional and specific project, with a main focus to assist the adult victim, with obvious indirect benefits for the child. As with many applications received by the area board, and as domestic abuse is one of national importance, there are other avenues for funding. However, the officer's recommendation is made on the basis that this issue is of very real local significance, as reflected in the Community Plan.

8.2.3 This application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan, as it will support a programme specifically designed to give support and advice to women who are victims of male violence in a domestic setting. Reports indicate that the Amesbury Area has a real problem with domestic abuse, particularly in Amesbury West and Bulford. The Children's Centres "annual conversation" in 2012 discussed the increased need to support families affected by domestic abuse particularly with Armed Forces families having to cope with family members coming back from operational tours and re-integrating in to the family unit. This puts particular pressure on family life.

8.2.4 Details of the Programme are clearly laid out in the application, but it is perhaps important to highlight the impact of domestic violence, not simply on the victim but on any children who may fall witness to such acts. Research tells us that this impact is very real and deep and can have lasting effects on a child's development

and consequent success at school, future work and in personal relationships. This therefore is relevant to the Community Plan's other priority for Children & Young People.

8.2.5 Without the Area Board funding, The Programme is unlikely to benefit as many people in the Area.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3	P.O.P Youth Dance Project	To run this project for another term	£1,000

8.3.1 This application meets the grant scheme's criteria and the officer's recommendation is therefore to approve.

8.3.2 This project provides a program of weekly dance sessions at Durrington Youth Development Centre for disengaged and hard to reach young people. The program is taught by a dance practitioner and is assisted by the Youth Development Worker. It teaches the young people about different dance styles and encourages them to demonstrate leadership and creativity through the dance routines. The program works towards the young people achieving an arts award.

8.3.3 The project meets with the priorities of the area's community plan, particularly in regarding to children and young people.

8.3.4 Some of the reasons listed by the young people to reinforce the need for the project to continue is that it keeps you fit, provides constructive activity and a sense of achievement, which in turn helps to boost self confidence, and improve social skills.

8.3.5 Without the grant, the project could not continue.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4	Amesbury Area Crime & Community Safety Community Plan Priority Group	To earmark funding specifically for the issue of domestic abuse, due to the high incidents in the Amesbury Area	£3,000

8.4.1 The Area Board is recommended to earmark £3,000 for this community plan priority. Following the setting up of the Crime & Community Safety Group, the Area Board will receive a further detailed report on this matter, explaining how the funding will be used.

Appendices <i>(available online or on request):</i>	Appendix 1 Grant application – Tilshead Village Hall Appendix 2 Grant application – Bulford Children’s Centre Appendix 3 Grant Application – P.O.P Youth Dance Project
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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