

Report to Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board
Date of Meeting 26 September, 2012
Title of Report Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To consider 4 applications for community area grant funding, totalling £2,496.

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

Application (and amount requested)	Recommendation
1. Cricklade Jubilee Gardens Project: Signage - £320	<i>Approve</i>
2. Hook Village Hall Toddler Group: To establish new group - £1,000	<i>Approve</i>
3. Smart Zone Ltd: Improved signs £976	<i>Refuse</i>
4. Tockenham Parish Council Parish plan £200	<i>Approve</i>
Total requested:	£2,496
Prior to consideration of these applications the Area Board's discretionary fund balance stands at:	£49,330
If approved as recommended the Board's balance will be:	£47,810

Background

1. 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](#).
2. 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.
3. The Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board was allocated a discretionary budget for 2011/2012 of £51,680. During the year so far, the Area Board has allocated or committed £ £2,350, leaving a balance remaining for allocation of £49,330.
4. A decision was 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 are available upon request.

Main Considerations

5. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded satisfy the criteria set by the Council and are made to projects that can proceed within a year of the award being made.

Environmental & Community Implications

6. 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.

Financial Implications

7. 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 £47,810

Legal Implications

8. There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

9. Human Resources Implications

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

Equality and Inclusion Implications

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

Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
12/004	Cricklade Jubilee Garden Project	Signage	£320

12. A registered charity, the Jubilee Gardens Project, was set up to provide education and training for adults with varying degrees of learning and physical disability. The students are taught horticultural skills, literacy, numeracy and social skills. The students also learn about domestic and personal hygiene to give them a greater degree of independence. The flowers and vegetables grown by the students are sold to passers-by and the money collected helps to support the operational costs. The profile of this operation needs to be improved and modern signage will help raise awareness.
13. The signage project will raise the profile of Jubilee Gardens and awareness of this charity's work. Visitors will be able to purchase locally grown produce which supports the concept of sustainability. This will benefit in particular the communities of Purton and Cricklade.
14. The students run a stall outside the training centre on weekdays between 9am to 4pm where the public can buy produce grown at the centre including vegetables and flower plants. They grow and sell 9 varieties of tomatoes, 8 varieties of chillies, 6 different lettuces, cucumbers, peppers, 3 types of aubergine, French and runner beans, cabbage, carrots, pumpkins, squash, parsnips, leeks, red and white onions, garlic, spinach, beetroot, courgettes, herbs and lots more besides. Students get great pleasure in welcoming visitors and showing them around the project.
15. The application fully meets the criteria of the Community Area Small Grants scheme.
16. It is **recommended** that the Cricklade Jubilee Garden project is awarded a grant of £320 to support the provision of new signage.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
12/005	Hook Village Hall Toddler Group	To establish new group	£1,000

17. The project aims to provide a safe, welcoming and friendly environment for babies, pre-school children and their parents/carers. The Group will enable children to meet, play and learn together. It will also provide a chance for parents to meet up for a coffee and a chat. This project will improve local facilities for children and parents and help foster stronger community spirit.
18. There are no similar groups in either Lydiard Tregoze or Lydiard Millicant and the only other group in the immediate area runs on a Wednesday at the Old Court in Royal Wootton Bassett from 11.30am. The group has identified local demand which should lead to the long term viability and sustainability for this valuable facility.
19. The application seeks less than 50% of the project cost and the remainder will be raised through local fundraising activities.

20. It is **recommended** that Hook Village Hall Toddler Group is awarded a grant of £1,000 to help establish a new parent a toddler group.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
12/002	Smart Zone Ltd	Improved signage	£976

21. A small scale local business, Smart Zone has been in operation for 11 years and employs 9 part time staff, providing childcare to children from the age of 3 to 13. The business runs a breakfast club, after school club and holiday club from 7:45 am until 6 pm at St Sampsons' C of E Junior School in Cricklade. The most recent OFSTED inspection awarded a "Good with Outstanding Qualities" rating for the services provided. Despite running a high quality service, the business now needs to improve its marketing and replace a peeling sign on the building. The group would also like to purchase a new sign close to the road, a 'plastic' banner for marketing at local events and a small sign at the school.
22. The primary aim of the improved signage is to increase awareness of Smart Zone and to increase the number of children and families using the service.
23. The services offered by the business are highly valued in the locality and its continued operation is desirable. The amount requested is small and would help to ensure the future viability and sustainability of the business. However, as it is a business, Smart Zone would not normally be eligible for funding from the Community Area Grants Scheme and therefore, regrettably on this occasion it is **recommended** that the application is refused.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
12/006	Tockenham Parish Council	Parish plan	£200

24. The Area Board ([minute 8 - 6/10/10](#)) has encouraged the development of community-led plans as a means of identifying local priorities that can be incorporated into a wider community plan for the area. In 2011/12 the Board set aside a sum of £15,200 to help initiate this process and this sum was matched with £8,000 from Community First and £5,325 from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. A sum of £200 had been previously ear-marked for the Tockenham project in 2011/12.
25. Tockenham Parish has applied for funding to support the creation of a community-led plan for the parish, a process that will be led by a steering group of volunteers from the community. In accordance with the process agreed by the Area Board and Community First ([minute 8 - 2/2/11](#)), the volunteers will engage widely with local residents, community groups, businesses and other stakeholders and undertake a consultation exercise to find out what is valued and needed in the future. Information from the consultation will inform the action planning that will be developed with the involvement of agencies and service providers to ensure that the actions identified are deliverable. The plan will provide evidence to inform future decisions affecting the community, help manage change, involve

local people in identifying community led solutions to local concerns and improve community spirit by helping identify valued features of community life to be preserved.

26. The plan will assist the work programme of the Area Board by providing evidence of community aspirations that can be incorporated into the new community plan for the area.
27. The application is consistent with previous decisions of the Board and meets the funding criteria adopted by the Board for such projects.
28. It is **recommended** that Tockenham Parish Council (on behalf of the volunteer steering group) be awarded a grant of £200 to support the creation of a community-led plan for the parish.

Background papers:	Grant Application – Cricklade Jubilee Garden Project Grant Application – Hook Village Hall Toddler Group Grant Application – Smart Zone Grant Application – Tockenham Parish Council
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