

Report to	Warminster Area Board
Date of Meeting	8 November 2012
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report:

To ask Councillors to consider the following 4 applications seeking 2012/13 Community Area Grant funding.

1. Corsley Reading Room. A request for £2,287
Officer recommendation: Approve
2. Warminster Supporter's Group, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. A request for £4,976
Officer recommendation: Approve
3. Warminster Area Rural and Town Schools Partnership. A request for £350
Officer recommendation: Approve
4. Chapel of St. Lawrence. A request for £4,990
Officer recommendation: Approve

Total request **if all applications are allocated in line with officer recommendations:**
£12,603

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. 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. 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. In Warminster, the Area Board chose to allocate this via a Participatory Budgeting event.
- 1.17. Warminster Area Board has a separate Community Area Transport Group (CATG) budget of £15,226 for 2012/13.

<p>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Area Grant Application Pack 2012 / 13 • Small Grants Application Pack 2012 / 13 • Warminster and Villages Community Area Plan
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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 remaining 2 rounds will take place on the following dates:

Board meeting

10 January 2013
7 March 2013

Deadline for applications

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 £14,303.

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	Corsley Reading Room	Replacement of old and worn chairs for the Reading Room	£2,287

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 plan through supporting parishes in the development of their village halls / meeting places
- 8.1.4 Corsley Reading Room is used regularly for functions in the village and helps to bring the community together. The grant request is to replace uncomfortable plastic chairs with modern upholstered chairs.
- 8.1.5 The overall cost of the project will be £4,894 and there will be match funding provided totalling £2,607.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Warminster Supporter's Group	Upgrade Infrastructure Smallbrook Meadows	£4,976

8.2.1 Officer Recommendation: Approve

8.2.2 The application meets the grants criteria 2012/13.

8.2.3 If awarded, the funding would contribute to a longer term plan to improve access from Smallbrook Lane through to the park for a wider range of people including those who use a wheelchair. The first part of the project is to upgrade the path with the ramp forming part of a future project.

8.2.5 Many wheelchair users are keen to access the path. The proposed improvements will join up those already done and will give an improved route and easy access. The area is a popular leisure facility for many people in Warminster.

8.2.6 The project demonstrates a link to the community plan through economy and tourism, culture and leisure, the environment and volunteering.

8.2.7. Match funding is provided to the value of £5,200.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3	Warminster Area Rural and Town Schools Partnership	After School computer Xplorers for Families	£350

8.3.1 Officer Recommendation: Approve

8.3.2 This application is made under the new Small Grants Scheme which is a simple application process that does not require match funding

8.3.3. The application meets the criteria of the small grants scheme 2012/13

8.3.4 The funding would provide a 6 week course for up to 9 adults and 2 children per adult and encourages children and adults to learn together. Learning opportunities are extended and a similar project in the Summer was very popular and successful.

8.3.5. This does not form part of the normal school curriculum and is an innovative project.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4	Chapel of St Lawrence	West End Development Project	£4,990

8.4.1 Officer Recommendation: Approve

8.4.2 The application meets the grants criteria 2012/13.

Although we normally expect 3 quotes for amounts above £1,000, this is a specialist project for a listed building construction involving limed mortar and ragged stone. There are extremely limited providers for this work. It is acceptable in this case to receive 1 professional quotation provided for the works.

8.4.3 The project will upgrade the facilities of the chapel for community use which includes the provision of a toilet for disabled people and catering facilities. The building will be more accessible to the general population for community and charitable events.

8.4.5 The local community has expressed an interest in improved facilities and will use the venue more regularly if this can be achieved. Over 1,000 people are likely to benefit from the project.

8.4.6 The project will cost £18,912 in total and £5,823.56 match funding has already been raised.

Appendices:	Completed Community Area Grant Application forms
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o unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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