

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Chippenham Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> November 2012</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Area Board Funding</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

To ask Councillors to consider 5 applications seeking 2012/13 Community Area Grant Funding:

1. Award Sport Wiltshire CIC £980 towards the Introduction to Archery project.
2. Award Cherish Chippenham CIC £928 towards Weights & Lights for Cherish Chippenham Gazebos.
3. Award Chippenham Rugby Football Club £1,000 towards the Launch and Development of Under 15s Girls Rugby Team.
4. Award Chippenham Rotary and Inner Wheel Trust Ltd £5,000 towards the Rotary Hall Kitchen Improvement project, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.
5. Award Sevington School Project Trustees £10,000 towards the purchase of the Sevington Victorian School Building, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

## 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<sup>th</sup> 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. Chippenham Area Board has been allocated a 2012/2013 budget of **£68,917** for Community Area 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 not normally 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 community issues and/or community identified priorities. Cabinet has emphasised that it does not wish these applications 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. The 2012/2013 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website ([www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards)) and paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.
- 1.13. 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.
- 1.14. 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. On 30<sup>th</sup> April, Chippenham Area Board took the decision to delegate responsibility to the Community Area Manager, in consultation with the Area Board Chairman and/or Vice Chairman, to approve expenditure of up to £1,000 between Area Board meetings.
- 1.16. The delegated power is only intended to be used for matters of urgency which cannot wait until the next meeting of the Area Board and would not be used as a matter of routine. The majority of decisions will continue to be taken at a public meeting.
- 1.17. A budget of £6,900 ring-fenced for the needs of young people has again been made available in 2012/2013. This will be allocated using the "Participatory Budgeting" method.
- 1.18. Chippenham Area Board has a separate Community Area Transport Group (CATG) Highways Funding budget of £39,587 for 2012/13.
- 1.19. Funding awarded to date totals £15,402. This leaves a balance of **£51,515** for 2012/13.

<b>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area Board Grant Guidance 2012/13 as presented for delegated decision</li> <li>• Chippenham and Villages Community Area Plan</li> </ul>
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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 first took place on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012, the second on 9<sup>th</sup> July, the third on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, the fourth is contained in this report and the remaining will take place on:

- 7<sup>th</sup> January 2013                      deadline for applications 26<sup>th</sup> November 2012
- 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013                        deadline for applications 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013

2.3. Chippenham Area Board was allocated a 2012/2013 budget of **£68,917** for Community Area Grants, Small Grants, Community Partnership core funding and Area Board/Councillor Led initiatives.

## 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 Chippenham Area Board.

4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Chippenham Area Board will have a balance of **£33,607**.

## 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	Sport Wiltshire CIC	Introduction to Archery	£980

- 8.1.1. Sport Wiltshire CIC – Award £980 towards the Introduction to Archery Project.
- 8.1.2. This application meets funding criteria 2012/13.
- 8.1.3. This application demonstrates links to the Community Plan "Provide support to active and successful clubs" and "Increase support for community facilities and events and to encourage a range of cultural opportunities for both residents and visitors to the area".
- 8.1.4. This application demonstrates links to Wiltshire Councils priorities in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire "Encourage communities to take part in sporting and cultural activities and events" and "Increase children and young people's access to facilities and activities".
- 8.1.5. Officers understand that Sport Wiltshire CIC is a key partner of Wiltshire Council's Sports Development Team.
- 8.1.6. Wiltshire Councils Sports Development Officer is of the opinion that this project will provide a new sports activity and increase sports participation locally. The associated benefits of sports participation include community cohesion, improved health, mental well being, improved confidence, self esteem and social development. Archery sessions are fully inclusive allowing a broad appeal and the sport has also proved successful attracting hard to reach groups, specifically those who do not engage with traditional sports.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Cherish Chippenham CIC	Weights & Lights for gazebos	£928

8.2.1 Cherish Chippenham – Award £928 towards the purchase of weights and lights for use with the Cherish Chippenham Gazebos and marquees.

8.2.2 This application meets funding criteria 2012/13

8.2.3 This application demonstrates links to the Community Plan “Increase support for community facilities and events and to encourage a range of cultural opportunities for both residents and visitors to the area” and “Reduce leakage of shoppers to Bath Swindon”.

8.2.4 This project links to a Chippenham Vision Board key objective “Develop the town centre, making it more attractive to visitors and improve the retail offer”.

8.2.5 This project demonstrates links to Wiltshire Councils priorities in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire “Help local communities develop their own priorities and improvements”, “We help communities to help themselves” and “We need to realise the potential of our main towns and villages so they can have a vibrant and thriving local economy”.

8.2.6 Officers understand that the weights and lights are essential to enable the gazebos to be safe and secure and well lit; increasing the opportunities for use at community events on both hard and soft standing.

8.2.7 Officers are of the opinion that these items will increase the versatility of the gazebos and will be widely used by Cherish Chippenham at events, the next one being the Victorian Fayre on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3	Chippenham Rugby Football Club	The Launch and Development of Under 15s Girls Rugby Team	£1,000

8.3.1 Chippenham Rugby Football Club – Award £1,000 towards the Launch and Development of the Under 15s Girls Rugby Team.

8.3.2 This application meets funding criteria 2012/13

8.3.3 This application demonstrates links to the Community Plan “Provide support to active and successful clubs” and “Increase support for community facilities and events and to encourage a range of cultural opportunities for both residents and

visitors to the area”.

8.3.4 This application demonstrates links to Wiltshire Councils priorities in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire “Encourage communities to take part in sporting and cultural activities and events” and “Increase children and young people’s access to facilities and activities”.

8.3.5 Officers understand that Sport Wiltshire CIC is a key partner of Wiltshire Council’s Sports Development Team.

8.3.6 RFC rules state that girls may not play in mixed teams beyond the Under 12s age group. Officers are of the opinion that the applicant is actively seeking to extend the offer sporting activities to the wider community with the introduction of Under 15s Rugby for girls.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4	Chippenham Rotary and Inner Wheel Trust Ltd	Rotary Hall Kitchen Improvements	£5,000

8.4.1 Chippenham Rotary and Inner Wheel Trust Ltd – Award £5,000 towards Rotary Hall Kitchen Improvements, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

8.4.2 This application meets funding criteria 2012/13

8.4.3 This application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan “Increase support for community facilities and events”.

8.4.4 This application demonstrates links to Wiltshire Councils priorities in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire ““We want to create local communities where people can easily meet and share a wide range of activities”.

8.4.5 Officers understand that a wide range of local community groups regularly use the hall, and it is also used for a variety of local events and activities.

8.4.6 Officers are of the opinion that this project will be of benefit to both current hall users and potential future users as it will increase capacity and improve facilities”.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.5	Sevington School Project Trustees	Sevington School Project	£10,000

8.5.1 Sevington School Project Trustees – Award £10,000 towards the Sevington School Project, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

- 8.5.2 This application meets funding criteria 2012/13.
- 8.5.3 This application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan “Increase support for community facilities and events and to encourage a range of cultural opportunities for both residents and visitors to the area”.
- 8.5.4 This project demonstrates links to Wiltshire Councils priorities in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire “Help local communities develop their own priorities and improvements”, “We help communities to help themselves”
- 8.5.5 Sevington Victorian School is comprised of the former school room and adjoining two storey house dating from 1848. In the garden behind the school there is a stone outbuilding with a stone tiled roof housing a wash house and lavatories.
- 8.5.6 Sevington Victorian School was in continuous use from 1848 until 1913 when the school was forced to close as the number of pupils was so low that it was no longer viable. The same school mistress had been in post from 1856 until 1913 and everything was left as it had always been when she locked the door for the last time in July 1913. When the school room door was opened in 1986, the school room was set out as it had been left 73 years earlier, providing an accurate representation of a small rural Victorian school room.
- 8.5.7 The Trustees work closely with Wiltshire Council as the Local Planning Authority to ensure that repairs and necessary works match those originally used. Indeed, the Senior Conservation officer has stated that the Sevington Victorian School, outbuildings and gardens make “A significant and positive contribution to the hamlet of Sevington by means of their scale, detail and location within the street scene.
- 8.5.8 The Senior Conservation Officer has provided a letter of support confirming that Wiltshire Council fully supports the application to the Sevington Victorian School Trustees application for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- 8.5.9 Officers are of the opinion that this educational charity provides a unique and valuable facility for the community area. Local school children have the opportunity to spend the day as a Victorian school child; dressed in costume and spending the whole day in role, enables them to immerse themselves in what it would have felt like to go to school in the Victorian era.
- 8.5.10 Several schools have provided letters and testimonials stating what positive and rewarding experiences they have had with their pupils, many taking away enduring happy memories of their visit. This is illustrated by the fact that local schools have the day trip to Sevington Victorian School as a regular annual feature in their annual curriculum.
- 8.5.11 Officers are of the opinion that Sevington Victorian School is a very rare resource and recommend that an exception is made to the normal maximum award of £5,000. An award of £10,000 will help to ensure that the good custody and upkeep of the school can continue and will be available for the benefit of many more in the future.



<b>Appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 grant application – Sport Chippenham CIC Appendix 2 grant application – Cherish Chippenham Appendix 3 grant application – Chippenham Rugby Football Club Appendix 4 grant application – Chippenham Rotary and Inner Wheel Trust Ltd Appendix 5 grant application – Sevington School Project Trustees
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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