

Report to	Bradford on Avon Area Board
Date of Meeting	9 January 2013
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider two applications seeking Community Area Grant funding:

i) Friends of Barton Farm Play Area requesting £350 for moving a tree to the site of the play area for sculpting

Officers recommend that £350 is awarded to the Friends for the removal of the tree to the Barton Farm Play Area.

ii) Friends of The Strips requesting £350 for tree planting in the woodland

Officers recommend that £350 is awarded to the Friends for tree planting in The Strips.

1. Background

- 1.1 Area Boards have authority to approve Community Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Community Services (27 February 2010). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance for funding.
- 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 as to why this should justify an exception to the criteria.
- 1.3 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 is made by Wiltshire Councillors on this Area Board.
- 1.4 Bradford on Avon Area Board has been allocated a budget in 2012/2013 of £47,110 for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives.
- 1.5 It has been decided 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 website and hard copies will be available upon request.
- 1.6 The 2011/2012 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.

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Area Grant Application Pack 2011/12• Bradford on Avon Community Area Plan• Wiltshire Local Area Agreement
--	--

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 2012/13, this being the fifth.

3 Environmental & Community Implications

- 3.1 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 Bradford on Avon Area Board.

4.2 If grants are awarded in line with recommendations, Bradford on Avon Area Board will have a balance of approximately £ 163 remaining in the grants budget for the 2012/13 financial year.

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 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	Friends of Barton Farm Play Area	Moving a tree to the Play Area site for sculpting	£ 350

8.1.1 This application meets the community area grant criteria for 2012/13.

8.1.2 The application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and Wiltshire Local Area Agreement through its support for children and families, leisure and tourism.

8.1.3 The applicant is a group of local parents who assembled in 2010 to campaign, design and raise funds for the refurbishment of Barton Farm Play Area. “We felt the play

facilities were increasingly derelict and underused and knew many families drive elsewhere to play. In 2010 and 2011, we conducted extensive consultation (with no funds), to ensure that our designs met the needs of the whole community and all age groups. Since January 2012 we have been working with the Bradford on Avon Town Council on our plans.

8.1.4 The community will benefit from inclusive, accessible, well-designed & beautiful play areas, suited to the local historic context and designed for people of all ages to use. It will encourage locals to STAY in Bradford and not drive elsewhere to play and will encourage visitors to the town, particularly with children. Since working with the Town Council, we have developed fully-worked up scheme designs for both Barton Farm and Victory Field play areas, which have been approved by both the council and public. The designs feature extensive use of durable, natural materials, the facility for different sorts of play, spaces for sitting and gathering (a request by teenagers), and spaces for sitting & watching children (a request by grandparents). The designs make use of the topography of each site with details and materials suited to the natural & historic environment. The public were consulted on a) what they wanted b) initial scheme ideas and c) final scheme designs. We are trying to ensure that the needs of all ages and abilities/disabilities are met through a beautiful, accessible & environmentally-sustainable design, drawing on our passion and professional expertise.

8.1.5 To kick-start the scheme this small grant would fund the moving of a tree, to be worked in-situ by a local artist into a beautiful seat/play sculpture. Funding to achieve the overall play area improvement project will come from Section 106 developer contributions from the Kingston Mill development”.

8.1.6 The application is supported by the Council’s Senior Countryside Ranger (responsible for Barton Farm Country Park) and the Council’s Play and Leisure Strategy Officer, who confirm that the removal of the tree and the resultant piece of furniture have been discussed and agreed at meetings regarding the design of Barton Farm Play Area.

Officers recommend that £ 350 is awarded to the Friends for the removal of the tree to the Barton Farm Play Area for sculpting.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Friends of The Strips	Tree Planting	£ 350

8.2.1 This application meets the community area grant criteria for 2012/13.

8.2.2 The application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and Wiltshire Local Area Agreement through its support for the historic and natural environment and the community enjoyment of this woodland.

8.2.3 The Friends of the Strips was formed by local residents early in 2012 to restore and

conserve The Strips as a Community Woodland for future generations of Bradfordians after years of underfunding by The Strips' owners, Wiltshire Council and the District and Urban Councils before them.

<http://www.friendsofthestrips.org.uk/friendsofthestrips/Welcome.html>

- 8.2.4 The existing but thinning canopy of trees is a key part of Bradford's south eastern skyline which dominates the view from Tory, Middle Rank and the Town Bridge. Without this planting that green skyline is at risk long term. The Strips is a narrow wood that stretches along the south bank of the river from the golf club into the heart of the town forming a major part of the dominant green backdrop to the townscape. It is a very popular route to the town centre and St Laurence School, and is also used extensively by walkers and young people.
- 8.2.5 A long term Woodland Management Plan is being prepared with Wiltshire Council. We have circa 50 local volunteers and have already spent approximately 800 'man-hours' on working parties, completing a detailed survey of the woods, researching the wood's history and on public events to raise local awareness of The Strips.
- 8.2.6 The proposed project will kick start restoration and raise the profile of our work by planting 30 Scots Pine trees, to replace trees lost from the long row of mature pines that lines the main path through the woods, and a special memorial oak tree in the heart of the woods.
- 8.2.3 The Council's Senior Countryside Ranger (responsible for The Strips woodland) has confirmed support for the application on the proviso that the Friends liaise with the Council over the planting as it is very important that nothing inappropriate is introduced in to the woodland. Non native, hybridised, diseased (as we are seeing with 'Ash Dieback') species could have a devastating impact on this small woodland.

Officers recommend that £ 350 is awarded to the Friends for tree planting in The Strips

Appendices:	Grant applications from: The Friends of Barton Farm Play Area The Friends of The Strips Comments from Leo Wirtz, Senior Countryside Ranger Comments from Colin Brown, Play and Leisure Strategy Officer
--------------------	--

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

Report Author	Peter Dunford, Community Area Manager Tel: 01225 713060 E-mail peter.dunford@wiltshire.gov.uk
----------------------	--