

Report to	South West Wiltshire Area Board
Date of Meeting	17 July 2013
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider applications in respect to:

1. Chalke Valley Sports Centre (on behalf of Broad Chalke Parish Council) - award £4,900 towards a new boiler and water softener, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
2. Semley Village Hall – award £5,000 towards new play equipment and a nature garden, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
3. Wilton Village Shopping Management Ltd – award £5,000 towards new play equipment, conditional on 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 (5 April 2013). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the [Area Board Grants Guidance 2013/2014](#).
- 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 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.
- 1.4. The area board may want to link funding to local priorities, including those identified in their Community Plan, Local Area Joint Strategic Assessment and any other community based consultative work. An update on South West Wiltshire Area Board's priorities can be [viewed here](#).
- 1.5. South West Wiltshire Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of **£96,467** for community area grants, digital literacy grants, community partnership core funding, area board operational funding and area board/councillor led initiatives. In 2013/14 only capital funding is available for community area and digital literacy grants.
- 1.6. In addition to CAGs and digital literacy 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.
- 1.7. In support of the Olympic and Paralympic legacy, in 2013/14 the South West Wiltshire Area Board invites applications that encourage young people and people with disabilities to become more actively involved in sports, outdoor activities, recreation, arts and volunteering.
- 1.8. Applications of up to and including £500 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £501 - £5,000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000. Grants of up to £500 are available for Digital Literacy projects.

- 1.9. New for 2013/14 is a single on-line application process for Community Area Grants (CAG) and Digital Literacy grants, introduced to provide an easy step by step application process. The application process and funding criteria can be found [here](#).
- 1.10. Area boards will not consider 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.
- 1.11. 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.
- 1.12. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 1.13. All recipients of area board funding are expected to complete an evaluation form as soon as the project has been completed and provide receipts if requested. Groups are encouraged to up-load information and photographs about their project on to their [area board blogsite](#). Failure to evaluate projects will preclude applicants/organisations being considered for future funding.

<p>Background documents used in the preparation of this report</p>	<p>Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2013/14 as approved by delegated decision</p> <p>South West Wiltshire Area Board Priorities Action Log</p> <p>Mere Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment</p> <p>Tisbury Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment</p> <p>Wilton Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment</p>
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. South West Wiltshire Area Board has been allocated a 2013/2014 budget of **£96,467** that may be allocated through Community Area Grants, Digital Literacy Grants and Area Board/Councillor Led Initiatives.

- 2.2. Councillors will need to ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation outlined in Section 1 of this report.
- 2.3. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in 2013/2014 are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.4. There are 3 further funding rounds planned for 2013/14. Deadlines for receipt of funding applications are:
 - 18 September for a decision at the Area Board meeting on 16 October 2013.
 - 13 November for a decision at the Area Board meeting on 11 December 2013.
 - 8 January 2014 for a decision at the Area Board meeting on 5 February 2014.

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 South West Wiltshire Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in accordance with officer recommendations South West Wiltshire Area Board will have a balance of **£57,869**.

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 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 will be outlined in

section 8, “Officer Recommendations” of the funding report.

8. Officer Recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1.	Chalke Valley Sports Centre	New boiler and water softener	£4,900

- 8.1.1. The Area Boards Grants Scheme criteria for 2013/14 states that ‘applications from town and parish councils will not receive more funding than that contributed (in cash from their annual precept) by that town or parish council.’ This application is on behalf of the Broad Chalke Parish Council, and the applicant’s contribution comes from fund raising and Chalke Valley Sports Centre. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the remaining 2013/14 grant criteria, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
- 8.1.2. This application has been classified as a capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.
- 8.1.3. This project is to replace two boilers that have gone past the point of maintenance with a modern, efficient boiler and a water softener to extend its lifespan.
- 8.1.4. The Sports Centre hosts many clubs and also hires out its facilities for events. The local school benefit from using the facilities and the activities within the centre cater for members aged 10 to 90.
- 8.1.5. At the time of writing this report details are being provided to Wiltshire Council Property Services to establish whether they would support this application.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Semley Village Hall	New play equipment and a nature garden	£5,000

- 8.2.1. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2013/14 grant criteria, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
- 8.2.2. This application has been classified as a capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.
- 8.2.3. This project is to landscape the area to the west of the hall and install children's play equipment and a nature garden. The play equipment will consist of swings, slide, tunnel, tyre crossing, monkey bars balance beam and stepping stones. There will be a butterfly garden, bird boxes and other items to encourage wildlife.

8.2.4. Parents have informed the Village Hall that the play area would be a regular stopping point on the return journey from school. The play area is situated on the main route to the village school with circa 135 children. There are 105 children aged between 0 and 14 resident in the Parish.

8.2.5. Leisure Services (Wiltshire Council) support this application, and would strongly suggest that the applicant acquaints themselves with the need to regularly inspect (weekly) the play equipment through a qualified individual and the need to have a once yearly equipment check by an independent organisation, therefore bringing it in line with most insurance providers.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	Wilton Village Shopping Management Ltd	New play equipment	£5,000

8.3.1. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2013/14 grant criteria, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

8.3.2. This application has been classified as a capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.

8.3.3. This project is to purchase and install two new items of play equipment plus the siting of large stepping-stone boulders and a timber post balance / walking activity for children that will enhance the limited quantity of free-to-use children's play equipment within the playground area of the public park.

8.3.4. Children and young people will enjoy the free use of additional play equipment that will encourage outdoor recreation and exercise. In addition, Salisbury Gymnastics Academy are due to take permanent premises at Wilton Shopping Village, adjoining Wilton Public Park, increasing the likely use of the park.

8.3.5. Leisure Services (Wiltshire Council) support this application, and would strongly suggest that the applicant acquaints themselves with the need to regularly inspect (weekly) the play equipment through a qualified individual and the need to have a once yearly equipment check by an independent organisation, therefore bringing it in line with most insurance providers.

Appendices:	Grant application 1 – Chalke Valley Sports Centre – online application Grant application 2 – Semley Village Hall – online application Grant application 3 – Wilton Village Shopping
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	Management Ltd – online application
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report other than those requested in the funding criteria e.g. estimates.

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