

Report to	Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board
Date of Meeting	Wednesday 25 September 2013
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider officer recommendations in respect of the following applications seeking funding from the Area Board's Community Area Grant Scheme 2013/14:

1. Stay & Play 2 – requesting the sum of £1,409 towards start-up costs for an under 5's playgroup in Cricklade.

Officer recommendation: APPROVE

2. Royal Wootton Bassett Branch of Wilts & Berks Canal Trust – requesting the sum of £489 for a new seat on the towpath.

Officer recommendation: APPROVE

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 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 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. [Northern Community Area Plan 2005 - 2015](#)
[Local Area Joint Strategic Assessment](#)
- 1.5. The Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board has been allocated a 2013/14 capital budget of **£59,197** for Community Area Grants and Digital Literacy grants, and a separate revenue budget of **£14,984**.
- 1.6. In addition to the capital-based Community Area Grants and Digital Literacy grants, councillors can submit an Area Board/Councillor-Led initiative from the revenue budget. This enables Area Boards to tackle sticky community issues and/or community identified priorities. The Cabinet has emphasised that it does 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 Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade 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 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 Community Area Grant 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 upload information and photographs about their project on to their [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>Northern Community Area Plan 2005-2015</p> <p>Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Joint Strategic Assessment</p>
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. The Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board has been allocated a total budget of **£74,181** for 2013/14, made up of a capital budget and revenue budget (see para 1.5) that may be allocated through Community Area Grants, Digital Literacy grants, Area Board/Councillor-Led projects and other local 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 2013/14 are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.4. There are now 3 funding rounds remaining during 2013/14. Deadlines for receipt of funding applications are as follows:

16 October 2013 to be considered at 27 November 2013 meeting
11 December 2013 to be considered at 22 January 2014 meeting
5 February 2014 to be considered at 19 March 2014 meeting.
- 2.5. On 6 July 2011 the Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board took the decision to delegate responsibility to the Community Area Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Area Board, to approve expenditure of up to £250 between meetings of the Area Board for the purpose of booking public meeting rooms for Area Board purposes. Any expenditure incurred under this delegation will be reported back to the Area Board at the next public meeting.
- 2.6. A budget of **£5,000** was accrued from 2012/13 for the purpose of supporting projects that seek to build a Legacy of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Jubilee celebrations. This funding is being awarded under separate criteria and details are available [here](#).
- 2.7. The Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board has a separate Community Area Transport Group (CATG) budget for 2013/14 of **£23,205**. The CATG will consider appropriate schemes for funding and make appropriate recommendations to the Area Board for approval.
- 2.8. Funding awarded to date during 2013/14 totals **£20,330**. This leaves a balance of **£53,851** in the Area Board's main budget.
- 2.9. Legacy funding to date during 2013/14 totals **£1,500**. This leaves a balance of **£3,500** in the Area Board's Legacy budget.

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 Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board.

4.2. If grants are awarded in accordance with officer recommendations, Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board will have a balance of **£51,953** in the main budget and a balance of **£3,500** in the Legacy budget.

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.	Stay & Play 2	Start-up costs for an under 5's playgroup in Cricklade	£1,409

8.1.1. Officers recommend that Stay & Play 2 is awarded the sum of £1,409 towards start-up costs for an under 5's playgroup in Cricklade.

8.1.2. The application meets the Community Area Grant criteria 2013/14, and demonstrates strong links to the Northern Community Area Plan 2005 – 2015; particularly 'Education & Lifelong Learning', 'Health & Social Care' and 'Recreation, Leisure & Culture'.

8.1.3. Stay & Play is a group for under 5's and their carers which has been run and funded by Cricklade Preschool for many years. Cricklade Preschool has recently announced its intention to stop offering this service due to lack of financial resources.

8.1.4. Stay & Play 2 is intended to take over the running of this service on a voluntary, not-for-profit basis by a committee made up of local

people who regularly access and value the facilities and the opportunities that the service brings.

- 8.1.5. Stay & Play 2 will be an all-inclusive service for children under 5 years old, parents, carers, grandparents, adoptive families and childminders from Cricklade and the surrounding areas. The new recommended pricing structure has been set lower than previously in order to include and attract low-income families who may have found the higher subs charged by Cricklade Preschool prohibitive.
- 8.1.6. Further initiatives to improve access and inclusivity for families of all backgrounds have been developed, including a volunteering rota which would provide carers with a session free of charge. This initiative will not only assist low-income families to access the facility on a more affordable basis, but it also encourages and rewards local volunteering and will improve people's sense of community ownership and involvement.
- 8.1.7. Local groups such as the preschools, Children's Centre and Cricklade Churches Together have all offered to attend the Stay & Play 2 group in turn to provide activities such as crafts; further enhancing the group's links and its integration into the local community.
- 8.1.8. The committee is currently receiving set-up support from the Wiltshire Early Years Advisor.
- 8.1.9. This application is seeking support for start-up costs, to provide the group with the resources and financial security it needs to operate efficiently in its first year. It is envisaged that the group will be fully self-financing after the first year with costs being covered by the attendee subscriptions and the in-kind contributions of volunteer time.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Royal Wootton Bassett Branch of Wilts & Berks Canal Trust	New seat on the towpath	£489

- 8.2.1. Officers recommend that the Royal Wootton Bassett Branch of Wilts & Berks Canal Trust is awarded the sum of £489 for a new seat on the towpath.
- 8.2.2. The application meets the Community Area Grant criteria 2013/14 and demonstrates links to the Northern Community Area Plan 2005 – 2015; Recreation, Leisure & Culture.

- 8.2.3. This project seeks to provide a seat on the Royal Wootton Bassett canal towpath, which is a public footpath of approximately 1.45km in length.
- 8.2.4. There are currently 2 seats at the beginning of the towpath at Templars Firs, but then none until the latter section of the path after approximately 1.1km. The addition of a new seat halfway along the path will provide an opportunity for people to rest and enjoy the surroundings.
- 8.2.5. The existing seats are owned by Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council, which plans to replace these older, wooden seats with new seats of a more robust design.
- 8.2.6. The canal towpath is maintained by a dedicated group of volunteers who give their time every Wednesday to carry out maintenance work including grass cutting and hedge trimming. These volunteers also monitor the use of the towpath and are pleased to see the path being enjoyed by many, including runners and dog walkers.
- 8.2.7. No match-funding is required for this project because the total project costs are less than £500. Free reserves currently held are not being used for this project as they are being held for maintenance, with a contingency for any necessary major repairs.

Appendices	Appendix 1 – grant application details (available online or on request from the report author)
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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.

Report Author	Penny Bell, Community Area Manager Tel: 01249 706613 Mobile: 07810 500368 E-mail: penny.bell@wiltshire.gov.uk
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