

Report to	Bradford on Avon Area Board
Date of Meeting	20 November 2013
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider four applications seeking 2013/14 Community Area Grant funding:

- i) Westwood with Iford Primary School requesting £2,000 towards stocking the school library with new non-curriculum books**

- ii) Anastasia Thomas requesting £4,677 towards the My Science Fair 2014 event**

- iii) Wiltshire Music Centre requesting £5,000 towards a Bruce Munro Light Sculpture in the foyer of the Music Centre**

- iv) Bradford on Avon Development Trust requesting £687 towards an Historic Core Zone Street Display**

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 2013/2014 of £ £39,942 capital and £11,133 revenue expenditure 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 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
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2 Main Considerations

- 2.1 Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2013/14 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2 There will be 5 rounds of funding during 2013/14, this being the third.

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 £ 24, 680 capital funding and £ zero revenue funding remaining in the grants budget for the 2013/14 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	Westwood with Iford Primary School	Stocking the school library with non core-curriculum books and computer hardware and software	£2,000 capital

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 to education and community facilities.

8.1.3 In Autumn 2012 a new library was created within the school using funds from capital funding allocated to the school by Wiltshire Council but funding was not available to stock the library with new non-curriculum books. The purpose of the project is to allow the library at Westwood With Iford Primary School to be fully stocked with non-curriculum books, and to install computer hardware and software to enable the school to run a fully functioning lending library. This will also be made available to local home educated children, and to the local community nursery (Westwood Nursery).

8.1.4 The library restocking cannot be funded from the school budget, which has limited funds available for curriculum books, and no funds available for non-curriculum books. It has been partially funded from fundraising by the Friends of Westwood School (FoWs) group (Charity No.1034875), who have so far contributed £1500 towards fittings and books for the library, and who have agreed to match fund £2000 towards the project from their reserves. However, as a small rural school, the funds available to the FoWs group are limited, as the majority of fundraising necessarily falls within a relatively small catchment area. The school is currently significantly underfunded (educating 103 children on a budget for 87 children (Sept 2013)), and relies heavily on the FoWs fundraising in many aspects of non-curriculum spending. This means that FoWs reserve funds cannot extend to cover all the demands made of it. Support from the Community Area Grant would therefore release the FoWs limited remaining reserves to enable spending on several other projects within the school.

8.1.5 The beneficiaries will be infant and primary school aged children within the Westwood, Iford and Avoncliff area. The intention is not to restrict library access only to pupils from the school but to make access available to local children generally. The investment in library hardware and software will enable this wider inclusive offering to be fulfilled. Currently reading facilities within the school and the village are extremely limited. Access to the local library in Bradford on Avon (or Trowbridge) requires a car journey (which may not be feasible for parents outside school hours), or public transport (the bus linking Westwood and Bradford on Avon/Trowbridge does not enable a return journey to be made outside school hours). At the moment, the school library is around 40% stocked with books, funded by donations of books and also funding from the Friends of Westwood School (FoWs). The shelves are therefore fairly empty, and this does not encourage children to use the library area, and means that it is difficult to ensure that children are able to access new reading material. As there is currently no easy way of tracking book loans, the existing fairly small library has a relatively high rate of loss of books, meaning that the book stock is consistently under pressure. Through use of specialist Library hardware and software, we aim to protect the investment in new books by ensuring that loans can be actively tracked, and books recovered quickly to enable increased use. It is shown that ready access to books and reading material increases child literacy significantly, and the school hopes to incorporate the library facility into the ethos of the school and the wider village community. As a result it is planned that visiting the school library will become an accepted and normal part of local children's everyday life.

8.1.6 The aim of the project is to improve the literacy of local children, and to encourage and foster a positive attitude towards reading generally. This is of course a long term aim,

and success will be difficult to quantify. However the school will be able to monitor improvements in literacy generally within the school pupils, and will use the library as one tool (amongst others) to achieve that improvement. The Library software will also enable the school to analyse usage (both for pupils and non-pupils), and to see if further promotion of the library is needed both internally and externally.

8.1.4 Matching funding of £ 2,000 towards the project costs has been fund raised by the Friends of Westwood School. It is expected that funds to maintain the project will not be necessary after initial set up. Any new books in the future can be financed by the FoWs group, or from the school budget if available. Ongoing licence costs for the library software will be paid from the school budget, and maintenance of the library PC hardware will fall within the school's existing IT maintenance contract.

8.1.5 Officers consider that, while the project is worthy in itself and the school is obviously operating on limited budgets and has fundraised towards the costs, the benefits of the project will accrue predominantly to the school and not sufficiently to the wider community. Furthermore the granting of support to this project may set a precedent for many other schools in the community area to seek funding for similar purposes, which the grant scheme will be unable to fulfill.

Officers recommend that the project to stock the Westwood with Iford School library with non core-curriculum books and computer hardware and software is refused as the wider community benefits of the project are not demonstrated

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Anastasia Thomas	My Science Fair 2014	£4,677 revenue

8.2.1 This application meets the community area grant criteria for 2012/13, although is a supplementary application for a project already funded by a youth grant from the board so could be regarded as 'double funding'.

8.2.2 The application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and Wiltshire Local Area Agreement through its support for extra curricular learning and community engagement.

8.2.3 My Science Fair is a community science project led by parent volunteers that encourages science & technology engagement for all the family in a way that is accessible, fun and sustainable at home. Every child gets to shine and discover the rewards of exploring the world from their unique point of interest. This year with Wiltshire Music Centre we have added a special theme of exploring the relationship between science and music, which we hope broadens engagement and highlights

insightful commonalities of the two. My Science Fair has three elements - a competition; interactive workshops /displays; and performances

8.2.4 My Science Fair is led by parent volunteers to encourage children and families to explore their world through science ages 5-11 take part in the competition. This year we are working with our local Wiltshire Music Centre with a special theme exploring the relationship between science and music. My Science Fair project meets the priorities of the Bradford on Avon Area Board through by providing accessible scientific learning (out of the classroom). We want to inspire childrens' interest at a young age self-esteem and confidence grows through pride in presenting their own work in public, for families and friends. It creates informal family learning parents, teachers and children will take part in workshops and supporting children to do their science projects. Community support for the competition and event is growing. In 2013 children and families recruited from six local schools took part with 45 competition entries. Over 300 people, young and old attended the event, attracting BBC Wiltshire radio who broadcast live and interviewed young participants. For 2013/14 we have Wiltshire Music Centre's support and even more partners to draw in children and families who would not normally take part.

8.2.5 AIMS: The My Science competition encourages children to discover the creative and rewarding nature of scientific exploration by completing a research project of their choice. Children benefit from a different learning experience and gain interest and confidence through designing and researching their own experiment, presenting their findings at an exhibition at the My Science Fair. The My Science competition encourages children and families to question, experiment and share their findings. The childrens' projects, which take several months to prepare, are central to the experience.

8.2.6 BENEFICIARIES: My Science Fair event March 2014 hosted at Wiltshire Music Centre will attract 450 parents and families for competition displays, workshops, interactive demonstrations and performances; The Science competition (for 5 to 11 year olds) aims to attract 60 entries from children; Six outreach Science Club sessions / School Assemblies to support harder to reach children to take part and help them enter the competition and do their own experiments; 15 St Laurence students BTEC Music Technology Students will volunteer with STEM Ambassadors and music technology specialists to support the My Science Fair event in March 2014; 350 children and adults attending four drop-in advice science workshops at the British Royal Literary Scientific Institute between September 2013 to January 2014; 30 children from the Bradford on Avon and local schools perform at My Science Fair with OAE professional musicians and scientist from Plymouth University.

8.2.6 Our parent group seek funding from a variety of places each year, for each project

including company sponsorship and in kind support for elements such as prizes or free displays and outreach workshops. Our possibilities for future funding are also enhanced by the range of new partners we are now connected to including two universities, the BRLSI and Stem Ambassadors. We intend to continue to work in partnership with Wiltshire Music Centre who want to grow the event to be a much larger and sustainable Music and Science Festival for an adult and youth audience as well as primary level age. Wiltshire Music Centre seek funding for each project - this is largely dependent on the content as it changes to suit the needs of diverse and growing participants and audiences (informed by monitoring and evaluation).

8.2.7 Match funding contributions towards total project costs of £10,277 are being sought or have been secured from the Colonel Llewellyn Palmer Educational Charity, Co-op Community Awards and Awards for All. A sum of £1,004 from the Wiltshire Council Youth Participatory budgeting event was also awarded by the Area Board in March 2013.

8.2.8 Officers note that the applicant has previously applied successfully to fund the same project, albeit from a separate fund held by the Area Board, and consider that a second grant would represent double funding of the same project. This grant application is for revenue funding, however the Community Grant scheme is now predominantly a capital scheme and the Area Board has already spent its limited revenue funding allocation for 2013/14.

Officers recommend that funding for the My Science Fair project is refused as Wiltshire Council has previously contributed a grant to the same project and is unable to contribute further due to the revenue budget for 2013/14 being fully allocated

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3	Wiltshire Music Centre	Bruce Munro Light Sculpture in the foyer of the Music Centre	£5,000 capital

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

8.3.2 The application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and Wiltshire Local Area Agreement through its support for cultural and tourism development.

8.3.3 WMC puts on 100 live music concerts a year and is open to the public 80 hours a week for music rehearsal and performance and around 15 different weekly activities. Over 40% of its audience and users are from the Bradford on Avon area

and it contributes around 1m to the local economy every year. As part of a major project of capital improvement to the Centre 75% funded by an Arts Council grant, the Trustees want to commission an iconic piece of public art for the foyer. Discussions have been held with Bruce Munro, the internationally renowned light artist who has been so inspired by the building and the music that he has designed a permanent light sculpture for the foyer and agreed to create it at cost. Unlike his temporary work for the Holbourne Museum in Bath and Salisbury Cathedral, this will be a permanent public sculpture available for the residents of Bradford on Avon to enjoy.

8.3.4 WMC's project to commission and install a piece of public art in one of Bradford on Avon's major public buildings will provide a lasting public benefit to the residents of the town and its surrounding area by providing a new major attraction in the town thus extending economic benefit in the town and protecting employment opportunities, raising the profile of Bradford and encouraging more visits to the Music Centre adding to the beneficial lifestyle supported by the town. The light sculpture called Rhythm and Blues will be installed in the foyer of the Music Centre and will be available for free public visits 80 hours a week. Bruce Munro is a light artist of international renown and the sculpture will be one of his few permanent pieces on display in the South West. This will provide a significant additional attraction for residents, tourists and visitors to Bradford on Avon thus bringing more spending to the local economy and more profile for the town. Wiltshire Council recognised that the visitor economy by volume and value is driven significantly by arts and culture in Wiltshire which are regarded as major assets. It is also accepted that the cultural sector offers a degree of resilience to the local economy by attracting visitors from outside. This new art work will add to Bradford's contribution to the cultural economy. Maintaining profile in the local region is critical for Bradford on Avon - particularly with the World Heritage site of Bath with its significant cultural and heritage offering only 8 miles away. This project will help to give the iconic WMC building the physical 'wow factor' which will put it on its pedestal and match the physical experience for visitors with the musical performance experience inside the auditorium. The building was designed by award winning architects Feilden Clegg Bradley who are currently working on the re-development of the Southbank. This is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of Bradford and the Music Centre with an iconic light sculpture. The benefits of the project also extend to increasing the sustainability of the Music Centre and its users (40% are from Bradford) and its 100 volunteers (mainly from Bradford) who give their time and expertise to maintaining the programme and activities on offer. The Centre attracts audiences of over 21,000 each year as well as another 40,000 visits from people of all ages taking part in music performance, rehearsals and other activities. It is a much loved and used institution which gets involved in many other local initiatives - the Olympic celebrations in 2012, the community production of Noyes Fludde in 2013 and the new community music festival Bradford Roots. We want to continue to grow visitor and audience numbers to increase and develop the sustainability of this incredible local resource and the light sculpture will help this significantly.

8.3.5 The overall project is for capital improvements including auditorium sound system upgrade, upgrade to the lighting and furniture in the foyer, upgrade to the external lighting and signage of the building and a small office extension. Overall the project will cost £538,000 of which £371,000 has been awarded in an Arts Council grant, £134,000 has been raised from other sources and £33,000 remains still to raise.

8.3.6 Officers believe that the project will benefit the standing of this major attraction which serves the Bradford on Avon community area and beyond. The funding contribution is a minor part of the overall package for this piece of public art and so leverage is very good. Councillors will need to consider the level of support that is appropriate to support this project in the light of other demands on the budget.

Officers recommend that a reduced amount of £ 3,000 capital funding is contributed to the Bruce Munro Light Sculpture in the foyer of the Wiltshire Music Centre

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4	Bradford on Avon Development Trust	Historic Core Zone Street Display	£687 capital

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

8.4.2 The application demonstrates a link to the Bradford on Avon Community Plan and Wiltshire Local Area Agreement through its support to community networking and cohesion.

8.4.3 The preparation and erection of a permanent exterior display showing the extent and purpose of the Historic Core Zone, its timeframe and progress in order to inform and to seek to maintain public support for the scheme as it evolves in the years ahead

8.4.4 The Historic Core Zone is a Wiltshire Council Highways project designed to improve the safety and ease of passage for pedestrians in Bradford on Avon. The project evolved from a major consultation and community exercise carried out in the town and supported by Wiltshire Council in 2009/10. The first phase of the project will be introduced shortly, as well as the decluttering of the streets with the introduction of a controlled parking zone in the town centre. The ambition is to restore the balance between people and vehicles in favour of people. Given the unavoidable delay there has been between acceptance of the project by Wiltshire Council in 2009 and today, there is considerable public ignorance of the project. The risk is that as the detailed design of each stage of the Zone is consulted on, there is confusion among the public about what the Zone is intended to do, and what it's not intended to do, and how it's going to progress. The Town Council-led HCZ Action Group (which

includes officers from Highways) has agreed with a Development Trust proposal that a large permanent display be placed in the town showing the extent of the scheme and allowing updates to be posted, including timetables. This will allow townspeople to stay abreast of what is happening with the scheme and will help maintain public support. It is likely that this display will need to be maintained over several years as the scheme progresses, so a robust weatherproof display cabinet is needed.

8.4.5 The Development Trust working with the Town Council and the HCZ Action Group will ensure that the display board is kept up-to-date and in good order.

8.4.6 Bradford on Avon Town Council on 22 October 2013 agreed to contribute 50% of project costs. Since beneficiaries include residents across the Community Area, it is considered appropriate to request 50% support also from the Area Board. PLEASE NOTE: the amounts indicated in the budget are maximum figures including VAT. It is possible that we will be able to fix the display panel to a privately-owned wall, rather than excavating postholes. We will have an answer to this by the time of the November Area Board meeting and, if we can use a wall rather than posts, the amount required will reduce by approx £500 to a maximum of £874.00. We are actively pursuing this as a preferred option, but it is dependent on obtaining approval from third parties.

8.4.7 Officers consider that this project will benefit the communications around the Historic Core Zone, a major initiative for the town but one which has very little public visibility and understanding at present. The costs of the street display, shared with the Town Council, are considered to be reasonable.

Officers recommend approval of a £ 687 capital funding allocation towards the Historic Core Zone Street Display in Lamb Yard

Appendices:	Grant applications from: Westwood with Iford Primary School Anastasia Thomas Wiltshire Music Centre Bradford on Avon Development Trust
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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