

Report to	Malmesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	15 January 2014
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider the following officer recommendations:

1. Athelstan Museum - award £2,000 capital towards the installation of mezzanine lighting, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
2. Ashton Keynes Junior Football Club - award £698 capital towards goal posts for Bradstone Sports Ground, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
3. Minety Munchkins – award £311 capital towards the cost of play mats
4. Alderton Village Hall – award £500 capital towards the cost of renewing the flat roof, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
5. That a condition of receiving any funding from Malmesbury area board is that the recipient ensures that publicity about the club sessions/events and or facility/hire arrangements is published on the [Malmesbury Our Community Matters website](#) to raise awareness in the community and encourage wider use.

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 wish 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.
- 1.5. In 2013/14 Malmesbury Area Board was allocated a budget of **£53,138** 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. Applications of up to and including £500 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which do 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.
- 1.8. A ring-fenced budget of £1,500 has been provided specifically for Digital Literacy Grants, although the area board may spend more. Up to £500 per project is available for capital 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 provide recommendations, however the decision to support applications is made by Malmesbury area board councillors.
- 1.12. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 1.13. Members of the public can view all funding applications on the [council's website](#)
- 1.14. 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 the [Malmesbury & Villages – Our Community Matters blogsite](#). Failure to evaluate projects will preclude applicants/organisations being considered for future funding.

Background documents used in the preparation of this report	<u>Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2013/14 as approved by delegated decision</u>
	<u>Area Board Grants Scheme 2013/14 – information and criteria</u>
	<u>Digital Literacy Grants 2013/14</u>
	<u>Malmesbury and Villages Community Area Plan 2009-2013</u>
	Minutes of the 6 November 2013 Malmesbury area board

2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. At the 3 July 2013 area board £8,118 revenue funding was allocated to the Malmesbury & Villages Community Area Partnership and £5,000 capital awarded to Minety Village hall, leaving a total balance of **£40,020** to be allocated through Community Area Grants, Digital Literacy Grants and Area Board/Councillor Led Initiatives
- 2.2. At the 4 September area board £418 capital was awarded to Little Somerford Short Mat Bowls Club and £3,154 revenue was returned to the area board,
- 2.3. At the November area board £5,000 capital was awarded to Sherston Magna Cricket Club, £438 to 1st Malmesbury Scout Groups and £4,000 to undertake two topographical surveys (only £3,750 was required); plus £415 of revenue funding was spent on First Aid training for volunteer supporters of Malmesbury skate board facility. £5,000 from the revenue budget was allocated to inter-generational youth projects. This left a capital budget of **£25,510**, (excluding a further £1,500 for digital literacy grants) and a revenue balance of **£1,098** (excluding £3,000 ring fenced legacy funding).
- 2.4. Councillors must ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation outlined in Section 1 of this report.
- 2.5. 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.
- 2.6. There is only 1 funding round remaining in 2013/14. The deadline for receipt of funding applications is:
 - **24 January 2014 for consideration on 5 March 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 Malmesbury Area Board.
- 4.2. If funding is awarded in accordance with officer recommendations Malmesbury area board will have a balance of **£22,001 capital** (excluding the digital literacy grant) and **£1,096 revenue** (excluding ring fenced legacy funding).

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 will be outlined in section 8, "Officer Recommendations" of the funding report.

8. Officer Recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1.	Athelstan Museum	Mezzanine lighting	£ 2,000

- 8.1.1. Officers recommend that Athelstan Museum is awarded £2,000 capital funding towards the installation of mezzanine lighting, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
- 8.1.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14.
- 8.1.3. The applicant is requesting fractionally less than 50% of the total cost of the project from the area board, with funding sought from the Malmesbury Carnival Committee (confirmed) and the Jack Lane Trust.

- 8.1.4. The Malmesbury and the Villages Community Plan 2009-2013 does not make any reference to the museum, however this may be associated with people identifying what they have not got, rather than preserving and improving what they do have.
- 8.1.5. The museum wishes to replace the current system with more efficient, environmentally friendly, LED lighting as the current lighting system is very inefficient as well as causing spatial heating problems which can cause problems for visitors and exhibits.
- 8.1.6. The museum provides outreach services to local schools and other community organisations and offers a wide range of in-house educational activities - particularly during the school holidays. It is the mezzanine area which is heavily used by children and where visitors have an opportunity to try their hands at lace-making, model-making and painting etc. It is also where the museum displays a wide variety of temporary exhibitions throughout the year and hence has to be more adaptable than the permanent downstairs display areas.
- 8.1.7. The Museum was established in 1931 to collect, document, preserve, interpret and exhibit material relevant to the history of Malmesbury and surrounding area. Since 2006 the Museum has been operated by the Friends of Athelstan Museum, is run entirely by volunteers and is a registered charity. It receives no income from any source other than from its members and visitors, so is reliant on grants to fund both exhibitions and any repairs/refurbishment work.
- 8.1.8. The museum is open to the public every day except over the Christmas holiday period.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Ashton Keynes Junior Football Club	Goal posts for Bradstone Sports Ground	£698

- 8.2.1. Officers recommend that Ashton Keynes Junior Football Club is awarded £698 capital funding towards the cost of goal posts for Bradstone Sports Ground, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
- 8.2.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14.
- 8.2.3. The applicant is seeking 50% of the total cost of the project with the balance being found from adult and junior club funds as well as from the Playing Field Committee.
- 8.2.4. In the Malmesbury and the Villages Community Plan 2009-2013 both adults and young people wanted provision of clubs, activities and sports facilities across the community area.

8.2.5. The Junior Football Club is seeking to replace two very dated and damaged goal posts with two freestanding 'wheeled' steel goals which will enable them to be wheeled into different positions for training exercises and will help to avoid goal mouth wear and tear. They will significantly improve the training and match experience for members of adult and junior clubs.

8.2.6. The goal posts will primarily be used by the 90 members (aged 5 to 17), of the Ashton Keynes Youth Football Club which is an FA Charter Standard Club; as well as the adult team. They will also be available for recreational users of Bradstone Sports Ground.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	Minety Munchkins	Play mats for new 'Stay and Play' group	£311

8.3.1. Officers recommend that Minety Munchkins are awarded £311 capital towards the cost of play mats.

8.3.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14.

8.3.3. The response from the 25-34 age group to the Malmesbury and the Villages Community Plan 2009-2013 consultation was poor, so it is unsurprising that there are no references to the need for mother and toddler groups. Such groups do, however, benefit parents or carers of young children by reducing social isolation and supporting networking at a local level, while encouraging interaction between children from an early age.

8.3.4. Minety Munchkins is a voluntary run 'stay and play' session for children under 5 and their parents/carers and mums to be. The group meets on a Thursday morning during term time at Minety Village Hall. The group is in urgent need of soft play mats for the babies that come to the group as they currently use a piece of carpet which is small and difficult to keep clean. Minety Munchkins has existed for some 20 years, and currently supports 6-8 families meeting each week. The group operates on a break even basis with weekly charging covering hall hire, insurance, heating and refreshments.

8.3.5. Funding of the mats will help to provide a larger and more hygienic space for the babies to safely sit and roll around on, whilst the older children are free to play with other equipment.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4.	Alderton Village Hall	Renewing flat roof	£500

8.4.1. Officers recommend that Alderton Village Hall is awarded £500 capital funding towards the cost of renewing the flat roof, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.

8.4.2. This application meets grant criteria 2013/14.

8.4.3. The applicant is seeking slightly less than 50% of the total cost of the project with the balance of the funding from Luckington Parish Council (which is confirmed) and Village Hall funds.

8.4.4. The need to improve village hall facilities is highlighted in the Malmesbury and the Villages Community Plan 2009-2013.

8.4.5. Alderton hall was last refurbished (with the exception of the flat roof above the kitchen extension) in 2009, giving a life of 40 years minimum and now the flat roof needs replacing, which will be guaranteed for 10 years. Should any timber needs replacing once the roof has been opened up the applicant will fund works from its own modest reserves.

8.4.6. Although this hall serves only a small community, it is deemed an important asset and is regularly used, with scope for wider use such as for club meetings and small parties.

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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