

<b>Report to</b>	<b>South West Wiltshire Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>5 February 2014</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Area Board Funding</b>

## Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider applications in respect to;

### Finger Post Funding:

To allocate funding of up to £550 to Parish Councils (up to £350 towards a finger post repair/replacement and a further £200 towards the Highways element of the necessary works to take down and reinstate the posts) who have registered their requirements with Highways and/or Community Area Manager of replacing or refurbishing finger posts on the highway in their area. Information on this funding programme can be found in the [reports pack](#) from the Area Board meeting held on 5 June 2013 (item 14).

<b>Parish Council</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Dinton	£515
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£515</b>

**Recommendation:** To approve the finger post funding as set out in the table above with the condition that each Parish Council that receives funding to replace or refurbish a finger post must provide evidence of doing so within twelve months.

### Community Area Grants (all conditional on the balance of funding being in place):

1. Fovant Village Hall - award £1,900 towards re-wiring of original part of hall.
2. Mere Historical Society – award £3,218 towards creating a museum catalogue.
3. Chilmark Reading Room – award £2,475 towards kitchen improvements.
4. Donhead St Mary Parish Council – award £5,000 towards a new mowing machine to maintain the remembrance field.
5. Wilton Town Council – award £5,000 towards enhancement of Minster St play area.
6. Teffont Village Hall – award £7,117 towards improvements to the village hall.

## 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.
- 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><b>Background documents used in the preparation of this report</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2013/14 as approved by delegated decision</a></p> <p><a href="#">AB project - finger posts report</a></p> <p><a href="#">South West Wiltshire Area Board Priorities Action Log</a></p> <p><a href="#">Mere Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment</a></p> <p><a href="#">Tisbury Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment</a></p> <p><a href="#">Wilton Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment</a></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 is 1 further funding round planned for 2013/14. Deadlines for receipt of funding applications are:
  - 26 February 2014 for a decision at the Area Board meeting on 26 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 South West Wiltshire Area Board.
- 4.2. At the time of writing this report South West Wiltshire Area Board has a balance of **£33,310**. If grants/finger posts are awarded in accordance with officer recommendations South West Wiltshire Area Board will have a balance of **£8,085**.

### **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.	Fovant Village Hall	Re-wiring of original part of hall	£1,900

- 8.1.1. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2013/14 grant criteria, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
- 8.1.2. This application has been classified as a capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.
- 8.1.3. This project is to renew the whole wiring system in the main part of the village hall, ensuring safety requirements are met.
- 8.1.4. The village hall occasionally suffers from electrical failure, which affects the experience for those hiring the hall.
- 8.1.5. This application is supported by Community First's Village Hall and Community Buildings Advisor, who reports that if the hall is not improved quickly it will be unable to be used safely.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Mere Historical Society	Creating a museum catalogue	£3,218

- 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 purchase a laptop and catalogue 10,000 archive items into MODES software. The archive is currently housed in a purpose-built cabin in the unused gallery of the United Reformed Church in Mere.
- 8.2.4. Funding was previously awarded by the Area Board to catalogue items onto Microsoft Excel, which was then due to be converted into MODES. The Area Board awarded £1,224 in 2011/12 for this project.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	Chilmark Reading Room	Kitchen improvements	£2,475

- 8.3.1. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2013/14 grant criteria.
- 8.3.2. This application has been classified as a capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.
- 8.3.3. This project is to install a new kitchen area, including a new cooker and fridge. The existing area lacks both of these items and is cramped to work in.
- 8.3.4. The Reading Room is widely used by villagers for meetings, events, day and evening classes, social occasions, theatrical and musical performances.
- 8.3.5. This application is supported by Community First's Village Hall and Community Buildings Advisor, who reports that the quotes provided appear to be appropriate and the works to improve the facilities are a high priority.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4.	Donhead St Mary Parish Council	Mowing machine for remembrance field	£5,000

- 8.4.1. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2013/14 grant criteria.
- 8.4.2. This application has been classified as a capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.
- 8.4.3. This project is to purchase a new mowing machine for the maintenance of the remembrance field, which is maintained by Donhead Sports Club. The previous mower was bought 35 years ago and has recently broken down requiring replacement.
- 8.4.4. A range of local competitive sports take place on the remembrance field, including cricket and football.
- 8.4.5. This application is supported by Wiltshire Council Leisure Services, who report that the facility does support Sports and Physical Activity within the area, by providing a high quality and safe area for sports clubs and teams to use throughout the year. The ability to maintain the surface will benefit and engage all sections of the community to stay fit and healthy.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.5.	Wilton Town Council	Enhancement of Minster St play area	£5,000

- 8.5.1. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2013/14 grant criteria.
- 8.5.2. This application has been classified as a capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.
- 8.5.3. This project is to enhance the play area at Minster Street by installing four new items of play equipment; a new roundabout, a team basket swing, a sunken trampoline and a wobble board/bench.
- 8.5.4. This project is part of an overall scheme supported by the Town Council, Town Team and Wilton & District Chamber of Commerce to improve and increase the range of attractions, facilities and events in the town which in turn will benefit both the residents, and retail businesses both in the Village and the Town Centre.
- 8.5.5. This project is supported Wiltshire Council Leisure Services, who report that the funding requested is in line with what would be expected and the project meets with the needs of the town.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.6.	Teffont Village Hall	Improvements to the village hall	£7,117

- 8.6.1. Officers are of the opinion that this application meets the 2013/14 grant criteria. Applicants are entitled to request up to £5,000, more in exceptional cases.
- 8.6.2. This application has been classified as a capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.
- 8.6.3. This project is to make improvements to the village hall, including creating a new porch and entrance lobby.
- 8.6.4. Teffont Village Hall has been substantially modernised over the last few years and these new developments will enhance opportunities and usage of the hall.
- 8.6.5. At the time of writing this report the Area Board is awaiting a technical officer assessment from Community First's Village Hall and Community Buildings Advisor.

<b>Appendices:</b>	Grant application 1 – Fovant Village Hall Grant application 2 – Mere Historical Society Grant application 3 – Chilmark Reading Room Grant application 4 – Donhead St Mary Parish Council Grant application 5 – Wilton Town Council Grant application 6 – Teffont Village Hall
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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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