

Report to	Melksham Area Board	Agenda Item No.8
Date of Meeting	28 th July 2010	
Title of Report	Community Area Grants	

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider four applications seeking 2010/2011 Community Area Grant Funding:

1. **Bowerhill Residents Actions Group** have applied for **£2000** towards the development of a picnic area near the Kennet & Avon canal. The recommendation is to award the funding.
2. **Atworth Parish Council** have applied for **£600** towards the renovation of the copse of pines between Mount Pleasant estate and the A365. The recommendation is to award the funding.
3. **Atworth Parish Council** have applied for **£900** towards recovering the stone kerbing on the village green to prevent erosion. The recommendation is to deferred a decision on this application until highways officers are satisfied with the project.
4. **Melksham Without Parish Council** have applied for **£332** towards a new parish council notice board. The recommendation is to award the funding.

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 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 recommendation of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria would need the approval of the Leader, the appropriate Cabinet Member or the Cabinet.
- 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. EXAMPLE Two applicants withdrew their applications and hope to reapply at a future date. One application did not meet the funding criteria and was referred to Charities Information Bureau (CIB) for support to seek funding from elsewhere. CIB work on behalf of Wiltshire Council to support community and voluntary groups, town and parish councils to seek funding for community projects and schemes both from the Area Board and other local and national funding sources.
- 1.5. Funding applications will be considered at every other Area Board meeting.
- 1.6. Melksham Area Board has been allocated a 2010/2011 budget of £49,762 for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives. The carry forward from the 2009/2010 budget is £1,783. This leaves a total budget of £51,545 for the 2010/2011 budget.
- 1.7. A decision has been made in 2010/2011 that paper copies of funding applications will no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce volume of paper used. However, the application forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council web site and hard copies available upon request.
- 1.8. The 2010/2011 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards) or 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 20010/11• Melksham Community Strategy• BRAG grant application• Atworth PC grant applications• Melksham Without PC grant application
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2010/11 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. There will be 3 more rounds of funding during 2010/11. The first is contained in this report the remaining will take place on;
 - 13th October 2010
 - 2nd February 2011

3. Environmental & Community Implications

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 Melksham Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Melksham Area Board will have a balance of £46,050.

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, Town and Parish Councils 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	Bowerhill Residents Action Group	Development of a picnic area near the Kennet & Avon canal	£2000

8.1.1. The recommendation is to award the funding.

8.1.2. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11

8.1.3. This application demonstrates a link to the Melksham community plan in terms of it improving the environment to encourage people to use the canal footpath for leisure including walking and cycling.

8.1.4. There are no locally agreed/area board priorities that relate to this application.

8.1.5. The applicant is a non-profit community organisation.

8.1.6. The aim of this project is to provide picnic benches at the bottom of the new bridle path that links Bowerhill to the Kennet and Avon canal. There is an area of unused land near to the canal that is owned by Wiltshire Council who have given the Bowerhill Residents Action Group permission to clear the land and erect picnic benches. The group have received sponsorship from a local company and a local contractor will clear the site at cost price as their contribution to the project.

8.1.7. No equality and inclusion issues will be addressed by the project

8.1.8. If the area board does not grant funding the project will be delayed.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Atworth Parish Council	Renovation of the copse of pines between Mount Pleasant estate and the A365	£600

8.2.1. Recommendation is to award the funding.

8.2.2. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11

8.2.3. This application does not demonstrate a link to the Melksham community plan.

- 8.2.4. Locally agreed priorities: The issue of improving this copse has been before Atworth PC for some 8 years. The copse is an eye-sore, resulting in littering and flytipping. It is overgrown and uncared for. There is considerable community desire for improvement of this area.
- 8.2.5. The applicant is a parish council.
- 8.2.6. The project is stage 1 of a 2 stage project to renovate the copse of pines between Mount Pleasant estate and the A365 Bath Rd. This consists of replacing wire fencing with wooden post and rails, and repositioning the footpath, thereby reducing the opportunity for damage to nearby properties abutting the existing path.
- 8.2.7. No equality and inclusion issues are addressed by this project.
- 8.2.8. If the area board does not grant funding the project would be delayed for at least a year.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	Atworth Parish Council	Recovering the stone kerbing on the village green to prevent erosion	£900

- 8.3.1. Recommendation is to defer the decision on this application as highways officers have some concerns about this work being carried out. Once issues have been resolved this grant could return to a future area board meeting.
- 8.3.2. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11
- 8.3.3. The application does not demonstrate a link to the Community Plan.
- 8.3.4. Locally agreed priorities: the draft Atworth parish plan expressed much concern over the impact of vehicle parking. This project will be a useful contribution to easing the consequences such as erosion of the green.
- 8.3.5. The applicant is a parish council.
- 8.3.6. The Green has gradually deteriorated over several years. The aim of this project is to replace stone kerbing on the village green to prevent further erosion and returning it to its previous state. The Green is used as the evacuation point for Churchfields primary school, and it also well used by parishioners as a resting point and a nearby nursery school. .
- 8.3.7. No equality and inclusion issue will be addressed by this project
- 8.3.8. If the area board does not grant funding then the project will be delayed by at least

12 months.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4.	Melksham Without PC	Parish notice board	£332

8.4.1. Recommendation is to award the funding.

8.4.2. Application meets grant criteria 2010/11

8.4.3. The application does not demonstrate a link to the Community Plan in terms of encouraging community cohesion.

8.4.4. No locally agreed priorities identified.

8.4.5. The applicant is a parish council.

8.4.6. This project is to replace the old, rotten parish council notice board currently located on the wall of 'The Pilot' pub in Bowerhill. The existing one is used so much it has deteriorated beyond use. It is used to advertise parish council, national and community events including area boards.

8.4.7. No equality and inclusion issue will be addressed by this project

8.4.8. If the area board does not grant funding then an inferior quality notice board will be purchased within the £400 ceiling set by the parish council.

Appendices:	Appendix 1 Grant application – Bowerhill Residents Action Group Appendix 2 Grant application – Atworth PC Appendix 3 Grant application – Atworth PC Appendix 4 Grant application – Melksham Without PC
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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