

Report to	Corsham Area Board
Date of Meeting	24th July 2014
Title of Report	Area Board Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider applications seeking 2014/15 Community Area Grant Funding.

1. Corsham Rugby Football Club Junior Section – Consider awarding £992 towards a total project cost of £992 to purchase new equipment.
2. Rudloe Pre-School - Consider awarding £1,000 towards a total project cost of £1,000 to renovate the play area and disabled access.

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 (5th April 2013). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance 2014/2015.
- 1.2. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any decision of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria 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 emphasis in the Coalition Government's 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. Corsham Area Board has been allocated a 2014/2015 budget of £41,104 for community grants, digital literacy projects, area board operational funding, community area partnership core funding and area board/councillor led initiatives. In 2014 / 15 only capital funding is available for community area and digital literacy grants. There has also been a total of £5,225 returned to the budget as a result of one project not being able to secure external funding and one project under spending by £255.
- 1.5. Applications of up to and including £1,000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £1,000 - £5,000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
- 1.6. Area boards will not consider Community Area Grant (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.
- 1.7. In addition to CAGs, 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.
- 1.8. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 1.9. Paper copies of funding applications no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce paper. They are however available on the Wiltshire Council web site with the area board agenda papers and hard copies available upon request.

- 1.10. New for 2014/15 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](#).
- 1.11. 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>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</p>	<p>Corsham Community Area Plan</p> <p>Area Board Grant Criteria and Guidance 2014/15 as approved by delegated decision</p> <p>Corsham Joint Strategic Needs Document</p>
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2014/15 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. There will be 4 further rounds of funding during 2014/2015. The remaining will take place on:
- 25th September 2014
 - 20th November 2014
 - 21st January 2015
 - 18th March 2015

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 Corsham Area Board.

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 are outlined within section 8 – Officer Recommendations.

8. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Corsham Rugby Football Junior Section	To purchase new equipment for training	£992

8.1.1. Officers ask that members consider awarding Corsham Rugby Football Club a total of £992 towards a total project cost of £992 to purchase new training equipment.

8.1.2. This application meets the grant criteria for 2014/2015.

8.1.3. This project is considered as capital by Wiltshire Council Finance Department.

8.1.4. This application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan. Sustainable communities and places for people to meet. Activities for young people.

8.1.5. This group is a not for profit group and has the support of Wiltshire Council Sports Development Officers and plays a major role in the community in introducing young people to sport and healthy lifestyles.

8.1.6. If the Area Board makes a decision not to fund the project the project will be delayed until alternative funding can be found.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2	Rudloe Pre-School	Renovate play area and disabled access	£1,000

8.2.1. Officers ask that members consider awarding Rudloe Pre-School £1,000 towards a total cost of £1,000 to renovate the play area and disabled access.

8.2.2. This application meets the grant criteria for 2014/15.

8.2.3. This project is considered as capital by Wiltshire Council Finance Department.

8.2.4. This group is a not for profit registered charity.

8.2.5. This project takes place in one of the more deprived areas of the community and takes in children from some vulnerable families.

8.2.6. If the Area Board makes a decision not to fund the project the project will be delayed until alternative funding can be found.

Appendices:	Appendix 1 Grant application – Corsham Rugby Football Club Appendix 2 Grant application – Rudloe Pre-School
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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