

Report to	South West Wiltshire Area Board
Date of Meeting	8 October 2014
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider applications in respect to;

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

1. Mere Parish Council - £2,400 towards new fencing on Castle Hill

1. Background

- 1.1. 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.
- 1.2. 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.
- 1.3. South West Wiltshire Area Board was originally allocated a 2014/2015 budget of **£56,822** for community area grants, digital literacy grants, community partnership core funding, area board operational funding and area board/councillor led initiatives. This has subsequently been revised to a budget of **£74,511**.
- 1.4. 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.
- 1.5. In support of the ongoing Olympic and Paralympic legacy, in 2014/15 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.
- 1.6. Applications of up to and including £1,000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £1,001 - £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.
- 1.7. There is a single on-line application process for Community Area Grants (CAG) and Digital Literacy grants to provide an easy step by step application process. The application process can be found [here](#).
- 1.8. 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.
- 1.9. The decision to support applications is made by Wiltshire councillors

on the area board.

- 1.10. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 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.

Background documents used in the preparation of this report	AB project - finger posts report 2014/15 South West Wiltshire Area Board Priorities Action Log Mere Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment Tisbury Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment Wilton Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. South West Wiltshire Area Board has been allocated a 2014/2015 budget of **£74,511** 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 2014/2015 are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.

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 **£33,871**. If all grants/finger posts are awarded South West Wiltshire Area Board will have a balance remaining of **£31,471** (not taking into account any funding spent on Area Board projects).

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 Report" of the funding report.

8. Officer Report

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1.	Mere Parish Council	New fencing on Castle Hill	£2,400

- 8.1.1. This application has been classified as a capital project by Wiltshire Council finance department.
- 8.1.2. This project is to provide fencing on Castle Hill in order to securely introduce goats to graze the land and assist with the scrub management. Castle Hill is a Scheduled Ancient Monument which is publicly accessible free of charge. The Parish Council reports that tourists, local residents, families and schools all walk the hill.
- 8.1.3. A similar scheme was previously instigated by the Parish Council on Long Hill. They report that the goats have proved to be very popular with members of the public and the grazing has successfully managed the scrub.

8.1.4. Wiltshire Council's Public Rights of Way team reports that the hill would be better grazed for the reasons given and as it is a fairly major landmark then it gives character to the town to see the bare profile of the hill rather than it being covered in scrub. There is uncertainty about how much it will increase access options as the very steep slopes are too steep to walk on but there are a series of popular walks up and around and along the hill.

Appendices:	Grant applications
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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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