

**Area Board Grant – Mere Parish Council
Castle Hill Fencing for grazing purposes**

Started on: 19/08/2014 11:26:39

ID: 908

Current Status: Application Received

To be considered at this meeting:
08/10/2014 South West Wiltshire

Current Case Notes

22/08/2014 11:07:29 Application received - will be considered at Area Board event on 8 October 2014 at the Nadder Hall, Tisbury

1. Which type of grant are you applying for?

Community Area Grant

2. Amount of funding required?

£1001 - £5000

3. Are you applying on behalf of a Parish Council?

Yes

4. If yes, please state why this project cannot be funded from the Parish Precept

The project was not conceived prior to budget meetings and therefore no budget has been set for this project. The Parish Council has, however, agreed to find £1000 from reserves to put towards this project.

5. Project title?

Castle Hill Fencing for grazing purposes

6. Project summary:

The Parish Council entered into a Higher Level Stewardship Scheme with Natural England for Castle Hill & Long Hill in 2011. This agreement stated that we would manage Long Hill by scrub clearance (manual) and grazing and that we would manage Castle Hill by scrub clearance (manual). The management of Long Hill has been extremely successful and we have introduced goats to graze the land. The management of Castle Hill has not been successful as the hill is extremely steep and it is dangerous to clear the scrub manually. However, Natural England has agreed that we can now introduce goats on Castle Hill to help with the scrub management but we will need to provide fencing around the hill in order to keep the goats contained.

7. Which Area Board are you applying to?

South West Wiltshire

Electoral Division

Mere

8. What is the Post Code of where the project is taking place?

BA12 6JB

9. Please tell us which theme(s) your project supports:

Children & Young People

Arts, crafts and culture

Countryside, environment and nature

Economy, enterprise and jobs

Health, lifestyle and wellbeing

Heritage, history and architecture

Sport, play and recreation

If Other (please specify)

10. Finance:

10a. Your Organisation's Finance:

Your latest accounts:

03/2014

Total Income:

£202975.00

Total Expenditure:

£189942.00

Surplus/Deficit for the year:

£13033.00

Free reserves currently held:

(money not committed to other projects/operating costs)

£0.00

Why can't you fund this project from your reserves:

The Parish Council's reserves are allocated for specific purposes. We do not have any free reserves. Indeed, we have a negative figure for reserves at 30.6.14

10b. Project Finance:

Total Project cost		£6000.00		
Total required from Area Board		£2400.00		
Expenditure (Itemised expenditure)	£		Income (Itemised income)	Tick if income confirmed £
Fencing & gates (materials & labour)	5500.00		Natural England	2581.00
Water supply & trough	500.00		Mere Parish Council	1000.00
Total	£6000			£3581

11. Have you or do you intend to apply for a grant from another area board within this financial year?

No

12. If so, which Area Boards?

South West Wiltshire

13. Please tell us WHO will benefit and HOW they will benefit from your project benefit your local community?

Castle Hill is a Scheduled Ancient Monument which is publicly accessible free of charge. Tourists, local residents, families & schools all walk the hill. It is one of the most popular walking areas within the town and wider area. The introduction of grazing on Castle Hill will save the ratepayers of Mere in the long term as the Parish Council will expend less on manual labour to control the scrub. The views from the hill and of the hill will be maintained and the historical features will be preserved. This should, in turn, have environmental and wildlife benefits as valuable chalke grassland will be regenerated by controlling the scrub. The goats on Long Hill have proved to be very popular with members of the public, particularly children and this project will enable the goats to be present all year round.

14. How will you monitor this?

The environmental and wildlife benefits will be monitored by Natural England as part of the Higher Level Stewardship Agreement. We will be able to monitor the benefits to walkers and residents by observation and feedback at Parish Council meetings.

15. If your project will continue after the Wiltshire Council funding runs out, how will you continue to fund it?

The funding requested is for capital project works (not maintenance). Once the fencing,

gates and water has been erected/supplied, the Parish Council will continue with the maintenance.

16. If this application forms part of a larger project (eg. building of new village hall), please state what this project is and approximately how much the overall project will cost.

N/A