

ITEM 11

Report to	Amesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	2nd September 2010
Title of Report	Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 2 applications seeking 2010/11 Community Area Grant Funding, totalling £4,642.

1. Wessex Community Action – seeking £3,412 to contribute towards the costs of setting up a new Volunteer Bank.
2. Wyvern Village Hall Committee – seeking £1,230 to contribute towards the costs of new main doors for the village hall.

Officer
Recommendation

Refuse

Approve

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. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.5. The Amesbury Area Board has been allocated a 2010/2011 budget of £50,529 for community grants, community partnership core funding and councillor led initiatives. The carry forward from the 2009/2010 budget was £7,200 (including returned funds from the Stonehenge Community Area partnership). This gave a total budget of £57,729 for the 2010/2011 budget. £7,308.08 of this was allocated in community grants at the 29th April 2010 meeting, and a further £3,744.50 allocated in community grants at the 1st July 2010 meeting, leaving a remaining total of £46,676.42.
- 1.6. 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 the volume of paper used. However, the application forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council web site and hard copies available upon request.
- 1.7. 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.

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.

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 Amesbury Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, the Amesbury Area Board will have a remaining balance of £45,446.42.

5. Legal Implications

5.1. There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

6. Human Resources Implications

6.1. There are no specific human resources 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	Wessex Community Action (WCA)	To create and manage a bank of local people who would be CRB checked and trained to undertake voluntary work for organizations.	£3,412

8.1.1. It is recommended that WCA is refused a grant of £3,412 to assist with the costs of setting up a new volunteer bank for the following reasons:

- (a) mindful of the advice received from the Head of Strategy – Voluntary & Community Services (VCS), it is recommended that this application is refused as Wiltshire Council has already awarded a contract to GROW to provide a very similar service
- (b) in view of this advice, any decision to award the funding would appear to conflict with the approach previously agreed by Wiltshire Council and may require further consideration
- (c) WCA is advised to contact GROW to examine how its proposals may be accommodated with the Wiltshire Volunteer Service

8.1.2. Although, technically this application meets the community area grant scheme criteria, it should be noted that Wiltshire Council has already allocated funding for a similar project (see para 8.1.6 below).

8.1.3. The application demonstrates a link to the Local Agreement for Wiltshire due to its goal of building a stronger and more vibrant voluntary sector.

8.1.4. WCA is a Company Limited by guarantee and a registered charity. It is a not for profit organisation which has a varied membership. It delivers support services to voluntary and community groups; development of new initiatives in the community, liaison

between groups, organisations and agencies.

8.1.5. The proposal is to develop a 'bank' of adult local volunteers who are Criminal Records Bureau cleared and encourage organisations to use the skills of young people undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. WCA would recruit and CRB check volunteers, as well as respond to requests from local organisations and groups for short and long term work. The Area Board grant request is to fund the recruitment and start up costs, CRB registration and administration.

8.1.6. This application is one of four applications submitted to Salisbury, South Wiltshire, South West Wiltshire and Amesbury for the same project. Guidance has been sought from the Head of Strategy, VCS, who has emphasised that the Volunteer Bank proposed by WCA would duplicate the single county-wide volunteer service that Wiltshire Council is already commissioning (and funding) from GROW. Training and volunteer recruitment, retention is part of the contract awarded by the council and partners to GROW (a new Wiltshire wide VCS infrastructure consortium). Wiltshire Council is reviewing its own policy on CRB checks at present. This proposal would duplicate the agreement with GROW and conflict with the approach now approved by the Council.

8.1.7. If funding was refused, WCA would have to seek alternative funding. However, a similar volunteering service will be provided by GROW.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Wyvern Hall Committee	To replace the main doors of the village hall	£1,230

8.2.1. It is recommended that the Wyvern Hall Committee is awarded a grant of £1,230 to assist with the cost of purchasing and fitting new main doors for the village hall.

8.2.2. This application meets the grant criteria for 2010/11.

8.2.3. The current main doors to the hall need to be replaced particularly so that the security of the hall can be better ensured.

8.2.4. The hall is well used and supported by the local community who use it for meetings, courses, youth events, elections, parties, weddings, wakes etc.

8.2.5. Wylde Parish Council has confirmed strong support for this application.

Appendices – available online only	Appendix 1 Grant Application – WCA Appendix 2 Grant Application – Wyvern Hall Committee
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