

Report to	Corsham Area Board
Date of Meeting	20th November 2014
Title of Report	Area Board Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 3 applications seeking 20014/15 Community Area Grant Funding.

1. Wiltshire Scrap Store – Consider awarding £960 towards a total cost of £960 to improve disabled access to the centre.
2. Neston memorial Hall - Consider awarding £2,000 towards a total project cost of £4,190 to replace flooring at the hall. Conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.
3. Colerne Village Hall – Consider awarding £5,000 towards a total project cost of £43,405 to install a cinema and associated equipment. Conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

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. [Area Board Grants Guidance 2013/2014](#).
- 1.2. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any decision of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria and/or the officer's recommendation 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 3 further rounds of funding during 2014/2015. The remaining will take place on;
 - 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.
- 4.2. If Corsham Area Board award grants in line with those outlined on the first page of this report they will have £8,192

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	Wiltshire Scrap Store	To improve disabled access to the centre	£960

- 8.1.1. Officers recommend that members consider awarding Wiltshire scrap Store £960 towards a total project cost of £960 to improve disabled access to the centre
- 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 and goes some way to meeting equality and diversity within the community area.
- 8.1.5. This group is a registered charity and is used by people from across the County of Wiltshire.
- 8.1.6. This group is well respected in the area and is seen to be offering a very worthwhile project in the community area.
- 8.1.7. 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	Neston Memorial Hall	New flooring	£2,000

- 8.2.1. Officers recommend that members consider awarding Neston memorial Hall £2,000 towards a total project cost of £4,190 to install new flooring in the hall. Conditional upon the balance of funds being in place.
- 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 application achieves targets set out in the community plan “places for people to meet”
- 8.2.5. If this application is successful it will allow the hall to appeal to a wider user group so will assist in making the hall more sustainable for the future.
- 8.2.6. This group is a not for profit registered charity.
- 8.2.7. 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
8.3	Colerne Village Hall	Install Cinema and associated equipment	£5,000

8.3.1 Officers recommend that members consider awarding Colerne Village Hall £5,000 towards a total project cost of £43,405 to install a cinema in the hall. Conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

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

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

8.3.4 This application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan.” Activities for young people” and “places to meet”.

8.3.5 This application was successful at Corsham Area Board on 18/07/2013 but owing to the balance of funding not being in place within the 12 month period the group had to return the funding in line with the criteria laid down.

8.3.6 On this occasion the group are very confident that they will fulfil the criteria and have the balance of the funding in place within 12 months.

8.3.7 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 – Wiltshire Scrap store Appendix 2 Grant application – Neston memorial Hall Appendix 3 Grant application – Colerne Village Hall
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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