

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Amesbury Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>20 November 2014</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Area Board Funding</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

To ask councillors to consider the following grant requests:

1. Plains School Partnership – £750 for new trees to enhance woodland space at Larkhill Primary School.
2. Bulford & Durrington Sunshine Club – £460 for Christmas Lunch party.
3. Amesbury Community Group – £500 for Christmas Lunch party

## **1. Background**

- 1.1. Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them. Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance.
- 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 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. The area board may wish to link funding to local priorities, including those identified in their Community Plan, Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment and any other community based consultative work.
- 1.5. The community area grants budget has been approved for 2014/2015 for community area grants, digital literacy grants, community partnership core funding, area board operational funding and area board/councillor led initiatives.
- 1.6. 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.

- 1.7. Applications of up to and including £1,000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which do 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.
- 1.8. A ring-fenced budget of £1,500 has been provided specifically for Digital Literacy Grants, although the area board may spend more. Up to £500 per project is available for capital projects.
- 1.9. There 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](#).
- 1.10. 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.
- 1.11. Officers provide advice on how the application meets with the scheme's criteria, but the decision to support applications is made by Amesbury area board councillors.
- 1.12. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting whilst there is money available.
- 1.13. 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 the Amesbury 'Our Community Matters' [blog-site](#). Failure to evaluate projects will preclude applicants/organisations being considered for future funding.

<b>Background documents used in the preparation of this report</b>	<a href="#">Amesbury Area's Community Plan Priorities</a> <a href="#">Amesbury Area Joint Strategic Assessment</a>
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## 2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors must ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation outlined in Section 1 of this report.
- 2.2. 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.

2.3. This is the fourth funding round of the 2014/15 financial year.

Future rounds will take place as follows:

- 18 December for consideration on 29 January 2015
- 12 February for consideration on the 26 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 Amesbury Area Board. Budget allocated in 2014/15 is £67,670.01

4.2. If the grants are awarded Amesbury Area Board will have a balance £18,816.

### **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 and Small 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 of the funding report.

### **8. Grant Requests**

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1.	The Plain's Schools Partnership	Development of Woodland Space at Larkhill Primary for Out of School Forest Activities	£750

8.1.1. The application has been appraised by the Community Area Manager and meets the grants criteria. The funding requested is to make a capital purchase of some small and large trees to develop the woodland space.

8.1.2 Since 2013 the Plain's Schools Partnership has been working with the children in Larkhill, to develop part of the local primary school site as a small

woodland area, with a variety of native species of trees, shrubs and flowers. This has helped to create a variety of areas for children to play in, and different habitats for plants to grow.

- 8.1.3 This organisation is developing its “Wild Horizons” initiative for the local community, and is keen to run some Saturday parent and child groups, together with summer activities for children from the local area (Durrington & Larkhill), on this site. In order to do so, there is a need to introduce some more mature trees, to enhance the woodland area aspect of the initiative.
- 8.1.4 In an increasingly risk-adverse society, today's children are often found playing on the computer or Playstation inside the home, rather than playing outside in the natural environment, the way many of their parents did as children. Wild Horizons helps to instil the excitement and understanding of being outside, and to give children ideas and opportunities that they will be able to replicate in their own families (e.g. den building, woodland walks).
- 8.1.5 In addition, research of the impact of Forest Schools activities has shown that it can increase self confidence and self esteem, improve an individual's ability to work co-operatively and increases their awareness of others, counter a lack of motivation and a negative attitude to learning, develop physical stamina, co-ordination and fine motor skills, increase the skills and knowledge of those who take part, gives adults new perspectives on children and has been shown to have a ripple effect that extends beyond the sessions.
- 8.1.6 Schools across the Plain are already seeing the benefit of Forest Schools and the Partnership is keen to offer opportunities out of school hours for families across Salisbury Plain.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Amesbury Community Group	To bring together senior citizens from the local community for a Christmas Party in Amesbury	£500

- 8.2.1. The Amesbury Community Group has put on a festive lunch for the senior citizens of Amesbury and Durrington for the last three years. The event brings people from the community together, often some very lonely, who look forward to this event. The event is mainly paid for by fund raising, but the popularity of the event has seen numbers increase - last year we had 144 people.
- 8.2.2. The event includes a festive lunch, a christmas gift and entertainment from a local school choir. The LINK scheme are also involved transporting people to and from the event.
- 8.2.3. The total cost of this year's event is just over £3,000. The Area Board is being asked to contribute £500. The nature of the costs involved in this event are categorised as revenue.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	Bulford & Durrington Sunshine Club	Christmas Lunch	£460

- 8.3.1. The Bulford & Durrington Sunshine Club approached the board earlier in the year as advised by the local Good Neighbour Scheme Co-ordinator, because of the difficulties they were having in keeping the club up and running.
- 8.3.2. The board helped to fund the Club's Easter activities (£500 agreed at the March 2014 meeting) on the basis that the club could not do this as it has in previous years, due to a fall in its membership numbers and consequently membership subscriptions.
- 8.3.3. Similarly, the board is now asked to grant £460 to assist with the cost of the Club's Christmas Lunch.
- 8.3.4. The board's financial support of the club's Easter and Christmas parties this year is needed to help the club build up funds to be self supporting going into 2015/16.
- 8.3.5. This is a request for revenue funding.

<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix 1 – Plains School Partnership Appendix 2 – Amesbury Community Group Appendix 3 – Bulford & Durrington Sunshine Club
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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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