

Report to	Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board
Date of Meeting	Wednesday 26 November 2014
Title of Report	Investing in Our Community

Purpose of Report

To ask councillors to consider the following:

- To note the area board budget and funding criteria for 2014/15
- Lyneham Village Hall – requests £1,246 towards a new central heating boiler
- Broad Town Village Hall – requests £380 towards the re-production of an historic parish map
- Royal Wootton Bassett Friends of Guiding – requests £1,750 towards new toilet including disabled facilities
- Royal Wootton Bassett Orchestra – requests £760 towards conductor's podium, music stands and lights
- To note inter-meeting spending - £28 room hire and £125 refreshments
- To note the area board current budget balances.

1. Background

- 1.1. Area Boards have authority to approve funding under delegated powers. Under the Scheme of Delegation, Area Boards must adhere to the [Area Board Grants Guidance 2014/2015](#).
- 1.2. Key aspects of the 2014/15 criteria include:
 - The decision to support a funding application and to what level will be the decision of the area board, with no officer recommendation.
 - Applications of up to and including £1,000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding, however the area board will look more positively on applicants where they are able to contribute some funding towards their project.
 - Amounts of £1,001 - £5,000 will be required to find matched funding.
 - The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
 - The area board will prioritise funding to projects relating to priorities chosen by the board according to the What Matters to You? event held in March 2014, having identified them as top areas for community and area board attention during the coming year.
- 1.3. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any decision of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria would need to demonstrate that the application in question has a wider community benefit, and give specific reasons why this should justify an exception to the criteria which must be minuted.
- 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. There will only be 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. Access to the online grants application process is [here](#).
- 1.6. Funding will be considered at every area board. There are 5 funding rounds remaining during 2014/15. Deadlines for receipt of funding applications are as follows:
 - 11 June 2014 for consideration at 23 July 2014 area board meeting
 - 20 August 2014 for consideration at 24 September 2014 area board meeting
 - 22 October 2014 for consideration at 26 November 2014 area board meeting
 - 10 December 2014 for consideration at 21 January 2015 area board meeting
 - 4 February 2015 for consideration at 18 March 2015 area board meeting.

- 1.7. Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board has been allocated a capital budget of **£47,392.98** for Community Area Grants and Digital Literacy grants, and a separate revenue budget of **£8,804.64** in 2014/15.
- 1.8. Within the capital budget, £2,500 capital is ring-fenced for digital literacy grants of up to £500 each.
- 1.9. Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board has a separate Community Area Transport Group (CATG) budget for 2014/15 of **£16,626**. The CATG will consider appropriate schemes for funding and make appropriate recommendations to the Area Board for approval.

Background documents used in the preparation of this report	Area Board Community Area Grant Scheme and Digital Literacy Grants – information and funding criteria 2014/15
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that funding awarded by the area board satisfy [2014/15 area board funding criteria](#) and financial regulations of the council and can proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. On 6 July 2011 the Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board took the decision to delegate responsibility to the Community Area Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Area Board, to approve expenditure of up to £250 between meetings of the Area Board for the purpose of booking public meeting rooms for Area Board purposes. Any expenditure incurred under this delegation will be reported back to the Area Board at the next public meeting.

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 Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board.

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 of the funding report.

8. Applications for consideration

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1.	Royal Wootton Bassett Friends of Guiding	New toilets including disabled facilities	£1,750 capital

- 8.1.1. The application meets the Community Area Grant criteria 2014/15.
- 8.1.2. The Friends wish to refurbish the toilets which are over 40 years old incorporating disabled access and improving the health and safety standards of the Guide Hut.
- 8.1.3. The Guide Hut provides the space for Girlguiding volunteers to run 11 units which cater for girls aged 5 - 26 years old. The hall is used every week day evening by a minimum two units.
- 8.1.4. There are 280 members of Girlguiding RWB. The organisation aims to provide a safe girl-only environment to help members develop personally and make a positive contribution to their community and the wider world.
- 8.1.5. The refurbishment helps to address the lack of youth facilities throughout the Northern community, improve disabled access to the guide hut and the ability for inclusion of all girls to Girlguiding RWB.
- 8.1.6. The total cost of this project is £3,500 – this grant represents 50% of the total project cost. The balance of funding comes from the organisation's reserves and fundraising.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Lyneham Village Hall	New central heating boiler	£1,246 capital

- 8.2.1. The application meets the Community Area Grant criteria 2014/15.
- 8.2.2. Lyneham Village Hall has been undergoing an extensive renovation programme. The unexpected failure of the existing boiler was not factored into the costs of this programme.
- 8.2.3. The village hall has been able to maintain the heating system using the existing boiler but can't supply any hot water which limits hiring of the hall.

8.2.4. The total cost of this project is £3,126 – this grant represents 40% of the costs and the balance of funding required will come from a Landfill Communities Fund.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.	Royal Wootton Bassett Orchestra	Conductor's podium, music stands and lights	£760 capital

8.3.1. The application meets the Community Area Grant criteria 2014/15.

8.3.2. Royal Wootton Bassett is a multi-generational community orchestra run by volunteers with a sole income source of players' subs.

8.3.3. The orchestra contributes to the town's cultural activities.

8.3.4. The orchestra took part in Wiltshire's Big Pledge by holding a Saturday Open Rehearsal, recruiting several younger people and provided a free of charge performance. The orchestra also works with other local groups including WBLOS, The RWB Choral Society, and have a cup to present at the RWB Music Festival.

8.3.5. The increasing size of the orchestra (particularly young people) and joint working with other groups has led to a need for additional equipment.

8.3.6. If granted, RWB Orchestra is willing to loan the new resources to other community groups.

8.3.7. The total cost of this project is £970 – this grant represents 22% of the total project cost. The balance of funding for the project will be found from reserves.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.4.	Broad Town Village Hall	Reproduction of an historic parish map	£380 capital

8.4.1. The application meets the Community Area Grant criteria 2014/15.

8.4.2. The village hall have an 1890 Parish Map, 6' x 6' printed on cotton/linen backed paper, which is too fragile and large for permanent display. The committee wish to obtain a digital copy of the map and have a 1400mm x1400mm Diabond (aluminium and fibre glass composite) sign made for display on the front wall of Broad Town Village Hall.

8.4.3. The consultations carried out for the Parish Plan and for the emerging Neighbourhood Plan showed a desire to better establish a village identity for Broad Town. This project, showing the heritage of the village, will help meet this need as well as be of interest to villagers and visitors.

8.4.4. The total cost of this project is £480 – this grant represents 20% of the total project cost. The balance of funding for the project will be found from reserves.

9. Inter-meeting spend

The following amounts were paid from the area board revenue budget:

- Emergency Planning Workshop 23 September 2014 Buffet Supper - £125
- CATG 10 July 2014 Room Hire - £28

10. Area Board Budget Balances

Community Area Grants, Digital Literacy - Capital	£39,906.98
Revenue	£8,591.64
Community Area Transport Group	£3,300 approx

Appendices	Appendix 1 – individual grant applications and supporting details
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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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