

Report to Melksham Area Board
Date of Meeting 11 February 2015
Subject Community Area Grants

Purpose of Report:

To consider 10 applications for community area grant funding, totalling **£22,368**

A summary of the applications together with the Community Area Manager's recommendation is set out below.

Application (and amount requested)

Big Community Grow Family Food and Fun - a family learning project	£730
Whitley Reading Rooms New External Fire Door	£883
Melksham Without Parish Council Seating for Shaw Playing Field	£2003
Melksham Without Parish Council Shaw Play Area resurfacing	£4417
Broughton Gifford Pre School Equipment for new Building Pre School	£5000
Broughton Gifford Parish Council War Memorial Renovation	£4047
Melksham Amateur Swimming Club Equipment	£1000
Broughton Gifford Village Hall Hall Improvements	£2228
Semington Parish Council Semington defibrillator	£1100
Keevil Defibrillator Group Keevil Defibrillator	£960

Total requested:	£22,368
Prior to consideration of these applications the Area Board's discretionary fund balance stands at:	£22,091
If all applications are approved as recommended the Board's balance will be:	-£227

1. Background

- 1.1. Area Boards has authority to approve funding under the delegated powers. Under the Scheme of Delegation area boards must adhere to the area board funding criteria 2014/15.
- 1.2. 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 for why this should justify an exception to the criteria.
- 1.3. Key aspects of the 2014/15 area board funding 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.
 - Melksham Area Board's Community Area Grants scheme will be for capital projects

2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded satisfy the [criteria set by the Council](#) and are made to projects that can 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 of which will be dependent upon the individual project.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. Financial provision has been made to cover this expenditure. The Melksham Area Board was allocated a discretionary capital budget for 2014/2015 of £47,438. So far £25,347 has been allocated.

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 an equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.

8. Application considerations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8	The Big Community Grow	Family Food and Fun - a family learning project	£730

- 8.1. This project will offer a series of fun cooking workshops for families with the aim of giving children and adults the opportunity to learn new skills and knowledge and share a meal in an informal environment (10 families per workshop). Families will attend 3 evening meal workshops (2.5hrs) where they will follow recipes together, learn about different fresh ingredients and cook a meal - the workshop will end with a shared meal cooked by all. Families will attend 3 Saturday morning sessions where families will engage in forest school/outdoor activities such as den building and fire lighting and cook a meal outdoors on a camp fire.
- 8.2. This will give confidence and shared experiences of outdoor play/getting active - developing new skills in problem solving, collaboration and communication as well as knot tying, cooking skills, understanding of natural world. It will bring different members of the community together to socialise and share a meal together building community cohesion. It will also increase parent confidence in coming into school to participate in an activity with their child/children leading to increased parental engagement.
- 8.3. The project aims to support families and improve outcomes for children from the area of which 41% are from disadvantaged families. There is a significant childhood obesity problem in the area with over 25% of children in Reception being obese and 33% in Year 6 Overweight or obese. River Mead school has offered us use of facilities free of charge including kitchen and dining area as well as their grounds, electricity, gas and water for the project.
- 8.4. This application meets the Council's grant criteria.
- 8.5. The total cost of the project is £1480 and they are seeking a grant of £750 from the Board.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
9	Whitley Reading Rooms	New External Fire Door	£883

- 9.1 The Reading Rooms is a registered charity whose fire exit door leads onto a ramp for disabled access. The building is used as a Polling Station and by a variety of groups. The existing wooden fire exit door has an old push bar mechanism which is inefficient and not up to current fire regulation standard. The new door will be constructed of aluminium with a modern, easy to operate handle, and narrow enough to enable safe access by wheelchairs.
- 9.2 The villages of Whitley and Shaw together form a small community. The Reading Rooms

are used regularly for activities such a mother and toddler group, pilates, keep fit, sewing group, art group, drama club, dance, music appreciation, parties and meetings. The project will improve the safety of all those who use the premises.

9.3 This application meets the Council's grant criteria.

9.4 The total cost of the project is £1766 and they are seeking a grant of £883 from the Board.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
10	Melksham Without Parish Council	Seating for Shaw Playing Field	£2003

10.1 To provide seating and picnic facilities at Shaw Playing Fields. At a recent consultation event held to consider future plans for Shaw Play Area (held on Weds 30th October) and subsequent MyEngolve online survey, residents asked for more seating provision in the Playing Field as a whole, rather than just concentrating their comments on the play area equipment. Residents have subsequently formed a working party which is proactively advertising the project via posters, internet etc and seeking views on location, design and facilities.

10.2 All members of the community, whatever their age or interests, can benefit from these new facilities. In terms of local priorities, members of the parish can benefit from: A2 Provision of recreational activities / spaces for young people and their families. The new facilities will enable parents to sit while their children play as well as providing young people somewhere to meet with friends. B3 Addressing childhood obesity

10.3 Parents will be able to meet and chat with friends allowing their children to play for longer thus increasing their levels of activity. C1 Protecting and enhancing parks and green spaces. The benches will enable older residents to use the sports field more often as they can rest during walks and and enjoy the green space. H1 Encourage participation in organised and non organised sport. These improvements will encourage parishioners to congregate at the sports fields providing an opportunity for informal games. Supporters of the Youth Football team that plays on the pitch will also benefit for this additional seating.

10.4 This application meets the Council's grant criteria.

10.5 The total cost of the project is £4005 and they are seeking a grant of £2003 from the Board.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
11	Melksham Without Parish Council	Shaw Play Area resurfacing	£4417

- 11.1 To replace the play area surface at Shaw Play Area following a recent RoSPA report which highlighted a number of risks to users. The report also included some risks associated with the play equipment (which are being repaired) but specialist companies have advised that repairs will not be sufficient for the surface. It has some large moss and algae patches making it slippery and there are trip hazards due to the deteriorating edging. Attempts to power wash etc have not been effective. The works needed include preparing the area, laying weed suppressant and installing the new safety surfacing.
- 11.2 The children and parents in the community, including Shaw and Whitley pre school (based in the adjacent village hall), will benefit from these improvements. In terms of local priorities, members of the parish can benefit from: A2 Provision of recreational activities / spaces for young people and their families. The new surface will enable children to continue to use the play area also allowing parents to meet up. B3 Addressing childhood obesity. Children will continue to play and be active in the area increasing their fitness levels and burning off excess calories. C1 Protecting and enhancing parks and green spaces. The play area is adjacent to Shaw Playing Fields providing a green open space in the village. Improving the play area facilities will attract more people to this green space. H1 Encourage participation in organised and non organised sport. These improvements will encourage families and groups of parents with young children to use the play areas and gives the opportunity for them to do other sports too both within the play area and playing fields.
- 11.3 This application meets the Council's grant criteria.
- 11.4 The total cost of the project is £8833 and they are seeking a grant of £4417 from the Board.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
12	Broughton Gifford Pre School	Providing equipment for new Building	£5000

- 12.1 The pre school raised money last year to build a new log cabin to be put behind St Mary's School in this village. Now we are looking to open full time, and we need to buy equipment, furnishings, everything to make it all that a Pre School needs to be. I would like to ask for funds to buy a Computer for the children to use, and at least 15 I Pads. We will also need to buy suitable programmes. This is to achieve all the requirements of Ofsted for pre school children.
- 12.2 Parents will benefit from their children being looked after enough time to enable them to work. St. Mary's School will benefit from being able to share facilities. Parents will be able to leave their children for up to 8 hours per day. Community groups will benefit in having a building to hold their meetings. Young people will be able to do work experience as volunteers
- 12.3 This application meets the Council's grant criteria.
- 12.4 The total cost of the project is £12600 and they are seeking a grant of £5000 from the Board.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
13	Broughton Gifford Parish Council	War Memorial Renovation	£4047

13.1 A survey by the Wiltshire Conservation and Museums Advisory Service identified that the memorial stonework needs cleaning, repointing, and, in some areas, restoration and stabilisation. The surrounding steps are delaminating and also need to be stabilised. In addition, the surrounding concrete paving is badly cracked and a trip-hazard. The survey says that this surround was added at a later date (post 1920) and the concrete looks inconsistent with the rest of the memorial. The survey concludes that it may be a more cost-effective solution to remove the concrete and replace with a more sympathetic material. Full report available.

13.2 The principal focus will be bringing our War Memorial back into the consciousness of the villagers; it has become something that people walk past we want it to again turn the head and interrupt that walk. This project focus will be to actively involve sections of the village population in researching the village lives and the contribution of those remembered on the memorial and who died during the Great War.

13.3 This will bring a new understanding of the past and deserved pride for those now living in the village. It is anticipated that the Friendship Club (for the over 60s in the village) and/or the Women's Institute will participate. It is planned that these groups will focus on the village of the past but seek to identify where those who lost their lives in the War lived and worked prior their enlistment. The Village School have been enthusiastic about researching and identifying locations and battle sites. The School believes such involvement will develop the children's research and communication skills, give them a better understanding of time and place, and attach them to their immediate environment.

13.4 This application meets the Council's grant criteria.

13.5 The total cost of the project is £8894 and they are seeking a grant of £4047 from the Board.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
14	Melksham Amateur Swimming Club	Equipment for Melksham Amateur Swimming Club	£1000

14.1 The aim of the project is to improve the available equipment available to our swimmers. Melksham Amateur Swimming Club are in desperate need of new equipment which will enable the club to progress further. Our training sessions have intensified over the last year & our swimmers are now in a position to compete with some of the bigger clubs in the area. In order to maintain this we need to purchase new equipment or replace some broken equipment which will support our swimmers in the training sessions.

14.2 All the club swimmers will benefit from the new equipment purchased. The competitive

swimmers will be able to check their pace by using the lane end pace clocks. The younger swimmers would benefit from the rotational belts which will help them develop stroke technique. Also the starting equipment has recently broken & new starting equipment would enable our club members to practice starts under competition conditions.

- 14.3 The aim is to be the first choice swimming club for the people of Melksham with excellent equipment which will also go with the new swimming pool which the town is to have built. All the equipment purchased will benefit existing & new members. This project is linked directly with the local priority H.1 as it will encourage participation in organised sport. It is also linked to the local priority A.2 as it will support the provision of recreational activities. The project also links indirectly to local priority B.3 in addressing childhood obesity - as a club we aim to encourage our swimmers to make swimming a habit of a lifetime keeping our community active, fit and well. The objectives are to support the health and well being of the community of Melksham through a range of opportunities to take part in swimming at all levels.
- 14.4 This application meets the Council's grant criteria.
- 14.5 The total cost of the project is £2000 and they are seeking a grant of £1000 from the Board.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
15	Broughton Gifford Village Hall	Village Hall Improvements	£2228

- 15.1 Broughton Gifford hall is a thriving community building used regularly by local groups and residents for meetings and events. We want to continue to provide a suitable environment for these activities by undertaking the following improvements: - replacing the chairs in the main hall - updating the equipment in the bar area (glass washer and drinks fridge) These improvements together with some redecoration (revenue costs being separately funded) will ensure the village hall can continue provide the facilities hirers require sustaining it for the future.
- 15.2 This project will benefit everyone that uses the village hall by providing more comfortable seating for meetings, parties etc and a better equipped bar area to cater for larger events. Many of our older residents, who can feel quite isolated and lonely in the village, use the Hall as part of the Friendship Club. It was this group which have particular problems with the chairs as they are at least 20 years old, they are not very comfortable and are reducing in number due to breakages. For many of the members, this group provides them with somewhere close by to go and meet friends when they might otherwise be at home alone. The Gardening Club is another group with older membership and they use the Village Hall for social events. These events provide a relaxed atmosphere for the older members of our community to come together and feel part of the community. Better, more comfortable chairs would improve these events.
- 15.3 Despite the preschool moving, the hall will also continue to provide a venue for the village toddler group - somewhere for parents to go and support each other and children to play and develop social skills. The village youth club was based in the Hall until lack of leadership became an issue. It is hoped that this group will be re established again at the Hall providing a dedicated provision for young people. For individuals booking the hall an

improved bar facility is a big attraction.

15.4 This application meets the Council's grant criteria.

15.5 The total cost of the project is £4456 and they are seeking a grant of £2228 from the Board.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
16	Semington Parish Council	Semington defibrillator	£1100

16.1 The defibrillator is for use by villagers, and is provided by the South West Ambulance service who will supply and maintain the equipment. A heated box to house the defibrillator is also required.

16.2 The defibrillator is to provide emergency aid to any person who has a heart attack in the vicinity - up to 1/4 mile in all directions, until the ambulance arrives. It delivers an electric shock to the heart muscle to (hopefully) restart the heart to its normal rhythm. The defibrillator is a portable device and is self-contained so can be carried to the scene of the emergency.

16.3 This application meets the Council's grant criteria.

16.4 The total cost of the project is £2200 and they are seeking a grant of £1100 from the Board.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
17	Keevil Defibrillator Group	Keevil Defibrillator	£960

17.1 The project is to provide a defibrillator for Keevil

17.2 Anyone resident or visitor to Keevil who suffers a cardiac arrest will benefit. Due to rural area, Ambulance Service may not be able to respond in time and the use of an Automatic External Defibrillator could save a life. Device will be registered with Ambulance service and they will direct a first aider to the location.

17.3 This application meets the Council's grant criteria.

17.4 The total cost of the project is £960 and they are seeking a grant of £960 from the Board.

Background papers:	Grant Application – Big Community Grow Grant Application – Whitley Reading Rooms Grant Application – Melksham Without Parish Council Grant Application – Melksham Without Parish Council Grant Application – Broughton Gifford Pre School Grant Application – Broughton Gifford Parish Council
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	Grant Application – Melksham Amateur Swimming Club Grant Application – Broughton Gifford Village Hall Grant Application – Semington PC Grant Application – Keevil PC
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