

Report to	Westbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	4 June 2015
Title of Report	Area Board Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider funding applications to the community area grants fund scheme and councillor led project bids:

1. Applications seeking Community Area Grant Funding (appendix 1)

- 1.1 West Wilts Esprit Gymnastics request £1,000
- 1.2 Edington Ringing Centre request £732
- 1.3 Bratton Recreation Ground Working Group request £5,000

TOTAL Funding Requests: £6,732

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. Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance 2015/2016.
- 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. Westbury Area Board has been allocated a 2015/2016 budget of £38,139 capital funding for community grants and area board/councillor led initiatives.
- 1.4.** 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 - £5000 will be required to find matched funding. The area board will rarely award more than £5,000.
- 1.5.** 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.
- 1.6.** In addition to CAGs, councillors can submit an Area Board/Councillor Led Initiative. This enables area boards to tackle 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.** Officers are required to provide recommendations in their funding reports (except in the case of Area Board/Councillor led initiatives), although the decision to support applications is made by Wiltshire Councillors on the Area Board.
- 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.** The 2015/2016 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's

website

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/areboards/areboardscommunitygrantsscheme.htm>

- 1.11. All recipients of area board funding are expected to complete and return an evaluation form as soon as the project or activity has been completed and this should be accompanied by receipts and invoices, as well as photographs if possible. Failure to return the evaluation requested will preclude them from being considered for any future funding from the area board. This applies to all grants made by the area board.

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Area Board Grant Guidance 2015/16 as presented for delegated decision• BA13 Community Area Plan• Westbury Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2015/16 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. This meeting is the first round of funding during 2015/2016.

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 Westbury Area Board. **The Westbury grant fund currently stands at £32,028. If these three funding requests are agreed it will leave a balance of £25,296.**
- 4.2. All awards are subject to the condition that no payment will be made until all other funding has been confirmed.

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 councils 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. Community Grant Applications Summary

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1.0	West Wilts Esprit Gymnastics	New gym equipment	£1,000

8.1.1 This application meets the grant criteria and reflects JSA priorities for action agreed by the area board.

8.1.2 This facility is the only one of its kind in this part of Wiltshire and caters for a wide catchment including the Westbury area. Its expanding numbers, has meant a need to upgrade some equipment to provide better training opportunities to cater for our growing membership. Approval has already been given for funding from Bradford on Avon and Trowbridge area boards.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.0	Edington Ringing Centre	Lighting and new bell ropes	£732

8.2.1 This application meets the grant criteria and reflects JSA priorities for action agreed by the area board.

8.2.2 An area board grant has been given previously for a saxilby ringing simulator which has resulted in attracting more youngsters to the art of bell ringing. A result of this increased activity is an awareness of the need to improve the lighting on the approach over the roof to the ringing chamber and in the bell chamber and install two new ropes.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.3.0	Bratton recreation ground working group	New clubhouse	£5,000

8.3.1 This application meets the grant criteria and reflects JSA priorities for action agreed by the area board particularly in improving facilities and outcomes for children and families.

8.3.2 This development will extend the on site facilities and enable better use of the recreation ground. The ground is currently used for a variety of sports by teams and individuals from around the Westbury community.

8.3.3 This application is match funded.

9.Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that the Area Board decides whether to allocate funding to the applicants

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