

Report to	Devizes Area Board
Date of Meeting	27th July 2015
Title of Report	Area Board Grants

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider 5 applications seeking 20015/16 Community Area Grant Funding.

1. **Devizes and District Association for the Disabled**- are seeking £1,911 towards emergency lighting and Fire Alarms for the Nursteed Centre
2. **Rowde and Local Community Youth Club** - are seeking £479.95 for a replacement shed for the youth club
3. **St James Church, Southbroom, Devizes** - are seeking £3,100 towards equipment for a volunteering project called 'The Noise'.
4. **Devizes Food and Drink Festival** - are seeking £1k towards new banners and flags
5. **Worton and Marston Village Hall** – are seeking £5k towards refurbishments

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.
- 1.2. In 2015/16 the officer is required to only ensure that the request meets the funding criteria but not to make any recommendations.
- 1.3. The discretionary capital funding allocation for Devizes Area Board in 2015/2016 is £66,848. Grant awards are taken from this budget.
- 1.4. Applications of up to and including £1000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £1001 - £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 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/areaboards/areaboardscommunitygrantsscheme.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 as presented for delegated decision• Devizes Community Area Plan• Devizes Joint Strategic Needs Document
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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. Councillors will need to decide whether the community benefit will warrant the request.
- 2.3. This is the first round of funding during 2015/2016. As long as funding remains there will be 4 more rounds this financial year

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 Devizes Area Board.
- 4.2. All awards are subject to the condition that no payment will be made until all other match 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 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 Comments.

8. Officer Comments

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8	Devizes and District Association for the Disabled	Towards Lighting and Fire Alarm for the Nursteed Centre	£1,911

- a. This application meets the grants criteria and has been classified as a capital project
- b. The Devizes and District Association for the Disabled was formed in 1981 with the aim of making the whole Town disabled friendly with dropped kerbs, accessible shops etc. In 1984 a disused School Kitchen became available and was altered and extended to form the Nursteed Centre providing a meeting hall, kitchen, toilets specially designed for the disabled. The Nursteed Centre, now called the Nursteed Community Centre, provides a safe, accessible, affordable place for disabled people in the area. The Centre is used by 15 groups of people with various disabilities with approximately 240 disabled people using the Centre on a regular basis. The Centre allows equality by providing a meeting place for all people irrespective of disabilities.
- c. Following Fire Risk Assessment, the Nursteed Centre are required to provide improvements to emergency lighting to bring to current standards including additional emergency lights and provision of manual fire alarm call system together with 4 No connected fire/smoke detectors and fire panel.
- d. The match funding will be taken from the organisations reserves.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
9	RALC Youth Club	Replacement of shed	£479.95

- a. This application meets the grants criteria and has been classified as a capital project
- b. The purpose of this project is to replace two existing wooden sheds which are used to

store the youth club's equipment with one large metal shed. The existing sheds suffer from damp conditions and are not particularly secure. A larger shed is needed to store and retrieve the bigger equipment. The intention is to purchase some new equipment for the children to use but the sheds are required first so that suitable storage facilities exist

- c. This project will benefit the children of Rowde and the local area who attend the youth club. There are approximately 40 children aged between 8 and 12 who attend each session
- d. No match funding is required for this project

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
10	St James Church, Southbroom, Devizes	Equipment for 'The Noise' project	£3,100

- a. This application meets the grants criteria and has been classified as a capital project
- b. The project is to establish a new way of creating a volunteer network to help the community in practical, tangible and measurable ways. This project has the potential to develop in the long term, which will involve not only the entire church community in Devizes, but all people willing to volunteer from the community. It could also be linked to referrals from social services or health.
- c. The project will initially start in the Eastern side of Town and will begin on the first weekend in October. Over the weekend, all the volunteers will work on small projects identified within the local community
- d. The project is emulating that being successfully run in Bristol where there are now 950 volunteers.
- e. A range of different organisations such as ASTER Community, Devizes Town Council and the Diocese have already engaged with it.
- f. The Area Board grant application is for tools and machinery such as Lawn Mowers and cutters in order to carry out the projects. Match funding comes from a number of different sources

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
11	Devizes Food and Drink Festival	To purchase new banners and flags	£1k

- a. This application meets the grants criteria and has been classified as a capital project
- b. The Food & Drink Festival has been in place for 11 years. The banners and flags are tired and faded and need to be replaced. They are applying for £1000 towards the cost of new flags and banners. This is a community based Festival run entirely by volunteers with very limited commercial sponsorship. The new banners and flags should last for 10 years.
- c. The total project cost is £2,250 and the remaining funding will come from their reserves and 'Plain Action' funding

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
12	Worton and Marston Village Hall	Towards refurbishment of the village hall	£5k

- a) This application meets the grants criteria and has been classified as a capital project
- b) The project is to refurbish the exterior fabric of the village hall to secure the structural integrity of the building. This will include work to the roof, eaves, fascia and downpipes, replacing some of the timber struts, treating all timber, replacing the external rendering, fitting new windows, and upgrading the insulation.
- c) The total project cost is £82,805. They have received a £50k grant from Viridor with contributions also from the Parish Council and their own reserves.

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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