

Community Capital Grant Requests (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

For members to consider requests for capital grants from Castle Cary Town Council, Horsington Parish Council and South Barrow Parochial Church Council

Public Interest

Awarding grants is a key way that SSDC supports and helps to deliver community projects sponsored by parishes and voluntary community organisations in the towns and villages across Area East.

Background

Community Capital Grant applications are considered twice a year in June and December. The next opportunity to consider applications will be at the Area East Committee meeting in December 2016.

Requests from community organisations for non-capital works are restricted to small grants with the upper limit of £1,000. A minimum amount of £100 has also been agreed. Capital projects requiring grants of between £500 and £1,000 can be dealt with at any time and are subject to Ward Member agreement.

Appendices A and B show the standard grants conditions used by SSDC and the policies under which all applications are assessed.

Recommendations

- 1) Members agree a contribution of £7920 (6% of the total project costs) from the Community Capital budget to Castle Cary Town Council towards the Fair Field project, subject to the standard conditions set out in appendix A and the following additional condition:-
 - That the applicant consults the Senior Play and Youth Officer on the design of the proposed Youth Facility prior to installation.
- 2) Members agree a contribution of up to £5000 (36% of the total project costs) from the Community Capital Budget to Horsington Parish Council towards the refurbishment of Horsington Pond, subject to the standard conditions set out in appendix A.
- 3) Members agree a contribution of up to £10,000 (11% of the total project costs) from the Community Capital Budget to South Barrow PCC towards the refurbishment of South Barrow Church, subject to the standard conditions set out in appendix A and the following additional condition:-
 - That the applicant provides assurance that the facility will be available as a community facility for a minimum of 15 years in line with SSDC grant policy as set out in appendix B.

Castle Cary Town Council and Ansford Parish Council – Fairfield project

Castle Cary Town Council (accountable body) has applied for a grant towards developing a range of facilities jointly with Ansford PC.

Parish Precept information

Parish	Castle Cary & Ansford
Parish population	3361 (based on 2011 Census)
No. of Households	1648
Precept 16/17	£117,744/£34,490
Band D Charge 16/17	£139.35/£88.78

The Project

In 2014 Castle Cary Town Council purchased a 4.5 acre field in the middle of Castle Cary and Ansford. The site had been used for many years as open space and for the annual visit of the fair.

The purchase was an opportunity to develop the area as multi use space, with facilities for all the community to enjoy, while retaining the environmentally friendly character of the field. Developments will include hard pathways for young families, the elderly, disabled and partially sighted, a pump track, exercise equipment, picnic areas, sensory and wildflower gardens and areas for community activities such as the annual fair, circus and other events.

The Fairfield Development and Management Committee has been established to take the project forward and has recruited a landscape architect to draw up plans (to be presented at the meeting) that have been consulted on and finalised.

Castle Cary has for some time been looking for a site to locate a skate park for the teenagers in the area. It has been decided to build a pump park as this can be used by all age groups and can be used by bikes and skateboards.

The field area will become accessible to families with buggies, elderly people who cannot walk easily unless on a hard path way, disabled people in buggies or wheel chairs, giving everyone an opportunity to be in a green open space. Areas will be left unmown and overgrown to encourage wildlife for people to watch. An area will provide exercise equipment for the health conscious and there will be plenty of open grassland for people and dog walking.

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

Category	Maximum score	Score
A Eligibility	Y/N	Y
B Equalities Impact	7	5
C Need for Project	5	4
D Capacity of Organisation	15	12
E Financial need	7	5
F Innovation	3	3
Total	37	29

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies.

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Amount of Funding	Status
Town/Parish Council	8%	£10000	Pending
Own Funds	3%	£4100	Secured
SSDC (Area East)	6%	£7920	Applied for
Developed contribution (Section 106)	2%	£2080	Secured
Viridor Credits	69%	£82174	Applied for
Clarks Foundation	12%	£13100	Secured
Total Scheme Cost	100%	£119374	

Horsington Parish Council – Horsington Pond Project

Horsington Parish Council has applied for a grant towards a project to improve Horsington Pond and create a living, sustainable freshwater habitat.

Parish Precept information

Parish	Horsington
Parish population	571 (based on 2011 Census)
No. of Households	271
Precept 16/17	£9810
Band D Charge 16/17	£33.80

The Project

Horsington pond is fed by stream which means that there will always be a deposit of silt build up that needs to be removed every 7 years or so. In the past this has been carried out by the parishioners with shovels. However, more recently with the current regulations, modern machinery and contractors have needed to be used.

Removing the silt has the adverse effect of removing and destroying the wildlife habitat that has developed since the previous time it was dredged.

The Parish council has taken advice from DEFRA, The Pond Conservation Trust (now the Freshwater Habitats Trust), Environment agency, and various other specialists in the field of pond life and aquatic plants and wildlife and has produced a plan that entails creating three specific areas to the pond with dedicated roles in creating and maintaining the freshwater habitat.

Area 1 - Is to build a silt trap at the lodge end, along the roadside, which will allow the Parish to clean the silt from this area more frequently from the roadside, without the need to put machinery into the pond and at less cost. It is thought that the need to desilt the trap should be every two to three years.

Most importantly of all, the natural level of the pond allows us to lower the water level sufficiently to remove the silt from the trap, whilst still being able to maintain sufficient water level at the other two areas to allow the survival of the pond inhabitants, this is key to this project.

Area 2 – Will create a still water frog and newt pond to the southerly side of the sluice gates with gabion cages. This will give a different wildlife area of mainly still water area attracting the likes of frogs, newts, water beetles, water boatman, pond skippers and many other species. This area will be edged by a new and extended dipping platform, with shallow water level and secure from the main deep water pond. This area is designed for supervised use by children to learn about pond life, an information board will be located on the dipping platform with illustrations of what you should see within the pond and surrounding area.

Area 3 - Is the main body of the pond which should remain relatively silt free. Providing a freshwater environment for native fish such as minnows, sticklebacks, and all associated pond life naturally found in a pond supplied by a freshwater stream flow. Floating aquatic plants will naturally find their place in this area.

Future maintenance costs are estimated at £500 per year to include cleaning out of silt trap every 2-3 years, maintenance of dipping platform and continued planting, £500 per year has been allocated by the Parish Council for this work.

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

Category	Maximum score	Score
A Eligibility	Y/N	Y
B Equalities Impact	7	5
C Need for Project	5	4
D Capacity of Organisation	15	13
E Financial need	7	3
F Innovation	3	3
Total	37	28

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies.

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Amount of Funding	Status
Parish/Town Councils	10%	£1388	Secured
SSDC (Area East)	36%	£5000	Applied for
Lottery Awards For All	29%	£4056	Applied for
Donations	11%	£1500	Secured
Other	14%	£1944	To apply for
Total Scheme Cost	100%	£13888	

South Barrow PCC – St Peter’s Church reordering to facilitate community use

South Barrow PCC has applied for a grant towards reordering St Peter’s Church to provide a meeting space for the community of South Barrow and surrounding area.

Parish Precept information

Parish	Cary Moor (South Barrow)
Parish population	536 (based on 2011 Census)
No. of Households	234 (parish)
Precept 16/17	£977 (South Barrow)
Band D Charge 16/17	£14.13

The Project

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) established a working party to look at ways to use the church building to meet the recreational needs of the community in response to a potential threat of closure.

The church is underused with only 3 regular members and 16 services a year.

The proposal is to remove the pews, deal with the different floor levels and install a small kitchen and a disabled toilet. The group has identified a number of uses including a toddlers group, Yoga classes, gardening club and film society.

The group has obtained all necessary permissions and is ready to proceed as soon as the final funding is secured.

As there has been some uncertainty about the future of the church, we would seek assurance that investment will secure the community use for a proportionate length of time.

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

Category	Maximum score	Score
A Eligibility	Y/N	Y
B Equalities Impact	7	4
C Need for Project	5	4
D Capacity of Organisation	15	9
E Financial need	7	5
F Innovation	3	3
Total	37	25

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies.

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Amount of Funding	Status
Parish Council	1%	£1250	Secured
Viridor Credits	43%	£40,000	Secured
SSDC (Area East)	11%	£10000	Applied for
Somerset Community Foundation	21%	£20000	Secured
Lottery Awards for All	11%	£10000	Secured
Fund for church growth	11%	£10,000	Secured
Medlock Trust	1%	£1000	Secured
Own Funds	1%	£1120	Secured
Total Scheme Cost	100%	£93370	

A good range of funders have support the scheme and all other funding has been secured. The project can proceed immediately if Area East funding is agreed.

Financial Implications

If members agree the recommendations in the earlier report on this agenda – Area East Development Budget Outturn Report - there is currently £25,887 unallocated within the Community Capital budget. If Members agree the recommendations set out in this report, a sum of £887 will remain to be allocated.

Corporate Priority Implications

All projects help to ‘maintain and enhance the South Somerset network of leisure and cultural facilities, optimising opportunities for external funding to promote healthy living.’
(Focus Four: Health & Communities)

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications

Providing local access to a range of activities and services reducing the need to travel which therefore reduces carbon emissions.

Equality and Diversity Implications

All projects help enhance accessibility for all. In each of the projects the Neighbourhood development officers have advised the community groups to obtain an access audit for the venue, providing them with expert advice on how to make their community facility more accessible and user friendly.
