

Community Grants for Play Areas (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

To request 2 separate grants towards improving play areas in Crewkerne and Merriott totalling £13,041

Public Interest

Both Crewkerne Town Council and Merriott Parish Council are improving their play parks and have requested funds to help them achieve this.

Recommendations

That subject to the standard terms and conditions Area West Committee supports the following grant requests:

- £5000 towards Phase 2 of Merriott Parish Council's improvements to the Recreation Field.
- £8041 to Phase 2 of Crewkerne Town Council's enhancement of Henhayes Play Park

Merriott Parish Council

In the past 18 months, Merriott Parish Council (MPC) has comprehensively reviewed the leisure provision available at the Recreation Field (Rec). This review identified a gap in the play provision for pre-school children and the need for inclusive play equipment for the less able.

Merriott has a growing young population, the construction of new housing in the village has attracted young families to Merriott and the Parish Council would like to support this demographic through its play provision at the Recreation Field. The village has an excellent school, preschool and clubs and societies which also draw children from outside the village to use the play area.

The Early Years scheme (this project) is the second phase of an agreed upgrade of the amenities on the Rec. The first, already in hand, part funded from S106 income and MPC, includes a twelve piece outdoor gym, resurfacing of the double tennis courts, completion of the community pavilion and a new all-weather hard surface Multi-use Play and Access Route (MUPAR) around the perimeter of the field. Phase 3 will provide more challenging play equipment for older children and phase 4 is the renovation and extension of the car park.

Merriott Parish Council carried out an extensive review and consultation to ensure the improvements to the Rec, meet the needs of the children and their families in and around the parish. The review and consultation included:

- A comprehensive look at equipment in other parks throughout Devon, Dorset and Somerset and identified equipment to fill this gap.
- Consultation through the MPC Facebook site and website

- On site face to face interviews with user groups - local sports clubs, childminders etc
- Through the village newsletter distributed monthly to every household in village
- Consultation with the local First School and preschool. School children worked in classes to identify the equipment they felt is required and the School Council visited a PC meeting to present the findings.
- Discussions with SSDC Play Officer on site who highlighted gaps in current play provision.
- Discussed at Annual Parish Meeting in May.
- The Parish Council has designed, printed and distributed an A4 flyer with the outcome of their consultation. This has been delivered to every household in the village to let them know the results and exactly what is proposed on the Rec.

Proposed provision

This application is to fund equipment in Phase 2 of the improvements to the Rec and will help cover the cost of a basket swing, seesaw, trampoline, roundabout and parent / child seat swing, along with associated safety matting. The table below provides a breakdown of the costs.

The majority of the funds are already in place and Merriott Parish Council is applying for a grant of £5000 to complete the funding jigsaw.

Item or activity	Cost £
Inclusive roundabout	£4632.50
Level access trampoline	£4291.00
4 seat seesaw	£2737.00
Parent-child swing seat	£322.50
Toddler Basket Swing	£1423.50
Quartet roundabout	£2958.00
Safety surfacing	£3000.00
Delivery	£723.90
Installation	£1500.00
Discount	-£907.40
Total cost	£20681.00
Contributions	
Merriott Parish Council (28%) - Secured	£5681.00
Awards for All (48%) - Secured	£10000.00
SSDC community grant (24%)	£5000.00

Officers Assessment

The Neighbourhood Development Officer (Economy) has assessed the grant application and given it the following score:

Category	Maximum score	Score
A Eligibility	Y/N	Yes
B Equalities Impact	7	4
C Need for Project	5	4
D Capacity of Organisation	15	14
E Financial need	7	5
F Innovation	3	2
Total	37	29

Crewkerne Town Council

The Town Council has been making improvements to the Henhayes Play area for the past couple of years. Phase 1 of the project saw improvements in play equipment for preschool children. Phase 2 of the project is aimed at providing better amenities and play equipment for disabled children and those of school age.

Consultation carried out by ABCD for the recently published community plan identified the need for better play equipment for children aged 6+ and improved seating at the Henhayes Recreation Ground. A Friends of Henhayes Park was formed with some residents in the town and they have worked with the Town Council to identify a range of improvements for the park including the need for a large piece of play equipment.

Proposed provision

The Town Council intends to buy a one large multi play structure that is shaped as a tower which incorporates a slide, play boat, wobble bridge and sleeper bridges along with steps and ropes for climbing. A dry moat has already been constructed in the park and the new play equipment will sit within the moat. The new play equipment is specifically designed to appeal to and be suitable for a wide range of children's age and abilities, which will maximise the overall benefit to the children of Crewkerne.

In addition to this new piece of play equipment the Town Council have been working with Crewkerne Action for the Disabled (CAfD) and has recently installed disabled friendly picnic tables and benches. CAfD are also funding the installation of a new disabled basket swing suitable for children of all ages and abilities.

Finance

The majority of funds are already in place and the town Council are applying for a grant of £8041 to complete the funding jigsaw

The total cost of the project is £29,041 this is for the purchase and installation of the play equipment along with the safety surfacing.

The Town Council proposes to fund the scheme in the following way

Funding source	%	Funding amount	Status
Crewkerne Town Council	69%	£20,000	Secured
SSDC	28%	£8041	Awaiting decision
Somerset Community Foundation	3%	£1000	Awaiting decision

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Financial Implications

The project will draw on £13,041 of the Area West capital grants programme budget.

Council Plan Implications

The SSDC Council Plan 2016 – 2021 states:

Focus on Heath and communities:

- “Support communities so that they can identify their needs and develop local solutions.”
- “Help people to live well by enabling quality cultural, leisure, play, sport & healthy lifestyle facilities & activities”

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

Provision of local amenities is expected to reduce travel miles for local families who would otherwise have to travel further. No longer-term impacts are identified.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The equipment to be installed at both play parks is inclusive, therefore providing local, accessible equipment for children and their carers.

Background Papers

None cited.