

Grant to Chard Tennis Club (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant for £8,000 towards the resurfacing of Chard Tennis Club courts.

Public Interest

Chard Tennis Club has applied for financial assistance from the Area West Community Grants programme. The application has been assessed by the Neighbourhood Development Officer who has submitted this report to allow the Area West Committee to make an informed decision on the application.

Recommendation

It is recommended that councillors award a grant of £8,000 to Chard Tennis Club, the grant to be allocated from the Area West revenue programme subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (appendix A) and the following special conditions:

1. Establish and maintain a “sinking and repairs fund” to support future repairs and maintenance of the new surface and eventual replacement.
2. Subject to confirmation of a pending grant application to Chard Town Council.

Report

Application Details

Name of applicant	Chard Tennis Club
Project	Chard Tennis Club resurfacing of courts
Total project cost	£24,000
Amount requested from SSDC	£8,000
Recommended special conditions	Establishment of sinking fund for future maintenance, repairs and replacement. Subject to confirmation of funding from Chard Town Council
Application assessed by	Alison Baker, Neighbourhood Development Officer, Area West

Community Grants Assessment Score

The table below shows the grant scoring for this application. In order to be considered for SSDC funding under the Community Grants policies, applications need to meet the minimum score of 22.

Category	Actual Score	Maximum score possible
A Eligibility	Y	Y
B Equalities Impact	4	7
C Need for project	4	5
D Capacity of Organisation	11	15
E Financial need	4	7
F Innovation	3	3
Grand Total	26	37

Background

Chard Tennis Club was originally formed in the 1920's and currently operates from The Denning Sports Field off Zembard Lane. They have 3 all-weather courts, 2 of which are floodlit. They currently have 158 members who play regularly throughout the year, of which 71 are juniors.

The club run an active junior and adult coaching programme from beginners through development to advanced.

The club recently sent 2 representatives to the Senior World Championships in Florida with one club member winning the world title in the 70+ category for the 5th year running!

2 of the clubs courts need resurfacing. Having investigated various surfaces, the club have decided that an 'outdoor carpet' would be the most appropriate.

Parish Information

Parish*	Chard
Parish Population*	13,074
No. of dwellings*	6,066

*Taken from the 2011 census profile

The project

Having looked at various options for resurfacing, the Club have opted for an 'outdoor carpet'. The carpet court is totally all weather and is not slippery after rain or frost, therefore allowing more opportunities to play and attracting more people to the club.

It is the view of SSDC's Senior Sport and Healthy Lifestyles Officer that the Club should look to replace the existing surface with tarmac (e.g. replacing like for like) However, in the process of investigating different surfaces, the club received a quote for tarmac. This quote was just £1,000 per court less than the outdoor carpet and the club believe that it would be a backwards step to relay a surface that is slippery after rain and frost, hard on the joints and not conducive to playing enjoyable tennis.

The club have confirmed that the carpet surface will need less maintenance than tarmac and will have a similar (if not longer) life expectancy.

Local Support / evidence of need

The current courts are towards the end of their current lifespan (they were last resurfaced in 2008)

In consultation with Club members, The Chairman has investigated a number of surface options with the 'outdoor carpet' being seen as the most appropriate.

A local Osteopath has supported the project stating that the new surface will provide a softer surface and hence reducing injuries.

The National Governing Body, The Lawn Tennis Association, is supportive of the project and, although they do not offer grants for resurfacing, they have offered an interest free loan of up to 50% of the project costs.

Project Costs

Relay 2 tennis courts with 'outdoor carpet'	£24,000
Total project cost	£24,000

Funding Plan

Funding Source	Funds secured	% of total	Status
Own funds	£12,000	50%	Secured
Town Council (pending)	£1,000	4%	Pending
Tesco bags for Help (pending)	£1,000	4%	Pending
Fundraising / interest free loans	£2,000	8%	Pending
Amount recommended from SSDC	£8,000	34%	To be agreed
Total	£24,000	100%	

The group is currently awaiting the results of applications to Chard Town Council and Tesco Bags for help and will make up any shortfall from the LTA loan.

Previous grants

None during the last three years.

Chard Tennis Club is subject to 90% Business Rate Relief as a charity

Consents and permissions

The resurfacing of the courts does not need planning permission and the SSDC Building Control Officer has confirmed that Building Regulations are not required.

Financial Implications

There is an uncommitted balance of £12,033 available in the Area West Community Grants Revenue fund. If this grant is awarded there will be £4,033 unallocated until the end of this financial year.

Council Plan Implications

The project supports:

Our Vision for South Somerset

A place where businesses flourish, communities are safe, vibrant and healthy; where residents enjoy good housing, leisure, cultural and sporting activities

Economy

- Capitalise on our high quality culture, leisure and tourism opportunities to bring people to South Somerset.

Health 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.

Area West Development Plan Implications

Priority 4 - Health & Wellbeing of individuals - Supporting community groups and the voluntary sector to work with statutory providers to improve access to advice, services, social activities, with an emphasis on vulnerable individuals and groups– e.g. LIC's, youth support, activities for older people, making better use of halls, digital inclusion skills etc.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The Club is fully inclusive and has an equality statement as part of its constitution.

Appendix A

Standard conditions applying to all Community Grants.

This grant offer is made based on the information provided in application form no. AW 1714 and represents 34% of the total project costs. The grant will be reduced if the costs of the total project are less than originally anticipated. Phased payments may be made in exceptional circumstances (e.g. to help with cash-flow for a larger building project) and are subject to agreement.

The applicant agrees to: -

- Notify SSDC if there is a material change to the information provided in the application.
- Start the project within six months of this grant offer and notify SSDC of any changes to the project or start date as soon as possible.
- Confirm that all other funding sources have been secured if this was not already in place at the time of the application and before starting the project.
- Acknowledge SSDC assistance towards the project in any relevant publicity about the project (e.g. leaflets, posters, websites, and promotional materials) and on any permanent acknowledgement (e.g. plaques, signs etc).
- Work in conjunction with SSDC officers to monitor and share the success of the project and the benefits to the community resulting from SSDC's contribution to the project.
- Provide a project update and/or supply before and after photos if requested.
- Supply receipted invoices or receipts which provide evidence of the **full** cost of the project so that the grant can be released.

Standard conditions applying to buildings, facilities and equipment

3. Establish and maintain a "sinking fund" to support future replacement of the building / facility / equipment as grant funding is only awarded on a one-off basis.
4. Use the SSDC Building Control service where buildings regulations are required.
5. Use a contractor selected from the SSDC approved list for play area facilities.
6. Incorporate disabled access and provide an access statement where relevant.

Special conditions

Access Review to help with future improvements.