

**JOINT AREA NORTH COMMITTEE  
27 May 2009**

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**The items for information do not form part of the agenda. Should Members have questions regarding any of the items please contact the officer shown underneath the relevant report. If, after discussing the item with the officer and it is felt appropriate, a Member may request an item to be considered at a future Committee meeting.**

- 1. Area North SSDC Community Grants: Outturn Report 2008-2009**

## Area North SSDC Community Grants: Outturn Report 2008-2009

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### Purpose of the Report

To provide a summary report on community grants awarded to projects and organisations in Area North between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009, allocated from the SSDC Area North Committee annual grants budget and capital programme.

### Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that members note the contents of the report.

### Background

South Somerset District Council provides significant financial support each year in the form of grants to community organisations, town or parish councils or local partnerships, to support a wide variety of local priorities, usually led by or involving volunteers.

Each Area Committee receives an annual allocation from the Council's annual budget, as agreed by the District Executive. During 2008-09 this was £31,240. Grants are awarded either by decisions made by the Area Committee, or for applications of £750 or less by the Head of Area Development (North) in conjunction with ward members (or the Chairman for area wide grants) under the SSDC scheme of delegation.

In addition grants can be awarded from the Area Capital Programme, or submitted into the Corporate Capital Programme.

Community grants are assessed against a set of corporate grants policies, using a consistent scoring system. SSDC agrees corporate priorities for grants each year, and these are used together with Area priorities.

The budget for Area North Community Grants is 2009-10 is £29,360.

### Area North Community Grants 2008-09

A list of all community grants awarded in 2008-09 is contained in **Appendix A**. Further details on each application are available if requested.

A total of £67,491 was awarded in grants during 2008-09. This included the full allocation of the annual grants budget, together with £36,251 from the Area North Capital Programme.

Size of grant	No. of grants awarded	Average % contribution	Total value of grants awarded	Total value of projects
Small grants - delegated (£50 - £750)	16	25%	£7,505	£65,936
Medium grants (£750 - £5000)	5	26%	£20,287	£147,567
Larger grants (more than £5000)	4	42%	£39,699	£104,085
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>£67,491</b>	<b>£317,588</b>

A majority of the projects supported have been completed (see **appendix A**). The unfinished projects will continue to receive support if required, and are regularly monitored.

Support to assist projects to be successful; including advice for additional sources of funding, project design, consultation, planning and consents, and many other issues comes from a wide variety of SSDC service teams and other organisations. These include: Sports, Arts and Leisure, Countryside, Heritage and Tourism, Planning and Building Control, Engineering and Property Services, the Community Council for Somerset, the Somerset Rural Youth Project and Somerset County Council.

### Observations/comments

- **Officer time.** Whilst the awarding of a grant is tangible, less easily quantifiable is the amount of officer time spent on each application. The application from South Petherton Bridge Club, for example, resulted in a delegated grant of £150, but the Community Development Officer was able to offer funding advice leading to the group's successful receipt of an additional £750 from other sources. The approximate cost of administration of grants was .
- **Working with partners.** Grants have been awarded in conjunction with other SSDC services, eg the money to assist with rugby coaching sessions in Martock were part of a larger programme delivered through Sports Art & Leisure. Similarly, SSDC's Arts Development Officer, in conjunction with partner agencies, sourced funding for the Golden Oldies singing project with Area North contributing £500 towards the total start-up cost of £10,000.
- **Long term benefits** - Some projects that receive community grants are quick to deliver their benefits, others take longer. The long term outcomes of each scheme are important to consider when making an award, though the effects of some will be further reaching than others. Projects do not need to be large in order to have a long term effect eg £175 towards the £350 needed by Long Load Village Hall enabled the provision of a handrail at the entrance which will greatly assist those accessing the facility for many years

## **Implications for Corporate Priorities**

None from this report

## **Financial Implications**

None from this report

***Background Papers:*** *Grant application files and committee reports to award grants.*

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**Appendix A - AREA NORTH COMMUNITY GRANTS 2008-09 - OUTTURN REPORT**

<b>Applicant / Group</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Total project value (est or real if paid)</b>	<b>Area North Grant</b>	<b>% project cost</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>New awards 2008-09</b>					
South Somerset Voluntary and Community Action (Somerton & Langport Links)	Operational costs of the Links community transport service	£75,058	£5,000	7%	Service Level Agreement in place; project shows good viability; end of year evaluation due July 09
Petherton Arts Trust (David Hall)	Refurbishment of the David Hall - essential improvements	£20,000	£5,000	25%	Project near completion; additional funding secured for major project.
Hambridge & Westport Parish Council	Installation of 2 street lighting units	£5,573	£2,287	50%	Parish reviewing project due to increased estimated costs.
Ash Parish Council	New play equipment	£20,687	£8,500	41%	Play area installed
Montacute Parish Council	New play equipment	£12,398	£6,199	50%	Play area installed
Langport Area Development Trust	Operational costs of the Langport Community Office	£10,749	£4,000	37%	£1000 paid to date; working group established; management of office to transfer to Langport Town Council;
Martock Young People's Centre	Martock Youth Project (Martock Youth Centre and Youth Development worker)	£36,187	£4,000	11%	Service Level Agreement in place; partnership work with SCC to support project; project showing many positive outcomes for young people; subject to ongoing monitoring and evaluation prior to second year payment
Fivehead Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)	Conversion of the old tennis court into a Multi Use Games Area	£45,000	£12,500	28%	Awaiting results of Open Space Lottery Grant and then project can be completed.
Somerton Community Hall	Assist with the fitting out of the new Somerton Community Hall	£26,000	£12,500	48%	Most equipment in place and in use
Trustees of Ilton Memorial Hall (Merryfield Hall)	Car Park Lighting for the village hall	£3,140	£750	24%	Installed - project completed.

Applicant / Group	Project	Total project value (est or real if paid)	Area North Grant	% project cost	Outcome
<b>New awards 2008-09</b>					
South Petherton Parish Council	Youth Shelter at South Petherton Playing Field	£14,801	£750	5%	Installed - project completed.
Montacute Carnival Club	Materials to make village bunting	£1,749	£250	14%	Project completed.
Aller Recreation Field Association	Additional seat in the playing field	£660	£330	50%	Installed - project completed.
Somerton Arts Festival	Support for Somerton Fun Day	£500	£250	50%	Event taking place in July 2009.
Lopen Parish Council	Lopen Village Newsletter - Lopen Eye	£600	£300	50%	Completed.
Golden Oldies	Start up costs for Golden Oldies choir	£1,600	£500	31%	Venue changed from Somerton to Martock during programme. Successful project - pilot finishing soon.
Long Load Village Hall	Provision of handrails at village hall	£350	£175	50%	Installed - project completed.
Martock Rugby Football Club Ltd	Community Rugby Coaching sessions	£3,400	£750	22%	Very successful. Five hours of coaching a week including in primary school. Rugby Football Union now about to confirm funding of £12k a year for a 3 year period towards Community Rugby coach post.
Friends of Ham Hill	Local Folklore Arts Project	£10,468	£500	5%	Done.
River Parrett Trail (SCC)	Cost of new leaflets	£2,000	£750	38%	Not yet printed as route has been revised and therefore leaflets being redesigned. To be printed this financial year.
High Ham Village Hall	Improvements to kitchen at Village Hall	£12,500	£750	6%	Project completed.
South Petherton Bridge Club	Tables and equipment	£850	£150	18%	Complete - very successful, thriving club.
SAW (Somerset Art Works)	Somerset Art Works hub development	£9,583	£750	8%	Delighted with the move, which is completed. Delivered one successful seminar with more planned.

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<b>New awards 2008-09</b>					
Somerton Business & Trade Association	Leaflets for late night Christmas shopping event	£235	£50	21%	Used in shopping event December 2008.
Somerton Business & Trade Association	Somerton tourist leaflets	£3,500	£500	14%	To be distributed June 09.
<b>TOTAL 25 projects</b>		<b>£317,588</b>	<b>£67,491</b>	<b>21.25%</b>	