

## 10. Road Safety Lights at Hambridge (Executive Decision)

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### Purpose of the Report

For members to consider an application for financial assistance to Hambridge & Westport Parish Council for the installation of 'Wig Wag' lights near to the local primary school. These are solar powered lights that flash when a vehicles approach.

### Public Interest

Hambridge & Westport Parish Council has applied for financial assistance from South Somerset District Council. This report provides the details of the application and the results of the assessment, for Councillors to make a decision.

### Recommendation

Approve the award of £1,500 to Hambridge and Westport Parish Council towards a set of 'Wig Wag' Lights allocated from the Area North Community Grants budget 2009-10 subject to the SSDC standard conditions for Community Grants ( Appendix A)

### Application Details

<b>Name of Applicant</b>	Hambridge & Westport Parish Council
<b>Project</b>	To install solar powered Wig Wag Road Safety Lights
<b>Project description</b>	Wig Wag lights to be installed as a warning to traffic that they are approaching the village school - this is to improve road safety within the village. The work will be carried out by County Highways approved installers, and maintained by Somerset County once installed.
<b>Total project cost</b>	£4,000
<b>Amount requested from SSDC</b>	£1,500 (38% of project cost)
<b>Application assessed by:</b>	Les Collett Community Development Officer Area North
<b>Contact details:</b>	01458 257427 E: <a href="mailto:leslie.collett@southsomerset.gov.uk">leslie.collett@southsomerset.gov.uk</a>

### Background Information

The main road through Hambridge runs directly past the primary school and the village hall, which are adjacent to each other. The village hall and the school share the same car park and at times are filled by both the hall users and parents collecting children. As

a result, the main road is used for parking, causing congestion. The village hall committee has recently extended the car park but this has not solved the problem to local satisfaction. The Parish Council wishes to install the lights to improve awareness and road safety. Hambridge is within a 30 mile an hour speed limit restriction.

### **Project development**

The Parish Council has consulted with the Somerset County Highways department who have helped design and specify the proposed lighting scheme.

[NB: Councillors may recall a previously approved grant for lighting at Hambridge – this project was stopped by the Parish Council following an unacceptable increase in costs, and the application withdrawn.]

### **Project description**

The project is to install solar powered 'Wig Wag' lights on the main road through Hambridge to give warning to motorists approaching from both directions. Somerset County Council approved installers will carry out the work.

### **Anticipated benefits and outcomes**

This installation of safety lighting is to raise the awareness of motorist and pedestrians in the area around the primary school and village hall, that care should be taken and to encourage the motorist to drive slowly.

### **Business Plan**

Following the three year warranty period Somerset County Council will take responsibility for the maintenance of the lights, as part of the public highway.

### **Risks**

The main risks would appear to be a rise in estimated costs, reducing value for money, or delay due to lack of funding or availability of contractors. Somerset County Council has confirmed that the project cost of £4000 should not increase. A preliminary order (without obligation) has been placed with the approved contractors. Public liability for the lighting scheme will fall within the remit of the Highways Authority.

### **Management and ownership**

As an installation in the Public Highway, the lights will be the responsibility of Somerset County Council, who have approved the scheme.

### **Consents and permissions**

This project is under the control of Somerset County Council Highways department.

## Project Budget

The table below shows the breakdown of the project costs, and sources of funding.

Item	Estimated Cost £	Basis of costs
Purchase of Wig Wag lights & installation	£4,000	Costs have been based on a preliminary order placed by Somerset County Highways.
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4000</b>	
Funding Source	Amount £	Status
Parish Council	£2000	Confirmed
SCC – Councillor fund	£500	Confirmed
<b>Sub-total to date</b>	<b>£2500</b>	
<i>Application to Area North</i>	<i>£1500</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4000</b>	

## Parish Information

<b>Parish</b>	Hambridge and Westport
<b>Parish population</b>	526
<b>No. of Households</b>	216
<b>Precept 09/10</b>	£9,575
<b>Band D Charge 09/10</b>	£46.81
<b>Parish Council Contribution</b>	£2,000 50% of project cost
<b>Officer comment:</b>	
This is a parish council led project for a local improvement, who have made a significant contribution to the project to enable it to happen.	

## Evidence of support for the project / consultation

The Hambridge & Westport Parish Plan (2006) identified highway issues being most important, one of which was speeding. A speed watch group in Hambridge has been in operation for sometime. The school and residents of Hambridge and Westport are concerned over the issues of road safety and fully support this project.

## Community Grants Assessment Score

Category	Score	Maximum
A Eligibility	Y	
B Target Groups	3	6
C Project	5	5
D Capacity of Organisation	11	15
E Financial need	3	5
F Innovation	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>34</b>

This project has scored 25 out of a possible 34. Feedback is often provided to the applicant, during the application and assessment process or as required by the Community Development Officer.

## Summary and Conclusion

This application is from the Parish Council who recognises the road safety issues within its community and is making efforts to improve conditions. There is strong evidence of support from two local partners – the Neighbourhoods Policing team and Somerset County Highways.

<b>Recommended for award from SSDC?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Amount applied for:</b>	<b>£1500</b>
<b>Amount recommended?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Special conditions?</b>	<b>No</b>

## Financial Implications

The community grants budget for 2009-10 is £35,900. At the end of December 2009, the uncommitted balance was £17,107. Further grants were approved during January 2010 of £8100, leaving a balance of £9007.

If the grant award of £1500 in this report for safety lighting in Hambridge, is approved and this month's grant report for the School Room at East Lambrook was approved, the uncommitted balance will be £5497 for the remainder of the financial year.

## Corporate Priority Implications

4.0 Outcome: A community that feels safe.

5.0 Outcome: A successful council delivering services valued by residents

## Other Implications:

**Area North Priorities 2009-10** - Promote and increase levels of community safety and cohesion reducing and the fear of crime through targeted action on local priority

## Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

The use of solar energy as the source of power for the lights

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

The benefits of the scheme – given its location near to the village hall and primary school, appear to be a positive impact upon the safety of children and young people and older people.

**Background Papers:** Grant Application AN09/28

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