

9. Martock Car Park and Precinct Improvements – Phase 3 (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

To seek councillors' approval for the allocation of financial support towards the final phase of a programme of improvements to the Moorlands car park and shopping precinct, in the centre of Martock.

Public Interest

South Somerset District Council aims to promote safe and attractive town and village centres for services and shopping. Over the past 2-3 years a programme of improvements in the central car park and shopping precinct in Martock, have been agreed as a partnership between SSDC and Martock Parish Council. SSDC lease and manage the Moorlands Car Park and Martock Parish Council lease an area of public open space, both from Co-operative Stores.

Recommendation

Approve an award of £2,000 to Martock Parish Council, towards the completion of phase 3 of the Martock car park and precinct improvements, as the final balance from the allocation in principle in the Area North Capital Programme. The award to be made on completion of the project and subject to the standard SSDC grant conditions.

Background

A programme of improvements to the Moorlands car park and shopping precinct in Martock has developed over a number of years supported by a working group of parish, county and district councillors, local traders and residents interested in improving the overall safety and appearance of the village centre.

The Moorlands car park is the main car park for Martock, and gives access to the library, shops, post office and Market House.

SSDC is responsible for the Moorlands Car Park, under a lease from the Co-Operative Stores. The precinct area adjoins the car park, and is maintained by Martock Parish Council also under a lease from the Co-Op.

Summary of Martock car park and shopping precinct project.

From a strong partnership approach, based on priorities within the Martock Community Plan (2004 and 2007) a programme of investment into the car park and precinct area was developed in three main phases:

Phase (when)	Planned work	Resources
Phase 1 (2008)	Surfacing and minor visual improvements	SSDC – car parks maintenance programme. (Recovered in part from Co-Operative Stores under lease agreement).
Phase 2 (2008-10)	Some re-design of spaces, lighting and traffic calming measures to improve safety and access.	SSDC – Area North programme - £23,000. Martock Parish Council £2000. SSDC car parks maintenance budget £1000.
Phase 3 (2009-10)	Precinct enhancements – removal of wall, installation of street furniture, community art project – stone installation.	Martock Parish Council (£24,000) with funding from Somerset County Council (Local Initiatives Budget - £5,000) Final allocation from SSDC - £2,000. Further funding (£4000) to be secured.

SSDC resources

From an original allocation in 2006, of £50,000 to support the delivery of the Martock Community Plan, SSDC Area North allocated £23,000 to phase 2 of the Martock car park and precinct project, and a further £2,000 towards phase 3 as an in principle commitment. (The remaining £25,000 was invested in the Martock Market House project).

SSDC Engineering and Property Services team led on the completion of phase 1 and 2. The Conservation team have provided advice throughout. The Area Development (North) team has supported all three phases. An additional aspect is to secure an order to prohibit the use of cycles within the precinct area, which will be completed by SSDC Legal Services in the next few weeks.

Completions and timescales

Phase 2 works are largely complete, with the final completion of this phase planned for Spring 2010. Delays were experienced due to changes to an original lighting scheme and lengthy timescales to obtain new quotations from the electrical supplier.

Partly as a result of the delays to phase 2, phase 3 was identified as two main projects. The first has been completed, and the second is the subject of the final funding request from Martock Parish Council. Subject to some final match funding this final phase will be completed during 2010.

Phase 3

The overall aim of phase 3 is to establish a more open, attractive and usable public space, used on a monthly basis for a producers market, and as an important local meeting point for visitors to the shops and services.

The final completion of phase 3 includes the creation of a central artwork and the installation of lighting the precinct area, as a community led project involving younger residents, working alongside a local sculptor. The costs of installation and including lighting is estimated at up to £10,000, with some further partnership contributions to be secured, in addition to Martock Parish Council's own investment.

Project	Works	Resources
A (Completed)	Removal of wall; installation of street furniture.	Martock Parish Council (£18,000) SCC - £5,000
B	Installation of public art work – stone panels, designed by local young people; installation of lighting scheme	Martock Parish Council – £4,000 SSDC Area North – £2,000 Other funding sources - £4,000

A capital appraisal is attached as Appendix A seeking the final allocation of £2,000 from the original allocation of £25,000 towards the overall programme of improvements to the Moorlands car park and precinct in Martock.

Financial Implications

Phase 3 of the Capital Budget of £2,000 for Martock Town Centre Improvements is currently held in the Reserve Schemes awaiting allocation in 2009/10. The main Area North capital programme already includes £25,000 for refurbishment of the Martock Market House project and a further £23,000 for Phase 2 of Martock car park and precinct project.

The approval of this Phase 3 of the project for completion in 2010/11 will fully utilise the original allocation in 2006 of £50,000 to support the partnership approach for delivery of the Martock Community Plan by the Martock Parish Council.

Corporate Priority Implications

2.9 Increase resident satisfaction on country parks, open spaces, street cleaning, car parks and public toilets.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

Equality and Diversity Implications

The improvement programme has sought to improve physical access for users of the shops and services. The area is attractive to younger and older residents, and the planned installation involving young people will aim to promote a safe and inviting environment for all ages.

Background Papers: *Martock Precinct Improvements - 25th June 2008 - Area North Committee*