

Area Committee North – 28 March 2012

9. Area North Community Grant – Martock Youth Centre (Executive Decision)

Strategic Director Rina Singh, Place and Performance
Assistant Director Kim Close / Helen Rutter, Communities
Service Manager: Charlotte Jones, Area Development Manager (North)
Lead Officer: Les Collett, Community Development Officer (North)
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Purpose of the Report

For members to consider an application for financial assistance to The Trustees of Martock Youth Centre for energy efficiency improvements to the building including heating, secondary glazing and draft proofing.

Public interest

Martock Youth Centre has applied for financial assistance from the SSDC Area North Community Grants Programme, to support significant improvements to make the building more energy efficient and comfortable for users. Reducing running costs, and making the building more attractive for bookings will help improve this local community facility.

The application has been assessed by the Community Development Officer (North) who has submitted this report to allow the Area North Committee to make an informed decision on the application.

Recommendation

Approve the award of £3000 to The Trustees of Martock Youth Centre for improvements to the building allocated from the Area North Capital Programme for Local Priority Projects subject to the SSDC standard conditions (see Appendix A) and the following special condition: Works to be approved by SSDC's Conservation Officer.

Application Details

Name of Applicant	Martock Youth Centre
Project Title	Energy efficiency improvements to Martock Youth Centre
Project description	To install secondary glazing to the existing mullion windows, repair and replace warped and damaged doors and architraves, seal and insulate for drafts and provide a new heating system for the building.
Total project cost	£8,430.00
Amount requested from SSDC	£3,000 35%
Special Conditions	Works to be approved by SSDC Conservation Officer
Application assessed by:	Leslie Collett Community Development Officer (North)
Contact details:	leslie.collet@southsomerset.gov.uk 01935 462249

Background Information

The Martock Youth Centre is in Church Street, Martock and is a registered charity run for the benefit of the local community, and young people specifically. The building was a former Victorian school and is a Grade 2 listed building.

During the course of the year the trust and centre work in close partnership with the Neighbourhood Policing team, Primary Care Trust / NHS, SCC Youth Service, Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue, SSDC Community Health and Leisure and Area Development. Last year the small outdoor area was improved with the help of Yarlington Homes, as part of the Yarlington staff volunteering programme.

The centre is managed on a day to day basis by a Youth Development Officer (funded by the parish council), supported by a voluntary management committee, and is also the home for the Martock Parish Council.

Additional users include the Air Cadets and the Sky College (a school for boys aged 11-16 who have social, emotional or behavioural difficulties) and the centre is occasionally hired out for meetings and fundraising events, although this use is restricted by the condition of the building.

Project development

Funding is required to carry out refurbishment work to the trust building to ensure it is fit to be used by the community on an ongoing basis. Some improvements were carried out to the building in the early 1990's, and thorough maintenance and re-decoration in 2005/6 but the building now needs a more substantial refurbishment to make it safe and warm for users.

The project has been developed through careful consultation with young people and the reviewing of wider community needs. The building has been surveyed and a programme of works agreed. This project aims to improve the ongoing viability of the centre through reducing running costs and increasing its suitability for events, private hire and group use.

Project description

The project is to install secondary glazing to the existing mullion windows, renovate / replace warped and damaged doors and architraves, seal and insulate for drafts and provide a new heating system for the building.

Anticipated benefits and outcome

The improvements to the building will allow the centre's young peoples programme to continue in the coldest winter months (which is currently difficult to achieve), maintaining its impact on lowering anti-social behaviour and providing positive activities for young people. The centre will be able to continue its work on drug and alcohol education and support and its use as a satellite site for work with young people who have been excluded from mainstream education.

Completion of this project will help further develop a thriving community organisation and support the regular volunteering which goes on within it not least the development of young volunteers. In addition there will be benefits for the current users and the building will be a more attractive proposition for meetings, private parties and fundraising events.

There is a current project under development in Martock to provide a focus for skills and learning within Martock. There is also a project to support young people 'not in education, training or employment', (NEETS) with funding and shortly starting. The youth centre will act as a base for both projects. This will open up the centre to a broader age range, and other services, complementing its work for young people, whilst adding income to the Trust's accounts.

Management and ownership

The ownership of the centre is held in a charitable trust, the management and control of the premises and trust activities delegated to a management committee of elected and nominated members of the community.

Consents and permissions

Whilst planning permission is not required for this project the group are working closely with SSDC's Conservation Officer (the building is Grade 2 listed) and works to be carried out will be subject to his approval.

Project Costs

The table below shows the breakdown of the project costs. Quotes have been obtained for comparison purposes.

Item	Cost £
Replacement Heating	7,050.00
Polycarbonate Panels for windows	560.00
Carpentry work to doors and draft proofing	820.00
Total	£8,430.00

Match funding

Funding Source	Amount £	Status
Parish Council	1,000	Confirmed
Own funds	1,500	Confirmed
Somerset Community Foundation	1,500	TBC
Other grant making trusts and local fundraising	1430	Applied for / in hand
SSDC Community Grant	3000	Applied for
Total	£8,430.00	

Parish Information

Parish	Martock
Parish population	4500
No. of households	2179
Precept 11-12	£249,204
Precept 12-13	£249,206
Band D charge 11-12	£143.07
Band D charge 12-13	£142.62

In addition to the parish council contribution to the current refurbishment project, the parish council makes a significant annual allocation towards services and activities for young people including £8000 towards a young people's activities programme, maintenance and the employment of the Youth Development Officer. Previous maintenance and repairs work has also been funded by the parish council.

Evidence of support for the project / consultation

Martock carried out a household community survey in December 2010 in order to update its existing community plan. Responses from the survey identified the need for 'increased youth provision, improved facilities for young people and improvements to or a new build youth centre'. Youth Provision is one of the 5 key themes of the new plan.

Last year the centre was closed on occasion by Somerset County Council Youth Workers as they felt it was too cold to hold sessions and the young people and volunteers have spoken to the Trustees about the need for improvements. The Youth Parish Council has worked hard to show the need to the Martock Parish Council which has pledged its financial support to the work. The Youth Parish Council and youth centre members have been involved identifying the priorities for this project – and are keen to see the improvements completed.

Community Grants Assessment Score

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

Category	Score (Minimum eligible score 22)	Maximum
A Eligibility	Y	
B Target Groups	6	7
C Project	5	5
D Capacity of Organisation	13	15
E Financial need	5	7
F Innovation	1	3
Total	30	37

Summary and Recommendation

There is strong local support for this project, as it will improve a well-used facility, with a long life span.

Physical improvements to community buildings with a focus on energy efficiency have long-term benefits in a number of ways, making this a good use of reduced resources from SSDC. In particular the trust's work to develop and sustain a comprehensive programme of services and activities for young people is widely recognised, and the improvements to the building are regarded as essential for this work to continue.

The potential to increase access to services for skills and employment, and a wider age range will assist the trust to make best use of its premises and increase overall viability.

Finally, attracting external funding opportunities is not easy for this type of project, however making the building more usable and flexible will mean that further external funding is more likely to support the start-up of new services and activities. The planned NEETS project and adult work & skills project are examples of these. A grant from SSDC provides a good foundation for further community services to take place.

Recommendation:

To support the application for £3000, (subject to the approval of the SSDC Conservation Officer for the completed works).

Financial Implications

There is £20,658 remaining in the Local Priorities budget within the Area North Capital Programme for 2011-12. If the grant of £3000 is approved, this will leave £17,658 with a further £80,000 for future years.

Council Plan Implications

Focus Two: Environment – “We want an attractive environment to live in with increased recycling and lower energy use”.

Focus Four: Health and Communities – “We want communities that are healthy, self-reliant, and have individuals who are willing to help each other.”

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

The project will enable the youth centre to reduce its CO2 emissions through improved heating, insulation and draught proofing.

Equality and Diversity Implication

The Martock Youth Centre primarily provides accessible services to young people, with a special focus on young people facing exclusion or disadvantage due to health or income. This project will improve the physical environment of the centre itself, which in turn will help it be available to more groups and provide additional services.

Background Papers: *Grant application file AN 11/13*
