

Area North Committee – 26 March 2014

10. Community Grant - Chilthorne Domer Village Hall (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: James Divall, Neighbourhood Development Officer (North)
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Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider awarding a community grant for £5,000 towards the cost of an extension to the store room at Chilthorne Domer Village Hall.

Public Interest

The management committee of the Chilthorne Domer Village Hall has applied for a community grant towards physical improvements to the hall. The application has been assessed by the Neighbourhood Development Officer who has submitted this report to allow the Area North Committee to make an informed decision on the application.

Recommendation

It is recommended that councillors award a grant of £5,000 to the Chilthorne Domer Village Hall towards the cost of an extension to the store room, to be allocated from the Area North capital programme (Local Priority Schemes), subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (appendix A).

Application Details

Name of applicant	Chilthorne Domer Village Hall
Project	Extension to village hall store room
Project description	To extend the village hall main store room to improve the storage capacity, improving accessibility and safety for users.
Total project cost	£19,201
Amount requested from SSDC	£5,000 (26%)
Recommended special conditions	None - SSDC standard grant conditions
Application assessed by	James Divall, Neighbourhood Development Officer (North)

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	
B Target groups	6	7
C Project	4	5
D Capacity of organisation	13	15
E Financial need	6	7
F Innovation	2	3
Grand Total	31	37

Background

Chilthorne Domer is a small village situated three miles North West of Yeovil with an approximate population of 500 people living in 210 houses. The Village has a primary school with 140 children on role, who all rely on the village hall for a number of school activities including physical education, drama and fund raising events.

The village hall, which is situated in the middle of the village, was built in the late 1950's at a cost of £3240 on land donated by a resident of the village at the time. Since then the hall has been refurbished and extended in 2001 helping to provide alternative meeting space as well as facilities to home a post office and a tea room.

Since the 2001 use of the village hall has increased three fold, however, the hall has been unable to keep pace with the demand for accessible safe storage. The current situation has led to growing frustration amongst user groups which has to be addressed.

The main store is currently full with 60% of the store used to accommodate the schools physical education equipment, 30% to store the fifty chairs and tables with the final 10% used to provide a secure store for the post office equipment.

The Project

This project is part of a programme of improvements which are split into two stages and detailed in the village hall's business plan.

Phase one of the action plan involved the removal of the wall between the main and garden stores during 2012 which was funded by the parish council, school governors and management committee. The extra space is used to store 50 chairs which was previously store on the stage.

Phase two of the action plan involves extending the main store (and in turn village hall) to increase capacity and accessibility which will cost £19,201.

Project Costs

Building costs	£17,940
Electrics	£1,011
Site supervision – visits by the architect	£250
Total project cost	£19,201

Funding Plan

Funding Source (secured)	Funds Secured
Village Hall Management Committee: own funds	£5,001
Chilthorne Domer Parish Council	£2,500
Chilthorne Domer School Governors	£2,500
Total secured	£10,001 (52.8% of total cost)

Additional funding required	£9,200
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Funding Source (in application)	Funding sought
Awards for All	£4,200
Total	£4,200

Amount requested from SSDC	£5,000*
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*This is 26% of the total project cost.

Chilthorne Domer Parish Council has awarded £2,500 in the current financial year towards this project (13% of the project costs).

The Future

The village hall management committee aim to significantly increase accessibility and usage of the hall following the redevelopment work. The removal of hall equipment from the stage into the proposed new store will increase the amount of time and usage for the drama groups using the hall.

The improved capacity and accessibility of the new main store will to provide additional storage for current users and improve accessibility to the equipment which in turn will help increase the length of time within activity sessions (i.e. school PE, community programmes, meetings, etc) as well as helping to provide a safer environment for all.

Conclusion and Recommendation

This grant application is for £5,000, which represents 26% of the project cost. If the final funding applications are successful building will commence.

Both the amount and percentage are in keeping with SSDC grants policies.

The committee's efforts are to be congratulated, particularly for their efforts to form a longer term plan of carefully costed staged projects. There has been significant community involvement throughout, including an active fundraising programme with increased use of the hall and new ideas in the pipeline.

It is recommended that this application for £5,000 is supported.

Financial Implications

There is £239,536 available in the Area North Capital programme for Local Priority Schemes. If the recommended grant of £5,000 is awarded, £234,536 will remain in this allocation for 2013-14 and for future years.

Council Plan Implications

Focus Four: Health & Communities: encouraging communities to be healthy, self-reliant and with individuals who are willing to help each other.

Carbon Emissions & Climate Change Implications

The overall programme of works has aimed to maximise energy efficiency and minimise heating costs.

Equality and Diversity Implications

Local consultation revealed that access for disabled users can be problematic during busy social events at the hall. The committee have been assisted by an access review conducted by the South Somerset Disability Forum. The project design has taken account of the issues raised, and access will be improved.

Background papers: None
