

Area North Committee – 28 May 2014

8. Community Grant: High Ham Recreation Ground - Youth Park (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

The purpose of this report is for councillors to consider a community grant of £6,000 towards the cost of play equipment for 8yrs+ in the High Ham Playing Field.

Public Interest

The management committee of the High Ham Playing Field have applied for a community grant towards new fixed play equipment. 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 £6,000 to the High Ham Parish Council on behalf of the High Ham Playing Field Management Committee towards the cost of purchasing play equipment and park enhancements, 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	High Ham Parish Council on behalf of High Ham Playing Field Management Committee.
Project	New play equipment for High Ham playing fields
Project description	The purchase of new play equipment for 8yrs+ as part of a new youth play zone on the southern corner of the playing fields.
Total project cost	£29,998
Amount requested from SSDC	£6,000 (20%)
Recommended special conditions	No
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	4	7
C Project	3	5
D Capacity of organisation	14	15
E Financial need	5	7
F Innovation	2	3
Grand Total	28	37

Background

High Ham parish sits just north of Langport and contains the villages of High Ham and Low Ham and the hamlets of Bowdens, Henley, Paradise and Picts Hill. The village has a Primary School with 165 children on roll, who use the playing fields for a number of school activities and after school recreation.

The playing fields are situated in the middle of the village and host a range of activities for children, young people and adults of all ages. This includes a football pitch, under 8's play park and BMX track along with a good quantity of car parking provision.

Developing the project and local consultation

The project is to install a range of new play equipment suitable for older children.

In 2013, High Ham Playing Field Committee completed local consultation including local families and older children living in the village which highlighted the need for play equipment for older children / teenagers.

After careful research and obtaining advice from the SSDC youth and play facilities team, the management committee further developed their consultation with sessions at the recreation ground, at the local primary school and discussions with families living in the village. This included the opportunity for local children and young people to view a range of play equipment options and indicate the items they would like to see within their local park. The five items included in the project were the five most popular items.

Project Costs

Quotations have been sought from three different suppliers from the SSDC list of approved contractors. The selected equipment set out below is from the preferred supplier:

Cableway zip wire	£10,000
Primo metal pod swing	£2,972
Hip Hop	£2,723
Aeroskate	£5,155
Rodeoboard	£3,596
Grass mat base / Landscaping	£5,554
Total project cost	£29,998

Funding Plan

Funding Source (secured)	Funds Secured
High Ham Parish Council	£1,000
Playing Field Management Committee	£1,000
Awards for All	£10,000
County Councillor – Health & Well-being fund	£800
Clarks Foundation	£2,000
Avon & Somerset Police Community Trust	£1,000
Sports Relief Community Cash Grant	£1,000
Yarlington Housing Group	£1,000 (TBC)
Bernard Stanley Foundation	£1,500 (TBC)
Somerset County Council Landscape Fund	£1,000 (TBC)
Sub-total	£20,300
Amount requested from SSDC	£6000.00 (20%) of total project cost)
Final local fundraising target	£3698.00
Total	£29998.00

The final balance will be sort from continued on-going local fundraising.

As shown above both the parish council and the management committee are each contributing £1,000 in the current financial year towards to this project and are actively fundraising locally towards their final target. High Ham Parish Council funds the maintenance of the existing playing field which varies between £600 - £1000 per annum and will continue to support the annual maintenance each year by establishing a sinking fund for replacement equipment.

The Future

The High Ham Playing Field management committee aim to significantly increase accessibility and usage of the play equipment and recreation facilities following the redevelopment work. The inclusion of new play equipment for older children and young people will increase the use of the playing fields providing a positive physical and social environment for many young residents.

Future development need for the playing field may include additional planting as well as increased and improved footpaths, making the area more accessible for all.

Conclusion and Recommendation

This grant application is for £6,000, which represents 20% of the project cost. To date the High Ham Playing Field Management Committee has secured £16,800 and are awaiting the result of various grant applications towards a budget of £30000.00.

If all grants are successful work will commence by the summer 2014, and will last for approximately 4-6 weeks.

The work of the committee is to be congratulated, particularly for their efforts to form a longer term plan of carefully costed staged projects. The new equipment will provide well-designed play opportunities within the playing fields for all ages of the community linking the new play provision with the existing under 8's equipment and the youth BMX track.

There has been significant community involvement throughout, including good consultation, an active fundraising programme with programmed events and activities to cover the project and its long term maintenance costs.

It is recommended that this application for £6,000 is supported.

Financial Implications

There is £246,536 available in the Area North Capital programme for Local Priority Schemes. If the recommended grant of £6,000 is awarded, £240,536 will remain in this allocation for 2014-15 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 & Adapting to Climate Change Implications

None from this report

Equality and Diversity Implications

Local consultation has not highlighted any specific need for specialist play equipment, however the playing field committee are keen to improve accessibility to and from the play space, improvements to planting and landscaping as well as continued local communication with all local residents.
