

Area North Committee – 23 July 2014

10. Grant to Seavington Playing Field Association (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: Sara Kelly, Neighbourhood Development Officer (North)
 Contact Details: sara.kelly@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462249

Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant for £6,000 to Seavington Playing Field Association towards the cost of new accessible footpaths.

Public Interest

Seavington Playing Field Association has applied for financial assistance from the Area North community grants programme. 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 Seavington Playing Field Association, towards the cost of new accessible footpaths, 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	Seavington Playing Field Association
Project	New access all footpaths
Project description	Two new footpaths; Footpath A - to join the main and overflow car parks that serve the Seavington Millennium Hall, Community shop and Café Footpath B - a gravel path around the playing field to give full access to the field
Total project cost	£23,000 for footpath A and £9,000 for footpath B
Amount requested from SSDC	£6,000
Recommended special conditions	None - SSDC standard grant conditions
Application assessed by	Sara Kelly, 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	3	5
D Capacity of organisation	11	15
E Financial need	5	7
F Innovation	3	3
Grand Total	28	37

Background

Seavington Playing Field Association (SPFA) is a registered charity and was established in 1975 to provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation for the inhabitants of the parishes of Seavington St Mary and Seavington St Michael, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants without distinction of political, religious or other opinions.

The SPFA purchased a 2.7 hectare playing field in the 1980's for the use of the village cricket and football teams. In 1998 a new village hall was constructed on part of the site containing hall, meeting room, catering facilities, changing rooms and car parking.

In 2005 a village plan was prepared and a key finding was resident's desire to see the reinstatement of a village shop. Following much work and local support a new village shop and café subsequently opened in July 2010 adjacent to the village hall on land leased from SPFA.

The success of all of these ventures has meant that demand on the main car park often exceeds available spaces. There is an overflow car park but this is situated 150 meters away on the other side of the site and there is no designated footpath to join the two car parks.

In December 2013 the playing field was registered with Fields In Trust helping to guarantee the long term future of the site.

Parish Information (*Taken from the 2011 census profile)

Parish*	Seavington St Mary and Seavington St Michael
Parish Population*	511
No. of dwellings*	232

Developing the Project

A public consultation event for residents was held on Saturday 1st June 2013 inviting residents to view and comment on proposals for new footpaths on the site. The event was well attended and feedback was very supportive.

Trustees consulted with South Somerset Disability Forum who have visited the site and offered advice on the design of the proposed footpaths.

The project can be broken down into two phases and will see the creation of two new footpaths, one to join the existing and overflow car parks and one to run around the outside of the playing field to allow all weather access to the outdoor play and gym equipment.

The trustees aim to raise sufficient funds for both footpaths to be constructed at the same time. However, the specification against which quotes have been received sought individual quotes for each footpath to allow construction over two phases should funding dictate. This grant application is seeking funding towards footpath A.

Local Support/evidence of need

Current use of the playing field is limited and access is difficult due to the steep gradient from the car park. When the main car park is full, visitors often park on the verge alongside the road rather than walk across the playing field to the overflow car park. This creates a hazard especially at night as the site is on an unlit country lane.

The public consultation event in June 2013 was attended by 70 people. Comments received showed widespread support from a variety of different users.

At present, children have nowhere safe to ride their bicycles or scooters and parents with buggies or people with mobility problems find it difficult to access the full site. Once constructed, the new footpaths will improve accessibility and increase the range and amount of activities that are able to take place on the site.

The Parish Council are fully supportive of the project. As well as committing £2,600 they also undertake all of the grass cutting on the playing field and undertake maintenance of the benches in support of SPFA.

Project Costs

Footpath A: 150m x 1.8m tarmac footpath joining the main and overflow car parks to include solar lighting and hand rails	£23,000
Footpath B: 350m x 1.8m rammed gravel path around field	£9,000
Total cost of both phases	£32,000

Funding Plan

Funding Source	Funds Secured
Own funds	£2,000
Seavington Parish Council	£2,600
Awards for All	£10,000
Total secured	£14,600
Amount requested from SSDC	£6,000*

*This equates to 26% of footpath A.

The trustees are awaiting the outcome of two additional grant applications and will make the decision whether to construct both footpaths at the same time or break the project down into two phases once the outcomes are known.

The Future

There is a very strong commitment amongst the trustees of SPFA to continue to improve facilities for the benefit of all users. They have a clear intent to increase usage of the playing field and to be able to offer a wider range and amount of activities on the site.

This will generate increased revenue which will assist with maintenance costs and provide income for ongoing improvements.

Consents and permissions

Planning permission is not required for this project.

Conclusion and Recommendation

This application is for £6,000, which represents 26% of the cost of footpath A. The trustees are organised and committed and have shown very clear intentions to continue to improve the recreational facilities for the benefit of all users.

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

Financial Implications

There is £240,536 available in the Area North Capital programme for Local Priority Schemes. Another grant application for £6,000 is being recommended for approval at this meeting. Assuming that is approved, there will be £234,536 available. If the recommended grant of £6,000 is then awarded for this project, £228,536 will remain in this allocation for 2014-15 and 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 & Communities: encouraging communities to be healthy, self-reliant and with individuals who are willing to help each other.

Carbon Emissions & Climate Change Implications

Nothing relevant to this application

Equality and Diversity Implications

The new footpaths will improve accessibility around the site and increase recreational opportunities for all users.