

Area North Committee – 23 July 2014

9. Grant to Chilthorne Domer Recreational Trust (Executive Decision)

Strategic Director: Rina Singh, Place and Performance
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 Service Manager: Charlotte Jones, Area Development Manager (North)
 Lead Officer: Sara Kelly, Neighbourhood Development Officer (North)
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Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant for £6,000 to Chilthorne Domer Recreational Trust towards the cost of refurbishment works to the pavilion.

Public Interest

Chilthorne Domer Recreational Trust 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 Chilthorne Domer Recreational Trust, towards the cost of refurbishments to the pavilion, to be allocated from the Area North capital programme (Local Priority Schemes), subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants and one special condition (appendix A).

Application Details

Name of applicant	Chilthorne Domer Recreational Trust
Project	Warm, dry, accessible and affordable Chilthorne Rec
Project description	Vital improvements to the recreation centre to improve energy efficiency entailing loft insulation, double glazing, replacement doors, roof repairs and room divider. Also the drawing up of plans for structural changes to corridors and toilet areas to make the building fully accessible
Total project cost	£15,506
Amount requested from SSDC	£6,000 (39%)
Recommended special conditions	The services of SSDC's building control team must be used for the Building Regulations application
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	4	7
C Project	5	5
D Capacity of organisation	12	15
E Financial need	5	7
F Innovation	1	3
Grand Total	27	37

Background

Chilthorne Domer Recreational Trust is a registered charity and occupies land leased by the Parish Council. The freehold is owned by South Somerset District Council. The objective of the Trust is the provision of recreational facilities for the use of the inhabitants of the parish of Chilthorne Domer without distinction of political, religious or other opinions.

The trust is responsible for the playing field which includes a football pitch and outdoor play equipment as well as a pavilion with function room, multi-use sports hall, changing and shower rooms and a kitchen.

Within the last twelve months a zip wire, birds nest style swing and climbing frame has been installed and an all-weather pathway has been built around the field giving access to exercise and play facilities suitable for all ages and abilities.

The village primary school which is immediately next to the playing field regularly uses both the field and pavilion and has, in the last 12 months opened a breakfast club which is run from here.

Parish Information (*Taken from the 2011 census profile)

Parish*	Chilthorne Domer
Parish Population*	574
No. of dwellings*	229

Developing the Project

Following a complete refresh of the trustee body for the Recreation Trust in April 2010 the trust has fully reviewed the condition of the pavilion building and playing field and has taken a phased approach to improvements.

A grant of £12,500 was awarded by Area North Committee in November 2010 and was spent on refurbishing the water, heating systems and kitchen, re-laying external paved areas and security improvements.

In the last twelve months, new outdoor play equipment has been installed and an all ability play trail created following the addition of an all-weather pathway around the field.

A user group meeting was held in January 2014 to discuss next steps and the following priorities identified;

- Repair leaking roof
- Improve insulation to minimise fuel use
- Improve accessibility to the building

The trustees are very clear that of upmost importance is the affordability of hire charges especially as many of their regular users function on limited budgets. The improvements that will be brought about from this phase of works will go a long way towards maintaining these affordable charges.

There is also a very clear commitment to improve accessibility within the building.

Local Support/evidence of need

In addition to the user group meeting in January 2014, the Trust also commissioned surveys of the pavilion to assist them in their decision making.

South Somerset Disability Forum produced a feasibility report in March 2014. Their recommendations included internal alterations to widen passageways, new toilet facilities to include a fully accessible toilet, replacement of single glazed windows with double glazed units, wall and roof insulation. As some of these recommendations require structural alterations, this grant application includes an allowance to produce the professional drawings needed to enable this work to be scoped and costed. The trustees have confirmed their intention to continue to work with the disability forum in order to improve accessibility and ensure that any refurbishment conforms to the current regulations and best practise.

A community buildings energy survey was commissioned by the Trust and carried out by Western Power in April 2012. This identified how much heat was being lost through poorly insulated loft spaces, draughty windows, ill-fitting doors and heating the whole of the large function room when it could be split using an insulated room divider. Energy savings generated by this project will reduce the fuel bill thus allowing hire charges to remain affordable.

Project Costs

Repair of multi-use hall roof	£1,673
Replace single glazed windows with double glazed units	£2,293
Replace draughty doors with well-fitting accessible doors	£3,115
Install insulated room divider	£4,055
Insulate roof space	£2,540
Drawings and costings for accessible toilets and corridors	£1,530
Building regs	£300
Total project cost	£15,506

Funding Plan

Funding Source	Funds Secured
Own funds	£2,006
Chilthorne Domer Parish Council	£2,500
Awards for All	£5,000
Total secured	£9506
Amount requested from SSDC	£6,000*

*This is 39% of the total project cost.

The Future

The trustees have adopted a business-like approach in order to bring about long term improvements. There is a strong commitment to continuing with these improvements and making the building fully accessible and more comfortable for all users.

The trustees have a very clear aim to improve energy efficiency and thus reduce fuel bills allowing hire charges to remain affordable. If this grant application is approved, not only will it generate immediate improvements, but it will also enable the trustees to draw up the necessary plans to inform their next step of the project.

Consents and permissions

The pavilion is licensed by SSDC and therefore the Trust will have to submit alterations for approval to the licensing team and also building control. The trustees have confirmed their intention to use SSDC's building control team.

No planning permission is required for the planned works.

Conclusion and Recommendation

This application is for £6,000, which represents 38% of the total project cost. 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 and the following special condition is added to the standard conditions;

- The services of SSDC's building control team must be used for the Building Regulations application.

Financial Implications

There is £240,536 available in the Area North Capital programme for Local Priority Schemes. If the recommended grant of £6,000 is awarded, £234,536 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

The installation of double glazed windows, replacement of draughty doors, insulating the roof space and installing an insulated room divider will very substantially reduce heat demand with consequent reduction of carbon emissions at the pavilion.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The trustees are working on a series of improvements that, when completed will provide an improved pavilion that is accessible to all.
