

Area West – 18th July 2007

9. Area Development Grants (Executive Decision)

Head of Service: Andrew Gillespie, Head of Area Development (West)
Lead Officer: Bob Chedzoy, Community Development Officer
Contact Details: bob.chedzoy@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01460) 260359

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is for members to consider applications for financial assistance from local organisations within Area West for the financial year 2007/08. It also reports to members on the recent decisions of the officers under delegated authority in respect of revenue applications requesting under £750.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- (1) members approve the schemes presented in line with the standard grant conditions;
- (2) members note the revenue grants approved under the scheme of delegation.
- (3) members note that the capital grants programme for 2007-08 has now been exhausted save for £1,995 and the £2,495 allocated for discretionary grants. This will prevent any further major grant coming to Area West Committee for this year. However, members will note that there are further opportunities for grant applicants through the Community Forum programme already agreed by the Committee.

Background

Area West Committee has always played an important role in supporting the development of those projects and activities that it believes will contribute to the well being of local communities. Through its Area Grants Programme it has been able to devote significant resources towards its funding priorities.

This report lays out the details of the grants that have been received in two sections; capital grants to cover one off projects and discretionary grants.

Standard Grant Conditions

All grants agreed will be offered subject to the following conditions:

- proof that all partnership funding is secured;
- quotations for building work are obtained in line with SSDC financial procedures;
- where appropriate, reference is made to SSDC funding in any publicity material;
- building inspection is carried out prior to release of grant monies;
- the grant offer is kept open for one year only from the date of grant approval; however, applicants may reapply or request an extension;
- the grant is only to be used for the purpose specified in the offer letter.

Summary of Grant Applications Received

| Grant Applicant | Ref | Amount Sought | Capital/ Revenue/ Discretionary/ Rate Relief | Points Scored | Officers Recommend |
|-------------------------------|-----|---------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Chiselborough Village Hall | 1 | £12,500 | Capital | 23 | Approve funding of £12,500 |
| Iminster Town Council | 2 | £6,560 | Capital | 22 | Approve funding of £6,560 |
| Ilton & Broadway Scout Group | 3 | £2,211 | Capital | 22 | Approve funding of £2,211 |
| Crewkerne Methodist Church | 4 | £12,500 | Capital | 24 | Approve funding of £12,500 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | Total Capital | £33,771 |
| | | | | | |
| Chard Young People Centre | 5 | £750 | Discretionary | 26 | Note |
| All Saints Church Merriott | 6 | £580 | Discretionary | 21 | Note |
| Glade Centre, Iminster | 7 | £550 | Discretionary | 22 | Note |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | Total Discretionary | £1,880 |
| | | | | | |
| Grand Total - All Bids | | | | | £35,651 |

A. GRANTS TO COVER CAPITAL COSTS

1. Chiselborough Village Hall (AW/07/201)

The Chiselborough Village Hall Committee has submitted a grant application for £12,500 to help with the provision of a disabled entrance way and a disabled toilet for the village hall.

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|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Cost of the Building Project is:</i> | <i>£22,117 + VAT (£25,985)</i> |
| <u>Income:</u> | |
| Parish Council | £230.00 |
| Own Funds | £10,000 (and ongoing) |
| Total income: | £10,230 |
| Amount requested from SSDC | £12,500 |

Additional Information

The village hall committee have submitted evidence to show that they are a well run organisation providing a vital service for Chiselborough. A recent audit of the hall has highlighted a need to provide greater access for people with disabilities as required by

the Disability Discrimination Act. The Committee has therefore sought competitive tenders to provide disabled access and disabled toilet facilities for the hall. They have received planning permission for the project. The overall assessment score was 23/34.

Recommendation

The applications have been through a rigorous assessment process clearly set out in the SSDC grants policies. Information provided shows that the Village Hall is a well used facility catering for the whole community. The grant will allow the whole community including those with disabilities to make full use of the facility.

Officer recommendation is to approve the grant.

Corporate Aims, Objectives and Critical Activities

The application and project will meet the following SSDC Corporate Aims as outlined in the Corporate Plan 2005-2012.

Corporate Aim Two - Increase economic vitality and prosperity

- Identify and address the particular issues affecting rural areas

Corporate Aim Three - Improve the health and well-being of our citizens

2. Iminster Town Council (AW/07/204)

Iminster Town Council has submitted a grant application for £6,560 to help with the purchase of gang mowers in order to maintain the open spaces that are the responsibility of the Town Council.

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Cost of purchasing the items is:</i> | <i>£13,120</i> |
| <u>Income:</u> | |
| Town Council | £6,560 |
| Total income: | £6,560 |
| Amount requested from SSDC | £6,560 |

Additional Information

Members will remember that the recreation maintenance grant paid to Town and Parish councils was abolished a number of years ago. At this time councils were advised that they would be eligible to apply for assistance with capital costs to continue with maintenance work. The overall assessment score was 22/34.

Recommendation

The applications have been through a rigorous assessment process clearly set out in the SSDC grants policies. The items are clearly needed by the town council as their existing mowers have ceased to function.

Officer recommendation is to approve the grant.

Corporate Aims, Objectives and Critical Activities

The application and project will meet the following SSDC Corporate Aims as outlined in the Corporate Plan 2005-2012.

Corporate Aim Four – Ensure safe, sustainable and cohesive communities

- Maintain above 80 per cent the people satisfied with their neighbourhoods as a place to live

Corporate Aim Five – Promote a balanced natural and built environment

- Eighty per cent of residents and businesses satisfied with the quality of the local, natural and built environment by 2012

3. Ilton & Broadway Scout Group (AW/07/205)

Ilton & Broadway Scout Group has submitted a grant application for £2,211 to assist with the purchase of camping equipment including replacement tents, cooking equipment and a storage container. This will allow them to arrange for children of both sexes to attend camps and take a larger number of children on trips and to comply with minimum hygiene standards.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Costs of equipment:</i> | <i>£4,423</i> |
| <u>Income:</u> | |
| Own Funds | £2,211 |
| Total Income : | £2,211 |
| Amount requested from SSDC | £2,211 |

Additional Information

The group have shown evidence of good governance and a need for the project. The scouts are involved in a number of projects directly benefiting the wider community including litter picking and helping at a nursing home. The overall assessment score was 22/34.

Recommendation

The applications have been through a rigorous assessment process clearly set out in the SSDC grants policies. Officer recommendation is to approve the grant.

Corporate Aims, Objectives and Critical Activities

The application and project will meet the following SSDC Corporate Aims as outlined in the Corporate Plan 2005-2012.

Corporate Aim Three - Improve the health and well-being of our citizens

- Work in partnership with others to improve the health prospects for all

Corporate Aim Four – Ensure safe, sustainable and cohesive communities

- Maintain above 80 per cent the people satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live

4. Crewkerne Methodist Church (AW/07/206)

Crewkerne Methodist Church has submitted a grant application for £12,500 to contribute to a building programme to extend the building, create two separate venues and improve access to the premises. Specifically the proposed works will;

1. Extend the existing hall and provide a separate entrance.
2. Improve ventilation in hall.
3. New toilets for hall.
4. Access to kitchen from hall.
5. Wheelchair accessible toilet and shower.
6. Improvements to the playgroup area.
7. Improve insulation.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Cost of the Building Project is:</i> | £226,352 | |
| <u>Income:</u> | | |
| Parish Council | £5000 | (Only £500 secured so far) |
| Own Funds | £35,300 | |
| Local Fundraising | £23,910 | |
| Lottery | £148,000 | (Not yet secured) |
| Other grant applications | £175,000 | (Not yet secured) |
| Total income: | £393,610 ¹ | |
| Amount requested from SSDC | £12,500 | |

Additional Information

The church has submitted evidence to show that the building is a well used resource and has also provided many letters of support evidencing the need for the projects. The building is currently limited in its use because of its construction combined with the use of the hall by a playgroup and associated child protection legislation. The works proposed would alleviate this problem and allow greater community use of the resource. The overall assessment score was 24/34.

Recommendation

The applications have been through a rigorous assessment process clearly set out in the SSDC grants policies. Information provided shows that the Church provides important communal facilities open to all. The grant will allow an extension of this public provision and ensure disabled access to all.

Officer recommendation is to approve the grant.

Corporate Aims, Objectives and Critical Activities

The application and project will meet the following SSDC Corporate Aims as outlined in the Corporate Plan 2005-2012.

¹ The church has made grant applications for more money than is required on the basis that some bids will be unsuccessful.

Corporate Aim Three - Improve the health and well-being of our citizens

- Work in partnership with others to improve the health prospects for all

Corporate Aim Four – Ensure safe, sustainable and cohesive communities

- Maintain above 80 per cent the people satisfied with their neighbourhoods as a place to live

Corporate Aim Five – Promote a balanced natural and built environment

- Eighty per cent of residents and businesses satisfied with the quality of the local, natural and built environment by 2012

B. DETAILS OF DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

The SSDC Grants Policy delegates responsibility for assessment and approval of all grants applying for up to £750 per application. The relevant officer using the SSDC Grants Policy and grants assessment scoring process has assessed all applications to Area West for grant support. Using this assessment process, all applications meet District Council requirements and are deemed to be eligible for support. It is recommended that if members have any questions regarding the application, they contact the relevant officer who will be able to provide a more detailed account.

5. Chard Young People's Centre – Moving on Project (AW/07/203)

Grant Required for: To run a "Moving on" project to help young people with training and skills development.

Value of the Grant: £750

6. All Saints Church, Merriott (AW/07/200)

Grant Required for: Purchase of Storage Trolleys for use in the Tithe Barn.

Value of the Grant: £580

7. Glade Centre, Ilminster (AW/07/202)

Grant Required for: Contribution to purchase of stairlift to allow disability access to meeting rooms

Value of the Grant: £550

Financial Implications

The current position for Area West Revenue Grants is set out below.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------|
| 2007-08 Grants budget | 78,480 | |
| Add allocation from Area Reserve (April 07 Committee) | 2,160 | 80,640 |
| Less | | |
| Allocated at April 07 Committee | -58,163 | |
| Allocated for Transport schemes (original budget) | -4,500 | |
| Held to fund Blackdown Partnership | -11,300 | -73,963 |
| Balance for Delegated grants | | 6,677 |
| Less delegated grants paid or approved | | -2,505 |
| BALANCE Available | | 4,172 |

AW

The other sources for funding grants available for Area West are :-

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Unallocated balance in the West Capital Programme | £35,766 |
| Allocated for Community Forums in the Capital Programme | £15,000 |
| Allocated for Community Forums in the Area West Reserve | £75,000 |

The costs of approving the grant application recommendations made by officers are as follows -

| Grant Type | Total Requested |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Capital grants to cover one off projects | £33,771 |
| Discretionary grants | £1,880 |
| | |
| Grant Total | £35,651 |

Of the £5,000 set aside for discretionary grants for 2007/08, £2,505 has now been allocated with a further £2,495 remaining.

£53,783 was allocated at the April Committee for Capital grants and if a further £33,771 is allocated from the Capital Programme there will be only £1,995 remaining until the end of 2008-09.

Background Papers: *Grant application forms*