

Area West Committee – 17th September 2008

6. Merriott Parish Council Sports Pavilion and Tennis Court Enhancement – Request for Funding Support In Principle (Executive Decision)

Heads of Service: Steve Joel, Head of Sport, Arts and Leisure
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Purpose of the Report

To request funding support for Merriott Parish Council towards the construction of a new four-team changing pavilion and improvement to other ancillary facilities at Merriott Recreation Ground.

Recommendations

- (1) that members allocate up to £12,500 in principle towards this project to be drawn down in 2009/10, subject to the standard terms and conditions;
- (2) that the following additional terms and conditions are applied to any support given to the project:
 - a. Support is given on the basis that funding is secured from the Football Foundation.

Background

Merriott Parish Council manages the village recreation ground that provides a base for a number of sports clubs but perhaps most notably is the home ground of 289 junior footballers and 39 senior footballers. Both senior and junior football clubs have achieved FA Charter standard awards, which indicates that they are both good quality clubs committed to football development. The success of the junior section in particular has attracted players from the surrounding area and indeed 60% of all footballers at the ground come from outside the village of Merriott. The junior section has been particularly proactive in engaging with local schools to form links to the club and increase participation in football in the area.

The previous changing pavilion, serving 3 football pitches and a cricket pitch, had to be demolished in 2006 after it was condemned. Since then the teams have had to make do with temporary changing provision and/or share facilities with other teams from the area which is not sustainable in the long term.

The recreation field is also home to Merriott Bowling Club. Members may recall that they awarded £12,500 to the Bowls Club in April 2007 for enhancement to their existing timber framed pavilion. The Bowls Club leases their ground from the Parish Council and are fully responsible for running and maintaining their own facilities.

Merriott Parish Council is leading a Pavilion Project Working Party, which has been working with both the Football Association and South Somerset District Council Officers over the last few years in order to secure funding to build a new changing pavilion, extend car parking and floodlight and resurface the existing tennis courts for recreational use and team training. The group has already secured planning permission and Building Regulations approval for the proposed new building.

Report

The Parish Council is now at the stage where they are seeking a formal expression of support from the District Council in order to give them the best possible chance of success with their Football Foundation bid; due for consideration in October 2008.

The Regional Football Association Facilities Manager and county FA staff continue to work with the Merriott Pavilion Project group to bring this project to fruition and are supportive of the proposal in principle.

The South Somerset Playing Pitch Strategy 2002 highlights that there is a shortfall in junior pitches (second highest shortfall in the district) due to the teams that have been generated at Merriott – this project is required to sustain these teams. In a district assessment of changing pavilions Merriott has also been identified as a priority for support/ funding by the Sport, Arts and Leisure team.

The total cost of the project that members are being asked to consider supporting is £418,273; table 1.0 below details how this is made up:

| | |
|--|----------|
| New Pavilion including 10% contingency | £346,897 |
| Fees and expenses (planning/building control) | £ 1,600 |
| Other professional fees | £ 22,967 |
| Enhancement of tennis courts to provide a floodlit training area | £ 11,500 |
| Floodlighting | £ 8,389 |
| External works (car parking, paths) | £ 26,000 |
| Contingency at 2% | £ 920 |

Table 1.0

Just over 12.5% of funding for the project has been secured; a full breakdown is detailed in table 2.0 below (other sources of funding have been explored in addition to those listed below):

| Funding Sources | % Funding of Total Scheme Cost (approx.) | Amount of Funding £ | Status |
|--|--|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Merriott Parish Council | 5 | 20,000 | Secure |
| Merriott Senior FC | 1.2 | 5,000 | Secure |
| Merriott Youth FC | 5 | 20,000 | Secure |
| Local Fundraising | 1 | 6,146 | Secure |
| Wellbeing of Yeovil | 0.2 | 1,000 | Secure |
| Merriott Cricket Club | 0.1 | 500 | Secure |
| Crewkerne Town Council | 1.2 | 5,000 | To be applied for Oct 08 |
| Tesco's | 1.2 | 5,000 | Applied for |
| Waitrose | 1.2 | 5,000 | Pending application |
| Co-operative Dividend Fund | 1.2 | 5,000 | Applied for |
| Awards For All | 2.4 | 10,000 | Applied for |
| Avon and Somerset Community Fund | 0.7 | 3,000 | Applied for |
| Football Foundation | 75 | 313,705 | Applied for |
| SDDC | 3 | 12,500 | Applied for |
| Shortfall to be secured from other sources | 1.5 | 6,422 | To be raised from local events |
| Total Scheme Cost | 100% | 418,273 | |

Table 2.0

Table 3.0 below shows the grant scoring for the Merriott Parish Council application. The application meets the minimum score required for funding to be considered.

| Category | Score | Maximum score |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| A Eligibility | Y | |
| B Target Groups | 2 | 6 |
| C Project | 5 | 5 |
| D Capacity of Organisation | 12 | 15 |
| E Financial need | 5 | 5 |
| F Innovation | 1 | 3 |
| Grand Total | 25 | 34 |

Table 3.0

Summary

Changing facilities are essential to support formal football/cricket provision and Merriott Parish Council has demonstrated in their application that they have considered how the future running costs of the building will be met. If a new pavilion cannot be built at Merriott Recreation Ground, there is a possibility that existing teams will seek to permanently move to a new ground or fold. The project is necessary to sustain the number of teams that have been developed at Merriott. Therefore full support for this project is recommended.

Financial Implications

Funding for this project will not be required until 2009/2010.

There is currently a balance of £2,253 unallocated capital funding for 2008/2009 with a further £15,000 available from April 2009. If members agree this award of £12,500, it will leave £2,500 unallocated capital available for 2009/10 in addition to the £2,253 currently unallocated for 2008/2009.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

Corporate Priorities - The scheme meets the following Corporate Aims:

- Improve the health and well-being of our citizens
- Ensure safe sustainable and cohesive communities

The project also helps to meet the following objective:

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

Strategy for Sport and Active Leisure in South Somerset 2006-2012

This project meets the following key objective within the Strategy for Sport and Active Leisure in South Somerset:

- To support the development of new and existing sports clubs to increase participation, improve junior performances and achieve National Governing Body quality accreditation standards.

- The project could also contribute to the Sport, Arts and Leisure team's aim to achieve a 1% increase in participation year on year and eventually to improve junior performance standards.

Draft South Somerset Sport and Recreation Built Facilities Assessment Report 2006

This draft report recommends for recreation ground pavilion changing accommodation:

- That there should be 'sufficient, accessible changing accommodation on multi-pitch sites'
- That 'accommodation should be in at least good condition (segregated, well decorated, well maintained, well lit etc.)

Background Papers: *Community Grant Application no. AW/07/228*
