

Joint Area Committee – West – 18th November 2009

## **7. Chard Tennis Club – Grant Request for Funding Support (Executive Decision) (Excepted Business)**

*Strategic Director:* Vega Sturgess, Operations & Customer Focus  
*Assistant Director:* Steve Joel, Health and Wellbeing  
*Service Manager:* Andrew Gillespie, Area Development Manager (West)  
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### **Purpose of the Report**

To consider the allocation of funding support to Chard Tennis Club for the installation of a new water pipeline

### **Recommendations**

- (1) that members allocate up to £1,980 towards this project 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) The Club agrees to attend a minimum of two (out of four) of SSDC's tennis development meetings in the next 12-month period in order to benefit from tennis development opportunities available.
  - (b) The Club provides a copy of their repairs and renewals schedule/budget for the next 5 years based on Lawn Tennis Association guidance for tarmac courts.
  - (c) The Club provides copies of building and public liability insurance.

### **Background**

Chard Tennis Club has approximately 83 members of which approximately 25 are junior members and the club uses a qualified Lawn Tennis Association coach to oversee their junior coaching programme.

The Club leases their current premises from Standard Commercial Property Developments Limited on a 999 year basis and has three courts, two of which are floodlit. The club also has a small wooden pavilion on their site with toilet facilities.

Over the last two seasons, the club has resurfaced one tennis court and repainted two courts as part of planned maintenance at a cost of approximately £11,500. The club did not seek any external funding to assist with these works as they had already set the majority of money aside for this purpose, with some members providing a short term loan to cover a small shortfall in funding.

Recently the Tennis Club discovered that there was a leak in their water supply to the pavilion and, on advice from Wessex Water, has had to look at laying a new pipe to their pavilion as they were told it would be uneconomical to trace and repair a leak on their current supply. For the time being, the club has no water supply to their pavilion, which means that they have no draining water or toilet facilities on their site. As a matter of

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some urgency, the Club needs to re-establish a water supply if they are to continue to maintain current coaching programmes in the long term, particularly in respect of their junior session.

Given their recent capital expenditure, the club is not in a position to fully fund the urgent work required to re-establish a water supply to their premises.

### Report

Members are being asked by Chard Tennis Club to consider funding 50% of the costs to re-establish their water supply with a new water meter. The applicant has applied for £3,700 from SSDC, but under the terms and conditions for Community Grants, only 50% of project costs can be considered (£1,977).

Wessex Water has recommended, as the most cost effective solution, that the club run a new water pipe from the neighbouring cricket club supply with a separate meter. The Cricket Club are in agreement with this and under the terms of their respective lease agreements, this is permissible as both clubs share the same landlord. Approximately 90 m of pipe work will be required.

Wessex Water has recommended a local private company to carry out the necessary work, the same company who recently upgraded the water supply to the cricket club. Just one quotation therefore has been obtained in this instance, which is considered reasonable in the circumstances.

### Funding

External funding support is essential to the success of this project given the current financial position of the Tennis Club.

Table 1.0 gives an indicative breakdown of how the club hopes to secure the necessary funding to proceed as soon as possible. They would like to start work in the next two months if possible.

| <b>Funding Sources</b>        | <b>% Funding of Total Scheme Cost (approx)</b> | <b>Amount of Funding £</b> | <b>Status</b> |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|---------------|
| SCC Councillor                | 13%  | 500                        | Secure        |
| Somerset Community Foundation | 16%  | 600                        | Applied for   |
| Betfair                       | 16%  | 600                        | Applied for   |
| Own funds                     | 5%   | 177                        | Secure        |
| SSDC                          | 50%  | 1,977                      | Applied for   |
| <b>Total Scheme Cost</b>      | <b>100%</b>                                    | <b>3,954</b>               |               |

Table 1.0

Community Grants Policy 13 says that "South Somerset District Council will only fund projects where a contribution is being made by the Town or Parish Council, unless there are very exceptional circumstances." The applicant has been encouraged to seek funding from Chard Town Council. A verbal update will be given at the meeting.

The Lawn Tennis Association has confirmed that they are not in a position to provide financial support for this type of repairs and renewals project but recommended that the applicant seek funding from Betfair.

**Scoring**

Table 2.0 below shows the grant scoring for this project. Normally a project is expected to score 22 points in order for funding to be considered. However, this project will reach the minimum score if Town Council funding is also granted.

| <b>Category</b>            | <b>Score</b> | <b>Maximum score</b> |
|----------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| <b>A Eligibility</b>       | <b>Y</b>     | <b>Y/N</b>           |
| B Target Groups            | 3            | 7                    |
| C Project                  | 3            | 5                    |
| D Capacity of Organisation | 10           | 15                   |
| E Financial need           | 3            | 7                    |
| F Innovation               | 2            | 3                    |
| <b>Grand Total</b>         | <b>21</b>    | <b>37</b>            |

Table 2.0

**Summary**

An officer recommendation of support for a funding application for repairs and renewals such as this would not normally be made. However, in this instance, Chard Tennis Club has clearly set aside money each year for future repairs and renewals, and it is unfortunate that emergency capital expenditure is now required for a situation that could not easily have been foreseen.

In addition, the tennis club has not asked for financial support from SSDC in recent years and therefore on this occasion, support is recommended so that the club can re-establish a water supply as soon as possible and their operation be sustained.

**Financial Implications**

Currently there is £60,358 in the unallocated area capital programme. If members supported this application, this would be reduced by £1,980 to £58,378.

**Implications for Corporate Priorities**

**Corporate Priorities** - The scheme meets the following Corporate Aims:

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

And contributes to the following Key Target Areas:

- (3.19) Increase children and young people’s satisfaction with parks and play areas and adult participation in sport and active recreation.
- (5.11) Increase overall/general satisfaction with local area

**Background Papers:**      *Community Grant Application Number AW/09/252*