

Area West Committee – 16th March 2011

8. Area West – Requests for Capital Grants (Executive Decision)

Strategic Director: Rina Singh (Place and Performance)
Assistant Director: Helen Rutter (Communities)
Service Manager: Andrew Gillespie, Area Development Manager (West)
Lead Officer: Zoë Harris, Community Regeneration Officer and
Paul Philpott, Community Development Officer
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Purpose of the Report

For members to consider three grant applications for a variety of capital projects in Area West.

Public Interest

Chard Football Club, Hinton St George Community Shop and Winsham Parish Council have all applied for financial assistance from the Area West Capital Grants programme. These applications have been assessed by the Community Regeneration Officer and the Community Development Officer, their comments and recommendations are contained in this report.

Recommendations

That members approve three grants - Chard Football Club £1000, Hinton St George & Locality Rural Community Services Ltd. £12,500 and Winsham Parish Council £12,500 - totalling £26,000, and in addition to the standard grant conditions they apply the following ones where appropriate:

- 1) Chard Football Club clarifies the cost of relocating the new lights when the club moves;
- 2) Chard Football Club provide evidence that three quotes for the work have been sought, before award of a grant.
- 3) A claw back condition is applied to Hinton St George & Locality Rural Community Services Ltd in case the situation should arise that results in their having to sell the business and / or premises in the near future.

Grant Application Details

Chard Football Club

The club was established in 1920. It has a number of league teams and does raise revenue income through financial sponsorship and other fundraising activities.

It also provides the opportunity for children and adults to play football at a range of levels. This includes an under 16 youth side and under 18 side. There are forty young people involved with an age range from 14 to 18 years old. The club also run a two day soccer school during the school holidays, and recently ran an evening band night for young people on Friday, 21st January.

The Club now need to replace their existing floodlights, which are outdated, unreliable and no longer fit for purpose and have launched a fundraising appeal.

The new modern Litemaster sports lighting will provide high efficiency light output with a significant reduction in light pollution. The total cost and installation of the lights is £15,300. The table below shows that the Football Club has already raised a significant proportion of these costs and is looking to South Somerset District Council for a grant of £1,000.

Funding Source	Amount	Status
Chard Town Council	£1,000	Confirmed
Football Association	£6,375	Not confirmed
Own Funds	£6,925	Confirmed
SSDC	£1,000	Not confirmed
TOTAL	£15,300	

The Community Development Officer has assessed the application and the table below shows the breakdown of the grant scoring.

Category	Score	Maximum
Target Groups	4	7
Project	4	5
Capacity of Organisation	13	15
Financial need	6	7
Innovation	1	3
	28	37

Hinton St George Village Shop

The Village Shop & Post Office has been up for sale for over 2 years and is in danger of closing if a buyer is not found for the business and its premises within the next few months when the owners wish to retire.

To ensure the continuation of such a vital service a group of villagers have formed a steering group and set up an Industrial Provident Society (IPS) called Hinton St George & Locality Rural Community Services Ltd. An Industrial Provident Society is the legal structure recommended by the Plunkett Foundation, and other expert advisors to community shops. This group intend to either buy or lease the business and run it as a community enterprise.

The preferred option is to buy the freehold, which would mean the total cost of the project is estimated at £550,000. This includes the purchase of the freehold of the premises, refurbishment and renovation work, fit out and set up costs, stock and working capital. The price of the premises makes up a significant part of the costs because it not only comprises the shop but also residential accommodation, which includes 5 bedrooms, a large garden and a garage.

The freehold option would give the IPS the scope to develop the existing premises in a number of ways that would not only ensure the sustainability of the project, but would

take an innovative approach to providing an invaluable community asset. The development would include:

- Extending the shop floor into the existing store room
- Converting part of the ground floor of the house into a new storeroom for the shop.
- Converting the remaining ground floor of the house into a new community enterprise hub, which will provide a small meeting room and facilities (computer, photocopier) for use by local businesses and community groups.
- Turning the garden into a community garden and orchard.
- Converting the upper floor of the house into a flat for either residential or holiday let.

If the IPS cannot raise the funds to purchase the freehold they will seek a long term lease on the shop area and associated storage space. The grant from SSDC will go towards purchasing either the freehold or lease.

The costs and funding for both options are contained in Appendices A & B (pages 20-22).

The Community Regeneration Officer has assessed the grant and the project has reached an overall score of 31, as outlined in the table below.

Category	Score	Maximum
Target Groups	4	7
Project	5	5
Capacity of Organisation	13	15
Financial need	6	7
Innovation	3	3
	31	37

Winsham Parish Council

Winsham Parish Council is seeking to repair and refurbish their village green and play area. SSDC Play and Youth Facilities Officer, Adrian Moore, has worked with the Parish Council on the development of this project, and is supportive of this application.

The project will entail the following:-

- Construction of a curved wall.
- Replacement of safety slabs and surfaces.
- Removal and repair of grass mats.
- Installation of tree seats and sleeper seats.
- Installation of ham stone boulders.
- Repairs to existing play equipment including swings, roundabouts and multiplay.
- Installation of new play facilities including pendulum swing, log forest and balance beams.
- Landscaping of the site.

The refurbishment will provide a safe and enjoyable environment for the whole community. The application states that 700 people will benefit from the project work.

The Parish Council are awaiting the outcome of a lottery grant application for £10,000 and are seeking a grant of £12,500 from South Somerset District Council.

Funding Source	Amount	Status
National Lottery	10,000	Pending
Precept and public donations	2,054	Confirmed
SSDC	12,500	Pending
TOTAL	24,554	

The Community Development Officer has assessed the application and the table below shows the breakdown of the grant scoring.

Category	Score	Maximum
Target Groups	4	7
Project	4	5
Capacity of Organisation	11	15
Financial need	4	7
Innovation	1	3
	24	37

Financial Implications

There is currently a balance of £37,340 in the unallocated capital programme for 2010/11 with a further £47,608 allocated for future years making £84,948 in total. If all three grants are approved the balance in the current year will reduce to £11,340. In total the unallocated capital balance will reduce to £58,984.

Corporate Priority Implications

The three projects help SSDC meet the following corporate aims and targets:

Chard Football Club

- 3.18 Individuals and communities enjoying healthier and more active lifestyles
- 3.20 Increase children and young people's satisfaction with parks and play areas.
- 4.1 Deliver positive activities for children, young people (especially those at risk of exclusion or offending) and families.

Hinton St George Community Shop

- 1.11 A vibrant and sustainable Yeovil, market towns and rural economy.
- 3.11 Increased choice & quality of life for older people
- 3.18 Individuals and communities enjoying healthier and more active lifestyles
- 4.16 An empowered community where all people take part in shaping their neighbourhood
- 4.19 Increase civic participation in the area
- 4.22 Sustainable local community

Winsham Parish Council

- 3.18 Individuals and communities enjoying healthier and more active lifestyles.
- 3.20 Increase children and young peoples satisfaction with parks and play areas.
- 4.1 Deliver positive activities for children and young people (especially those at risk of offending) or young families.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

- The new floodlights at Chard Football Club will offer a significant reduction in light pollution compared to the current floodlights.
- By supporting the Hinton St George Village Shop – ensure there is not an increase in car journeys

Equality and Diversity Implications

Hinton St George Village shop - Access to services for rurally isolated.

Background Papers: *Grant applications*