

Area West Committee – 15th February 2012

## 7. Area West – Requests for Community Grants (Executive Decision)

Strategic Director: Rina Singh (Place and Performance)  
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### Purpose of the Report

To provide an update on the Community Grant programme and to consider four specific grant applications.

### Public Interest

The Area West Committee is being asked to approve four grant applications made to the Community Grants Scheme.

### Recommendation

That members approve the following four grants:

Applicant	Project	Grant requested
StreetSpace	StreetSpace Youth Project	£5,661
Crewkerne Filmcrew	Film Club blackout curtain	£1,000
Misterton Women's Institute	Replacing kitchen items	£1,250
Iminster Arts Centre	Redecoration of the Centre	£1,550
<b>Total</b>		<b>£9,461</b>

### The Area West Community Grant Scheme

The Community Grants Scheme exists to bring forward projects to benefit communities. At present the Scheme remains one of the few sources of community grant support available in Area West.

Resulting from a publicity programme at the beginning of October 2011, a total of 31 grant application forms were requested. Following on from this successful promotion, a budget of £107,000 was approved at the Area West Committee in January. The budget is based on an estimate of project costs if members choose to award full grants to all 31 projects. It is my intention to appendix a budget table to this report each month, to detail all grants allocated and the remaining budget in the programme.

### Grant Contributions from Parish and Town Councils

The SSDC community grant policies require a contribution from Town or Parish Councils 'unless there are very exceptional circumstances'. For those applications that do not have Town or Parish Council funding we provide details of the circumstances for members to consider. It should be noted that members have discretion to decide when the circumstances are 'very exceptional', and grants have been approved previously without Town or Parish Council funding including some of the grants awarded through

the successful “Opportunities” participatory budgeting events held in Area West between 2007 and 2009.

I am at present checking the status of grant applications to Town and Parish Councils for all proposed projects. I anticipate that any difficulties with funding “windows” will cease after the beginning of the new financial year.

### **Timetable**

The first four projects were considered at the January Area West Committee. Three were approved and one deferred. A further four projects are now submitted for consideration in this report.

It is my intention that a maximum of four applications will be submitted per Committee. Every applicant group will be given the opportunity to speak in support of their project. I anticipate that all project applications should be considered by September 2012.

At the last committee, consideration was given to the suggestion that all potential applications be assessed at the same time. However, given that project proposals are at many different stages of development and the robustness of the Council's assessment criteria, it was felt on balance that monthly assessments remained the most practical option.

Given the high level of response and continued interest, no further promotion is planned at least until September 2012.

### **Financial Implications**

The budget allocation for this project is £107,000. To date £19,300 of grant funding has been approved. This leaves a remaining project budget of £87,700.

The four grants requested in this report total £9,461, which can be funded from the existing budget.

### **Grant Application Details**

#### **Assessment of Applications**

Each application has been through an assessment process against criteria laid down in the SSDC grants policy. Projects achieving a score lower than 22 are not recommended for financial support. All four applications in this report have been assessed and scored above this threshold.

The applications coming forward with financial support from their Town or Parish Councils have been given a score of 1 for contributions of up to 10% and 2 for contributions over 10%.

### **Summary**

Applications from StreetSpace Youth Project, Crewkerne Filmcrew Film Club, Misterton Women's Institute and Ilminster Arts Centre have now been assessed by the Community Regeneration Officer and the Community Development Officer. Their comments and recommendations are given below.

## StreetSpace Youth Project

StreetSpace is an innovative youth work project, which works with young people who do not engage with traditional youth services and clubs. To date, the Project has engaged with over 250 young people across Chard and Ilminster. StreetSpace was started in Chard in 2006 and the model was so successful that it was first replicated in Ilminster, before becoming a national project in 2010. Today there is a national network of thirty independent linked StreetSpace projects. A link to the website is provided in the background papers to this report.

StreetSpace Youth project is part of the Frontier Youth Trust. This is a national faith based Christian organisation working with young people. The organisation is open to all and does not have a religious component within its work.

The organisational model is based on supporters providing a monthly gift to the project of £25 per person. A target of 100 monthly supporters generates the funds to provide one full time worker. Examples of existing projects include Cheltenham and South Molton. Working towards this funding model, StreetSpace in Chard and Ilminster anticipate a position of financial self sufficiency by 2014.

StreetSpace received Area West grant support for the Chard Skate Park under the Opportunity Chard Scheme in 2009 and 2010.

StreetSpace are now seeking grant support for a project with three components that will run from April 2012 to April 2013 in Chard and Ilminster.

The project is divided into three components

Activity	Cost
Meals and Meetings: Engaging with young people	£9,099
Zine: Young leaders programme	£6,042
Watch this Space: Community newsletter	£1,247
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>£16,388</b>

### Meals and Meetings:

This project will engage with 45 young people per month in Chard and Ilminster. These meetings lead to events planned by the young people, throughout the year. The young people will choose the locations for meals and meetings. These are normally held in a local restaurant.

The central event is a community day to be held this year on July 14th. Two years ago this attracted 600 young people. Last year, in a different format, it attracted 250 young people. This year they project the event will also attract 250 young people.

This component of the programme will also include the purchase and installation of two benches at Chard Skate Park to provide seating away from the skating area.

### Zine:

This project will provide leadership development training to at least 5 young people, based on the StreetSpace adult volunteer training package. This will give StreetSpace the capacity to expand their programmes with trained volunteers.

**Watch this Space:**

StreetSpace have recognised that their previous achievements have often received limited publicity in the area. This project will create an information package to provide regular updates to the community, on the projects and achievements of the young people they work with.

StreetSpace also plan to take 6 - 8 young people to Romania with the Chard linked charity Project Romania, to build a pharmacy at a community centre. The young people will undertake fund raising for all their expenses. No funding for this project has been sought from the Area West Community Grant Scheme.

Streetspace have to date raised £5,667 and have a further £5,060 in grant applications and fundraising events to be confirmed. They are looking to South Somerset District Council for a grant of £ 5,661.

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Status</b>
Chard Parish /Town Council	307	Confirmed
Chard Parish / Town Council *	960	Pending (March 2012)
Own Funds	460	Confirmed
Yarlington Housing	1,000	Confirmed
Gooches Charitable Trust	1,000	Confirmed
Frontier Youth Trust	2,000	Confirmed
O2 'Think Big'	900	Confirmed
O2 'Think Bigger'	2,500	Pending (April 2012)
Young People Fundraising	1,600	Pending (April 2012)
SSDC	5,661	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£16,388</b>	

\*StreetSpace is at present in consultation with Ilminster Town Council to agree future joint projects, similar to the Chard skate park. StreetSpace will be seeking project funding from Ilminster Town Council when the details have been finalised.

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

<b>Category</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
Target Groups	6	7
Project	4	5
Capacity of Organisation	14	15
Financial need	4	7
Innovation	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>37</b>

The project meets the following corporate priorities:

- 4.1 Deliver positive activities for children, young people (especially those at risk of exclusion or offending) and families.
- 4.22 Sustainable local community

The Community Development Officer recommends that the grant be awarded in full.

### Filmcrew Film Community Group

Filmcrew are a community film group based at Wadham School in Crewkerne. Established in 2009, the club provides film shows for the population of Crewkerne and the surrounding district, as the nearest commercial cinema is 10 miles away. The club is of particular benefit to those members who do not wish or are unable to travel this distance to see a film.

The club is growing rapidly having increased its membership by over 50% in the last year. At present it has 126 members and is advertising to attract more. The club has 12 volunteers and a committee of 9. It is a member of the British Federation of Film Societies.

Their grant application is towards the cost of a set of blackout curtains for the school auditorium. This will improve the quality of the presentations, which will in turn continue to attract new members. The additional membership fees will then help to ensure the future sustainability of the club. Wadham School will also benefit from use of the curtains for their productions. The group is independent of the school. Although Wadham students are eligible, none have joined so far.

FilmCrew and Wadham School have together raised £1,250. They are looking to South Somerset District Council for a matching grant of £1,250.

Funding Source	Amount	Status
Parish /Town Council *	250	Pending
Own Funds	625	confirmed
Wadham School	625	confirmed
SSDC	1,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,500</b>	

\*The applicants have applied to the Town Council for a grant and the outcome is pending

The Community Development Officer has assessed the application and the project has reached an overall score of 30 as outlined in the table below.

Category	Score	Maximum
Target Groups	5	7
Project	4	5
Capacity of Organisation	15	15
Financial need	3	7
Innovation	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>37</b>

The project meets the following corporate priorities.

- 3.18 Deliver community based activities
- 4.1 Deliver positive activities for children, young people (especially those at risk of exclusion or offending) and families.
- 4.22 Sustainable local community

The Community Development Officer recommends that the grant be awarded in full.

### **Misterton Women's Institute**

Misterton WI owns a small community hall in the centre of the village. The building consists of a hall, kitchen and toilet facilities. As well being used by the Women's Institute for their regular meetings and events like coffee mornings and luncheon clubs, the hall is also used by a wide variety of local groups for various activities, these include:

Misterton Gardening Club  
 Pilates  
 Zumba  
 Parish Council Meetings  
 University of the Third Age  
 Tennis Club  
 Misterton School  
 Private hire for parties and wedding receptions.

In April 2011 the Women's Institute set up a monthly luncheon club because feedback obtained through the Parish Plan had shown that villagers wanted more social activities for the older members of the village. The Luncheon Club has proved very popular with approximately 25 – 30 people attending the first few but it now attracts a minimum of 40 people each month. Due to the success of the monthly Luncheon Club the W.I. holds additional events on occasions like Christmas and the Royal Wedding when they often have to cook for 50 people.

The success of the Luncheon Clubs has demonstrated how inadequate the current kitchen at the WI Hall is for coping with such events. The kitchen is very old and the old cooker cannot cope with providing meals for such a large number of people. The WI would like to purchase a new cooker with a double oven and a larger hob that can accommodate a larger number of pans and roasting tins. The cooker would also need a hood with an extractor fan and grease filter. The WI also need a new fridge freezer that can accommodate all the extra food that is needed to run the luncheon club. In addition the women at the WI find that they need to bring in cutlery and serving dishes from home to help accommodate everybody and would therefore like to purchase a few ancillary items to help top up their current stock.

### **Costs**

This grant request is for £1,250 to buy a new cooker, cooker hood, fridge freezer and much needed smaller items such as cutlery, crockery, serving spoons, roasting tins and tea towels.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Cooker	£1,100
Cooker Hood including fitting	£400
Fridge Freezer	£260
Ancillary equipment e.g. cutlery, crockery, baking tins etc	£740
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,500</b>

The WI has confirmed that they will use £1,250 of their own funds to help purchase these items. They are asking the District Council for a grant of £1,250, which is 50% of the funds.

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Status</b>
Own funds	£1,250.00	Confirmed
SSDC	£1,250.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,500.00</b>	

Please note that the Parish Council have not been asked for a grant towards this project but the Parish Council do help support the WI Hall by regularly hiring the facility for their monthly meetings. This brings in an annual income of £180, in addition the Parish Council has recently awarded the WI a grant of £150 towards a notice board that displays community notices outside the hall.

The Community Regeneration Officer has assessed this application and the project has received the following score:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
Target Groups	3	7
Project	3	5
Capacity of Organisation	12	15
Financial need	3	7
Innovation	2	3
	<b>23</b>	<b>37</b>

### WI Hall Corporate Priorities

3.11 Quality of life for older people – the kitchen is used to produce sociable lunches for older people in the village.

3.18 Individuals and communities enjoying healthier and more active lifestyles by volunteering

The Community Regeneration Officer recommends that the grant be awarded in full.

### Iminster Arts Centre

Iminster Arts Centre is based in an old chapel in the centre of town. In September 2010 a new team of trustees and volunteers took over the management of the arts centre and have produced a robust 3 year business plan and have scheduled a programme of improvements.

Over the past 18 months the Arts Centre has been putting on a much wider range of arts based activities that appeal to a broad range of people within the community and beyond into the wider area. This new approach has resulted in more people visiting the Arts Centre both to use the facilities (2,500 more people have visited compared to the same period last year), and more people have volunteered to get involved (an increase from 40 in September 2010 to 85 in November 2011).

The Arts Centre now wants to improve the appearance of the inside of the building by giving it a much needed paint. The building has not been decorated for many years and as a result it looks shabby inside with discoloured and marked walls, which look unattractive to visitors and all users of the building. By redecorating the space the Trustees would like to create a bright airy space that is attractive and welcoming to all visitors and users of the building.

The Arts Centre is located inside an old chapel with very high ceilings, as a result they need to employ the service of a professional decorator with necessary scaffolding to paint the higher parts of the building. To help keep the costs of the decorating to a minimum volunteers will carry out the painting at lower levels.

Altogether the cost of decorating the building will be £3,050, which are detailed below.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Professional decorator	£2,700
Paint & material for volunteers	£ 350
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3,050</b>

The Arts Centre is asking for a contribution of £1,050 towards this project, which works out at just over 50% of the actual monetary costs involved, as detailed below.

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Status</b>
Own funds	£1,500	Confirmed
SSDC	£1,550	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,050</b>	

Please note that there is also an in-kind contribution from the Arts Centre towards this project. Volunteers will be painting the lower part of the walls and it is estimated that the volunteers input will equate to one person painting for 8 full days. Such a contribution would work out at approximately £800. When you take into account the volunteers in-kind contribution this means that SSDC are actually being asked for a 40% contribution towards work.

Because of the timing of when the SSDC Community Grant was launched (October 2011) there has not been an opportunity for the Arts Centre to approach Ilminster Town Council for a contribution towards this project. The Town Council makes a decision on its annual grants in June and therefore it was too late for the Meeting House to apply for a grant in this financial year.

The Community Regeneration Officer has assessed the application and it has received the following score:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
Target Groups	5	7
Project	3	5
Capacity of Organisation	13	15
Financial need	3	7
Innovation	2	3
	<b>26</b>	<b>37</b>



## Arts Centre Corporate Priorities

1.11 A vibrant and sustainable market town – the Arts Centre adds to the vibrancy of Ilminster by attracting people into the town for exhibitions and performances.

3.18 Individuals and communities enjoying healthier and more active lifestyles by increasing engagement with the arts through workshops such as knitting, reading groups, concerts and exhibitions.

4.16 – Empowered community where everyone takes part in shaping their community – the Arts Centre has 80 volunteers all involved in shaping the way the centre is run for the community

4.22 – Sustainable local communities – the arts centre is increasing the number of people involved in volunteering

The Community Regeneration Officer recommends that the grant be awarded in full.

## Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI 188)

Support for Crewkerne Filmcrew Film Club may reduce car journeys to other towns to visit the cinema.

## Equality and Diversity Implications

Misterton Women's Institute and Ilminster Arts Centre both provide disability access facilities.

**Background Papers:** *Community Grant Criteria*  
([www.southsomerset.gov.uk/communities/funding-for-your-group-or-project](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/communities/funding-for-your-group-or-project))  
*Grant applications on File*  
*AW Committee March 2011 Capital Grants*  
*Frontier Youth Trust (www.fyt.org.uk)*

## Appendix 1

### Community Grant Programme Financial Position

		Programme Budget	£ 107,000
Project	Grant approved	Grant Allocated	Balance
Combe St Nicholas Village Hall	£8,500 (Jan2012)		£98,500
Hinton St George Community Shop	£6,000 (Jan 2012)		£92,500
Hinton St George Village Hall and Playing Field	£4,800 (Jan 2012)		£87,700
Crowshute House Chard	£2,200 (Deferred)		