

Area West Committee – 18th April 2012

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

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Purpose of the Report

To report progress on the Area West Community Grants Scheme and to recommend four specific grant applications for approval.

Public Interest

This report considers four more grant applications made under the Area West Community Grants Scheme. This Scheme was established to assist communities to bring forward projects that benefit their town or village.

Recommendation

That members approve the following four grants:

| Applicant | Project | Grant requested |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. Chard Cricket Club | Mobile wicket cover and drainage piping for the cricket field | £5,610 |
| 2. Filmcrew community film group | Film club blackout curtain | £1,250 |
| 3. Crewkerne Town Council | Bin store and cycle shelter | £5,925 |
| 4. Ilminster Town Council | Skate Park | £10,000 |
| Total | | £22,785 |

The Area West Community Grants Scheme

At present the Community Grants Scheme remains one of the few sources of community grant support available in Area West.

Publicity to promote this Scheme at the beginning of October 2011 brought forward a total of 31 requests for grant application forms.

The scheme is being managed with the aim of bringing up to four applications to each committee for consideration so that the allocation of grants under the Area West Scheme will be completed before December 2012.

Financial Implications

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. A budget table is attached to this report (Appendix 1, page 18), to detail all grants allocated and the remaining budget in the programme.

To date £27,761 of grant funding has been approved. This leaves £79,239 still to be allocated.

The four grants recommended for approval in this report amount to £22,785. This can be funded from the remaining 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.

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%.

1. Chard Cricket Club

Chard Cricket Club was formed in 1841 and has played at Dening field since 1877. Today it has up to four senior sides and junior teams ranging from under 10's up to 16 year olds, both male and female. The club has a sixteen member management committee, fifteen coaches and 184 members.

The existing drainage system on Dening field was installed in the 1950's, and over time has become blocked, is no longer serviceable and needs replacing. As a result the wicket does retain water and the outfield below the wicket where the youth teams practice and play can become unusable. During an average season of 80 games, up to 10 games are lost because of the condition of the wicket and outfield.

The loss of the outfield where the youth teams play also means that up to 100 children at any one time are unable to play during weekly practice.

The cricket club are also increasingly concerned that the standard of the pitch will fail to meet their League standards, which may result in relegation to a lower league.

This project will address both these issues and secure playing opportunities for both the senior teams and the children who practice and play each week during the season.

The project has two components

| | Cost |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Installation of drainage piping | £5,946 |
| Purchase of mobile wicket cover | £5,274 |
| Total Cost | £11,220 |

Chard Cricket Club has raised £5,610 towards this project, including a grant from Chard Town Council. They are looking for a matching grant from SSDC of £5,610.

| Funding Source | Amount | Status |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Chard Town Council | £1,000 | Confirmed |
| Own Funds | £4,610 | Confirmed |
| | | |
| SSDC | £5,610 | |
| TOTAL | £11,220 | |

The Community Development Officer has assessed the application and the project has reached an overall score of 28 as outlined in the table below.

| Category | Score | Maximum |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Target Groups | 5 | 7 |
| Project | 4 | 5 |
| Capacity of Organisation | 14 | 15 |
| Financial need | 4 | 7 |
| Innovation | 1 | 3 |
| Total | 28 | 37 |

Council Plan Implications

Focus Four: Health and Communities – We want communities that are healthy, self-reliant and have individuals who are willing to help each other.

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

2. Filmcrew Film Community Group

Filmcrew are a community film group based at Wadham School in Crewkerne. Established in 2009, the club provides monthly film shows for nine months of the year for the population of Crewkerne and the surrounding district. The films range from popular mainstream such as the Kings Speech, through to foreign language films. A recent showing in January was a silent movie accompanied by a pianist.

Filmcrew are a member of the national association of film societies who hold regional viewings, from which the club can choose the films they wish to show. 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 £1,630 including a grant from Crewkerne Town Council. They are looking to South Somerset District Council for a grant of £1,250.

| Funding Source | Amount | Status |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Parish /Town Council | 100 | confirmed |
| Own Funds | 630 | confirmed |
| Wadham School | 900 | confirmed |
| SSDC | 1,250 | |
| Total | £2,880 | |

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 |
| Total | 30 | 37 |

Council Plan Implications

Focus Four: Health and Communities – We want communities that are healthy, self-reliant and have individuals who are willing to help each other.

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

3. Bin Store and Cycle Shelter - Crewkerne Town Council

Crewkerne Town Council is currently working on a proposal to make the area in and around the Henhayes recreation ground a more welcoming place for both residents and visitors to the town. The initial phase of that work is to enhance the area around the pedestrian entrance closest to the town centre, whilst at the same time improving facilities for cyclists to the Aqua Centre and the Henhayes Recreation Ground. This will be achieved by installing a secure bin store and covered cycle rack.

Pedestrians wishing to access the Henhayes Recreation Ground from the town centre generally walk past the entrance to the Aqua Centre and along the footpath onto the Recreation Ground. At the moment this area looks unsightly because the Aqua Centre has to locate their waste bins there. This not only looks untidy to the pedestrians and users of the Aqua Centre, it also creates a poor impression to any visitors to the town who drive past when accessing the main shoppers car park in the town centre.

Crewkerne Leisure Management, which runs the Aqua Centre, is committed to recycling but lacks the storage space needed to accommodate the various bins required for

separated recyclables. Currently the recycling bins are stored in the entrance to the Aqua Centre, which is hazardous and looks unsightly. Whereas the residual waste bins are located just outside the entrance adjacent to the footpath. As the bins are positioned in such a visible location members of the public feel they can use them and this attracts fly tippers. The bins do have locks to discourage use by the public, but this has resulted in the bins being vandalised and the locks being broken. To rectify the problem Crewkerne Town Council would like to install a secure bin store to the right of the building, which would be less visible to pedestrians and people driving by.

In addition there is a lack of cycle facilities in and around the Henhayes area, and the few cycle racks that do exist in the town centre are not covered. The Henhayes Recreation Ground and the Aqua Centre are centrally located and used by a wide variety of people. The Town Council would like to encourage more people to cycle rather than drive to use the amenities, and plan to install a cycle shelter that will help make it easier and more convenient for people wishing to cycle. The cycle shelter would be located adjacent to the bin store.

The bin store and cycle rack will be placed to the right of the Aqua Centre entrance and adjacent to the footpath that leads on to the recreation ground. Currently this area is dominated by a large earth bank, which causes the footpath to flood occasionally. The earth bank will be removed to create a space large enough for both the bin store and cycle shelter. During the excavation works, adequate drainage will be provided to ensure further flooding does not happen again.

The overall cost of buying a bin store and cycle shelter and the subsequent excavation, drainage and installation works will be £11,850. Crewkerne Town Council and Crewkerne Leisure Management have agreed to fund 50% as outlined in the table below.

| Funding Source | Amount | Status |
|------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Crewkerne Town Council | £3,000 | Confirmed |
| Crewkerne Leisure Management | £2,925 | Confirmed |
| SSDC | £5,925 | Awaiting a decision |
| Total | £11,850 | |

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

| Category | Score | Maximum |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Target Groups | 4 | 7 |
| Project | 4 | 5 |
| Capacity of Organisation | 13 | 15 |
| Financial need | 5 | 7 |
| Innovation | 2 | 3 |
| | 28 | 37 |

Council Plan Implications

Focus Four: Health and Communities – We want communities that are healthy, self-reliant and have individuals who are willing to help each other.

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

4. Skate Park - Ilminster Town Council

The Town Council are requesting £10,000 towards a new skate park to be placed on the recreation ground off Canal Way. The new skate park is to replace an old skate ramp, which became dilapidated and had to be removed. The new skate facility also forms Phase 1 of a much larger project. In Phase 2 the plan is to install a MUGA with floodlighting adjacent to the skate park. These new amenities will greatly improve the play and leisure facilities available to young people in Ilminster and will give them somewhere to meet and play safely with their friends.

After the removal of the old skate ramp a group of young people interested in skating, rollerblading and scooting approached the Town Council with a request for a new skate park. These young people offered to help fundraise for a new skate park and formed a user group that has been instrumental in gaining the views of other children in the town. The group has also been able to comment on the design aspect of the proposed skate park.

In addition the Town Council has received a few letters from children and parents who are concerned that since the removal of the old skate ramp there is very little equipment on the recreation ground for older children to play on. The comments about a lack of facilities are supported by Ilminster Youth Council, who have written a letter of support to accompany the Town Council's funding application.

'Some of us in the Youth Council questioned fellow students and found that a large majority see the skate park as a big concern. It was one of the only pieces of equipment at the rec suitable for older children / teenagers, as much of the equipment is designed for younger children. There is NOWHERE else in town to participate in such activities and the next nearest is Chard.'

Since the removal of the skate ramp those children interested in skating, scooting and rollerblading have started to use areas in the town that are not suitable for such purposes. Currently children are either skating on wasteland which could potentially pose a danger or else they are using the area around the Tesco supermarket, which is also dangerous and creates a nuisance to other members of the community.

The total cost to buy, deliver and install the skate park equipment is £60,000. The table below shows that the majority of the funds are already in place.

| Funding Source | Amount | Status |
|------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Ilminster Town Council | £40,000 | Confirmed |
| Other Fundraising | £10,000 | Confirmed |
| SSDC | £10,000 | Awaiting decision |
| Total | £60,000 | |

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

| Category | Score | Maximum |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Target Groups | 3 | 7 |
| Project | 4 | 5 |
| Capacity of Organisation | 13 | 15 |
| Financial need | 6 | 7 |
| Innovation | 2 | 3 |
| | 28 | 37 |

Council Plan Implications

Focus Four: Health and Communities – We want communities that are healthy, self-reliant and have individuals who are willing to help each other.

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

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

Support for Filmcrew community film club may reduce car journeys to other towns to visit the cinema.

The promotion and development of local facilities can reduce the need to travel.

Equality and Diversity Implications

In the opinion of the authors of this report, the projects for which grant aid is being requested are open and accessible and no-one is likely to receive less favourable treatment as a result of any decision made to award grants to them.

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

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 |
| Ilminster Arts Centre | £1,550 (Feb 2012) | | £86,150 |
| Misterton W .I | £1,250 (Feb 2012) | | £84,900 |
| StreetSpace Youth Project | £5,661 (Feb 2012) | | £79,239 |