

Area West Committee – 21st November 2012

7. Request for Community Grants

Strategic Director: Rina Singh (Place and Performance)
Assistant Director: Helen Rutter Kim Close (Communities)
Service Manager: Andrew Gillespie, Area Development Manager (West)
Lead Officer: Paul Philpott, Community Development Officer and Zoe Harris, Community Regeneration Officer.
Contact Details: paul.philpott@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01460) 260359

Purpose of the Report

To consider one application for financial assistance from the Area West Community Grant Scheme. West and Middle Chinnock Village Hall Committee are seeking to modernise their kitchen.

Public Interest

This report considers one application made under the Area West Community Grant Scheme. This Scheme was established to assist local communities to bring forward projects that benefit their town or village.

Recommendation

That members approve the following grant.

Applicant	Project	Grant requested
West and Middle Chinnock Village Hall Committee	Replacement of outdated kitchen facilities.	£4,775

West and Middle Chinnock Village Hall.

Background

West and Middle Chinnock is a rural parish of approximately 270 houses and approximately 800 residents. The village hall was built in 1931 and provides an active hub for clubs and entertainments within the community. The hall is managed by an elected committee of trustees who are independent of the parish council.

The clubs who use the hall on a regular basis include:

- The women’s institute
- The gardening club
- School gym
- Parish Council
- Line dancers
- Tea and cake afternoons
- Children’s parties
- Band practice.

The hall is also hired by external organisations which include:

Zumba fitness classes
Appalachian dancing classes
Scout/cub weekends
Use as a polling station.

Additional events are held throughout the year including dances, wedding receptions and club suppers.

The hall management committee undertake regular fundraising to address priority projects identified by both the committee and the user groups. Examples of recent projects completed through fundraising have included replacement of the hall seating in 2008 at a cost of £2,360 and refurbishment of the main hall floor in March 2011 at a cost of £2,000. The next priority project for the committee is the hall kitchen.

Project Description

The kitchen has been modified over the years, but is now very dated. There are cupboards that do not have backs, poor sealing between work surfaces and splash backs that are too low. The kitchen floor is also partially covered with linoleum leaving an open area of wooden floorboards. All of these factors make cleaning to an adequate standard of hygiene for the preparation of food and drink extremely difficult. As a result no cooking is currently undertaken in the hall kitchen and external caterers are hired to supply pre prepared food for events.

The aim of this project is to improve and modernise the facilities. This will enable food and drink to be prepared and served on site. The hall committee intend to expand their tea and cake afternoons and to provide hot lunch events, whilst the village school are keen to provide cookery classes for the children. It is anticipated that the improved facilities will attract further new bookings to the hall.

Project costs

Quotes have been obtained and the total cost for this project is £9,550.

Table 1:

New washable non slip floor	£1,750
New kitchen units	£2,400
Plastering, fitting and tiling.	£2,700
Electrical work	£1,000
New appliances	£1,400
Meter cupboard	£300
Total Project Cost	£9,550

Funding

The village hall committee have been fundraising for 14 months towards this project and have raised a total of £4,775, which includes a grant of £2,075 from the Parish Council, and a further grant of £170 from the Waitrose Community Fund.

The committee are now seeking a match funding grant of £4,775 from SSDC to meet the total project cost.

Table 2:

Funding Source		
Own Funds	£2,530	Secured
Parish Council	£2,075	Secured
Waitrose community fund	£170	Secured
SSDC	£4,775	Pending
Total Project Cost		£9,550

Assessment

Table 3:

Category	Score	Maximum score
Eligibility	Y	
Target Groups	6	7
Project	4	5
Capacity of Organisation	12	15
Financial need	4	7
Innovation	1	3
TOTAL	27	37

The Community Development Officer has assessed the application and the project has reached an overall score of 27 as outlined in the table above. This application exceeds the minimum score required for funding to be considered.

Recommendation

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

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.

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

Increased use of the village hall may reduce car journeys to attend clubs and events elsewhere.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The hall committee have been in contact with the South Somerset Disability Forum and plan to arrange an access review of the building.

Financial Implications

The Community Grant Scheme budget is £107,000. To date £80,768 of grant funding has been approved. This leaves a remaining budget of £26,232. The grant requested in this report is for £4,775 which can be funded from this budget.

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