

Area West Committee – 21st August 2013

9. Request for a Community Grant – Forton Community Association (Executive Decision)

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

To provide an update and recommendation on the conditional grant awarded in August 2012 towards the construction of Forton Community Centre.

Public Interest

Forton Community Association was awarded a grant in August 2012 towards construction of a new community centre on the Forton recreational ground. This grant was conditional on the Association securing the balance of their funding by August 2013.

Recommendation

That the provisional grant offer of £12,500 be extended until March 2014. This will enable the Association to resubmit a revised grant application to Sport England.

Name of Applicant	Forton Community Association
Project	Erection of a new community centre
Phase 1	Completion of groundworks. Erection and waterproofing of the shell. Installation of changing rooms. Installation of boiler. Installation of toilet units.
Phase 2	Fitting out
Project Cost Phase 1	£90,000
Project Cost Phase 2	£58,348
Total	£148,348
Conditional grant from SSDC	£12,500
Application assessed by	Paul Philpott, Neighbourhood Development Officer.

Background

Forton is a small rural village comprising 120 houses with a population of approximately 350. At present the only community facility in the village is a small clubhouse for the football team. For many years there has been strong local support for the creation of a better community building.

A grant application was submitted to SSDC in 2007 by Forton Rangers Football Club towards an extension to their clubhouse. A grant of £12,500 was approved towards this

project at the April 2007 Area West Committee. However, the applicants could not take forward their project for a variety of design and financial reasons.

Forton Community Association was formed three years ago. Following village surveys, it was agreed that a new purpose built community centre would better serve the aspirations and needs of the community and the interest groups that would use it.

A revised grant application was submitted to the August 2012 Area West Committee and approved subject to the balance of the project costs being raised within a twelve month period.

The Association applied for funding to Sport England in April 2013 and were informed on the 25th July that their application had been unsuccessful on two points. They have however been given the opportunity to resubmit.

The Association will now address Sport England's feedback with the advice of the SSDC Senior Sport and Healthy Lifestyle Officer and resubmit a revised application. The deadline for the resubmission will be 16th December 2013 with a decision forthcoming in March 2014.

Project Description

The centre will have dimensions of 27.6 metres x 14 metres and a seating capacity of 120 people. The building will have disabled access and toilet facilities. The centre will incorporate changing rooms, a kitchen, bar, meeting room and skittles alley. It will also accommodate a mobile stage. The existing small clubhouse will be retained and continue to be used. Externally provision will be made for bicycle racks. Forton Community Association will also liaise with South Somerset Disability Forum and the SSDC Community Cohesion Officer to inform the internal design of the centre.

Project costs

Project costs were sought in 2012 with the most competitive quote established at £212,000.

To seek a more economic solution, the community came together to pool their resources and expertise to drive the project costs down. Village tradesmen have been identified to undertake the work, and 20 skilled volunteers will contribute in an unpaid capacity.

Tatworth and Forton Parish Council have also provided a £5000 grant to the football club to extend the existing sewerage pipe system to their pavilion. The contractor for this work will install a water pipe in the same trench and extend the trench and the water and sewage pipes the short distance from the football pavilion to the site of the community centre. This will reduce the cost of groundwork even further. The total cost is now projected at £148,348, which is a significant saving.

Table 1:

Groundworks	£6,664
Erection of the centres shell	£23,684
Windows and doors	£7,000
Electrics (internal & external)	£9,000
Boiler	£6,000
Plumbing	£9,652
Tiling of floors and walls	£3,000

Changing rooms fitting out	£6,000
External path	£1,000
External timber cladding for gable end	£2,000
Contractors charge	£8,000
Fees and expenses (planning / building control)	£3,000
Fitting out	£58,348
Contingency	£5,000
Total Project Cost	£148,348

Funding

Forton Community Association plan to complete the project in two phases. The cost of phase 1 is £90,000. Within the last twelve months, the Association has achieved registered charity status (charity No 1148536) and will now not pay VAT on building materials.

So far, Forton Community Association has raised £50,000. They have requested the maximum Area West capital grant of £12,500 towards the balance of the project costs

Table 2:

Funding Source	Amount	Status
Own Funds	£50,000	Confirmed
SSDC	£12,500	Conditional
Sport England/ Local Fundraising	£85,848	Pending
Total Project Cost	£148,348	

Assessment

Table 3

Category	Score	Maximum score
Eligibility	Y	
Target Groups	6	7
Project	4	5
Capacity of Organisation	14	15
Financial need	5	7
Innovation	2	3
TOTAL	31	37

The Community Development Officer has assessed the application and the project has reached an overall score of 31 as outlined in the table above. This application exceeds the minimum score required for funding to be considered.

Following the August 2012 conditional grant offer, the Association have continued to fundraise a further £14,152 towards their community centre with funds at present totalling £50,000. Further fundraising events are planned for the future.

An extension to the SSDC grant offer will demonstrate significant local support for this project to Sport England when they consider the resubmitted grant application.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the August 2012 provisional grant offer of £12,500 to Forton Community Association towards the Forton community centre project, be extended until March 2014. This will enable the Association to resubmit their grant application to Sport England.

Financial Implications

This grant has been ring-fenced from the existing budget and will be awarded subject to the conditions being met.

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)

The centre will have provision for cycle racks to encourage local use of bicycles. A community centre may also reduce car journeys to attend clubs and events elsewhere.

Equality and Diversity Implications

Forton Community Association has confirmed that disabled access and disabled toilet facilities will be provided. The Association will also work the SSDC Community Cohesion Officer and the South Somerset Disability Forum to inform the internal centre design for phase 2.

Background Papers: Community Grant Criteria

(www.southsomerset.gov.uk/communities/funding-for-your-group-or-project)

Grant applications on File

Area West Committee August 2012 Capital Grants
