



Area North Committee

Wednesday 14th April 2021

2.00 pm

A virtual meeting via Zoom meeting software

The following members are requested to attend this meeting:

Neil Bloomfield
Malcolm Cavill
Louise Clarke
Adam Dance

Mike Hewitson
Tim Kerley
Tiffany Osborne
Clare Paul

Crispin Raikes
Dean Ruddle
Mike Stanton
Gerard Tucker

There are no planning applications to consider this month.

Any members of the public wishing to address the virtual meeting at Public Question Time need to email democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk by 9.00am on Tuesday 13 April.

This meeting will be viewable online by selecting the committee meeting at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSDst3IHGj9WoGnwJGF_soA

For further information on the items to be discussed, please contact:
democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk

This Agenda was issued on Tuesday 6 April 2021.

Alex Parmley, *Chief Executive Officer*

**This information is also available on our website
www.southsomerset.gov.uk and via the mod.gov app**

Information for the Public

In light of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), Area North Committee will meet virtually via video-conferencing to consider and determine reports. For more details on the regulations regarding remote / virtual meetings please refer to the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 as part of the Coronavirus Act 2020.

Area North Committee

Meetings of the Area North Committee are usually held monthly, at 2.00pm, on the fourth Wednesday of the month (unless advised otherwise). However during the coronavirus pandemic these meetings will be held remotely via Zoom and the starting time may vary.

Agendas and minutes of meetings are published on the council's website at:
<http://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

Agendas and minutes can also be viewed via the mod.gov app (free) available for iPads and Android devices. Search for 'mod.gov' in the app store for your device, install, and select 'South Somerset' from the list of publishers, then select the committees of interest. A wi-fi signal will be required for a very short time to download an agenda but once downloaded, documents will be viewable offline.

Public participation at meetings (held via Zoom)

Public question time

We recognise that these are challenging times but we still value the public's contribution to our virtual meetings.

If you would like to address the virtual meeting during Public Question Time please email democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk by 9.00am on Tuesday 13 April. When you have registered, the Chairman will invite you to speak at the appropriate time during the virtual meeting.

The period allowed for participation in Public Question Time shall not exceed 15 minutes except with the consent of the Chairman and members of the Committee. Each individual speaker shall be restricted to a total of three minutes.

This meeting will be streamed online via YouTube at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSDst3IHGj9WoGnwJGF_soA

Virtual meeting etiquette:

- Consider joining the meeting early to ensure your technology is working correctly.
- Please note that we will mute all public attendees to minimise background noise. If you have registered to speak during the virtual meeting, the Chairman or Administrator will un-mute your microphone at the appropriate time. We also respectfully request that you turn off video cameras until asked to speak.
- Each individual speaker shall be restricted to a total of three minutes.
- When speaking, keep your points clear and concise.
- Please speak clearly – the Councillors are interested in your comments.

Planning applications (there are none for the April meeting)

It is important that you register your request to speak at the virtual meeting by emailing democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk by 9.00am on Tuesday 13 April. When you have registered, the Chairman will invite you to speak at the appropriate time during the virtual meeting.

Consideration of planning applications at this meeting will commence no earlier than the time stated at the front of the agenda and on the planning applications schedule. The public and representatives of parish/town councils will be invited to speak on the individual planning applications at the time they are considered.

Comments should be confined to additional information or issues, which have not been fully covered in the officer's report. Members of the public are asked to submit any additional documents to the planning officer at least 72 hours in advance and not to present them to the Committee on the day of the meeting. This will give the planning officer the opportunity to respond appropriately. Information from the public should not be tabled at the meeting. It should also be noted that, in the interests of fairness, the use of presentational aids (e.g. PowerPoint) by the applicant/agent or those making representations will not be permitted. However, the applicant/agent or those making representations are able to ask the planning officer to include photographs/images within the officer's presentation subject to them being received by the officer at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. No more than 5 photographs/images either supporting or against the application to be submitted. The planning officer will also need to be satisfied that the photographs are appropriate in terms of planning grounds.

At the committee chairman's discretion, members of the public are permitted to speak for up to three minutes each and where there are a number of persons wishing to speak they should be encouraged to choose one spokesperson to speak either for the applicant or on behalf of any supporters or objectors to the application. The total period allowed for such participation on each application shall not normally exceed 15 minutes.

The order of speaking on planning items will be:

- Town or Parish Council Spokesperson
- Objectors
- Supporters
- Applicant and/or Agent
- District Council Ward Member

In exceptional circumstances, the Chairman of the Committee shall have discretion to vary the procedure set out to ensure fairness to all sides.

Recording and photography at council meetings

Recording of council meetings is permitted, however anyone wishing to do so should let the Chairperson of the meeting know prior to the start of the meeting. The recording should be overt and clearly visible to anyone at the meeting, but non-disruptive. If someone is recording the meeting, the Chairman will make an announcement at the beginning of the meeting.

Any member of the public has the right not to be recorded. If anyone making public representation does not wish to be recorded they must let the Chairperson know.

The full 'Policy on Audio/Visual Recording and Photography at Council Meetings' can be viewed online at:

<http://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/documents/s3327/Policy%20on%20the%20recording%20of%20council%20meetings.pdf>

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Area North Committee

Wednesday 14 April 2021

Agenda

Preliminary Items

1. Apologies for absence

2. Declarations of Interest

In accordance with the Council's current Code of Conduct (as amended 26 February 2015), which includes all the provisions relating to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), personal and prejudicial interests, Members are asked to declare any DPI and also any personal interests (and whether or not such personal interests are also "prejudicial") in relation to any matter on the Agenda for this meeting.

Members are reminded that they need to declare the fact that they are also a member of a County, Town or Parish Council as a Personal Interest. Where you are also a member of Somerset County Council and/or a Town or Parish Council within South Somerset you must declare a prejudicial interest in any business on the agenda where there is a financial benefit or gain or advantage to Somerset County Council and/or a Town or Parish Council which would be at the cost or to the financial disadvantage of South Somerset District Council.

Planning Applications Referred to the Regulation Committee

The following members of this Committee are also members of the Council's Regulation Committee:

Councillors Neil Bloomfield, Malcolm Cavill, Adam Dance and Crispin Raikes.

Where planning applications are referred by this Committee to the Regulation Committee for determination, Members of the Regulation Committee can participate and vote on these items at the Area Committee and at Regulation Committee. In these cases the Council's decision-making process is not complete until the application is determined by the Regulation Committee. Members of the Regulation Committee retain an open mind and will not finalise their position until the Regulation Committee. They will also consider the matter at Regulation Committee as Members of that Committee and not as representatives of the Area Committee.

3. Date of next meeting

Councillors are requested to note that the next Area North Committee meeting is scheduled to be held at 2.00pm on **Wednesday 26 May** at 2.00pm – meeting arrangements to be confirmed.

4. Public question time

5. Chairman's announcements

6. Reports from members

Items for Discussion

- 7. Community Grant to Rama Life CIC Community Minibus - Get Petherton Moving! (Executive Decision)** (Pages 7 - 12)
- 8. Presentation on the Role of Scrutiny** (Page 13)
- 9. Area North Committee Forward Plan** (Pages 14 - 15)
- 10. Planning Appeals** (Page 16)

Please note that the decisions taken by Area Committees may be called in for scrutiny by the Council's Scrutiny Committee prior to implementation.

This does not apply to decisions taken on planning applications.

Agenda Item 7

Community Grant to Rama Life CIC Community Minibus - Get Petherton Moving! (Executive Decision)

Director: Kirsty Larkins, Director of Service Delivery
Manager: Tim Cook, Locality Manager
Lead Officer: Adrian Moore, Locality Officer
Contact Details: adrian.moore@southsomerset.gov.uk

Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant of £12,500 capital grant and revenue grant towards the purchase of a Community Minibus to assistance in providing Community Transport.

Public Interest

Awarding grants is a key way that SSDC supports and helps to deliver community projects sponsored by parishes and voluntary community organisations in the towns and villages across the district.

Rama Life Community Interest Company (CIC) has applied to the Area North Community Grants Programme for financial assistance with the purchase of a Community Minibus. The application has been assessed by the Locality Officer who is submitting this report to enable the Area North Committee to make an informed decision about the application.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors award a grant of £12,500 to Rama Life CIC, the grant to be allocated from the Area North Community Grants Programme towards the provision of a fully accessible, affordable Community Minibus for community transport, subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (Appendix A)

Application Details

Name of applicant:	Rama Life CIC
Project:	Community Minibus - Get Petherton Moving!
Total project cost:	£ 26,500
Amount requested from SSDC:	£ 12,500
Application assessed by:	Adrian Moore

Community Grants Assessment Score

The table below shows the grant scoring for this application. Applications must meet the minimum score of 22 to be considered for SSDC funding under Community Grants policies.

Category		Comments
A Supports Council Plan/Area Chapter	1	Yes
B Supports Equalities & Diversity	1	Yes
C Supports Environment Strategy	1	
D Need for Project	7	
E Capacity of Organisation	12	
F Financial need	5	
Total	27	

Background

Rama Life is a new venture in South Petherton who work with people of all ages, providing opportunities to learn, build skills and confidence and offering activities and discussion groups for young people outside of school. Their Ofsted registered holiday clubs provide childcare in a positive, fun and educational environment.

The objectives of the Company are to carry out activities which benefit the community and in particular to providing educational activities for young people and adults with the aim of building skills and improving self-confidence and self-esteem.

During their community work, Rama Life have identified the need for a fully accessible, Community Minibus to provide accessible, affordable transport which meets the needs of people in and around the South Petherton area. Residents who will utilise the affordable Community Minibus transport include Care Homes, Schools, Youth Clubs, Scouting, Guiding, Community Groups, Church Groups, Sporting Groups and more. Rama Life also hope to provide a scheme enabling isolated residents to be collected and taken to coffee mornings, social events, doctor's appointments, council meetings, etc.

Rama Life are excited to begin a Community Transport Project focusing on getting affordable transport to not-for-profit groups and organisations. The aims and objectives of the project are:

1. To provide the residents of South Petherton and the surrounding area with affordable community transport that will enable not-for-profit groups and organisations to travel for recreational purposes.
2. To help combat isolation by transporting people with limited mobility or who cannot access transport otherwise to be able to attend recreational activities.
3. To support the elderly or those with limited mobility to be able to access essential services.

Parish information

Parish	South Petherton
Parish population	Approximately 4,500
No. of dwellings	825

The Project

To purchase an affordable Community Minibus. The Minibus will be a lightweight 17 seater, with a disability ramp to aid wheelchairs users. It will have driver safety features such as parking sensors and hands-free connectivity.

The Community Minibus will be purchased by and run through Rama Life CIC as a not for profit enterprise. It will be based in South Petherton but will be available for hire by residents throughout Area North and when available across the District.

The Community Minibus will be able to be driven by those with a full driving licence, over the age of 21, who have been driving for at least five years. They will not require any additional driving categories, however, as per the hiring policy, drivers must have current experience of driving large vehicles or further training must be undertaken prior to hiring. This means the Community Minibus will have maximum accessibility as it will be fairly straightforward and low cost for groups to find an appropriate driver.

Local support / evidence of need

Rama Life have had confirmation from local Scouts, Care Homes, Brownies, Youth Clubs and Schools that these organisations would utilise a local affordable Community Minibus. This facility would enable them to increase arranged trips for their membership and would make it more affordable.

Rama Life have already made contact with many groups but will be visiting and emailing groups again once the Community Minibus has been purchased. There will be a website with all the details on and a dedicated email address and phone number for bookings. Residents will be able to find out about the Community Minibus via the website, Facebook page, local adverts in parish magazines, emails to schools and local flyers.

The recommendation to support a capital grant towards the purchase of a Community Minibus is made with the understanding that there is a wider piece of work being undertaken by SSDC regarding Community Transport as one of the Council Plan Priority Projects.

Council Plan 2019/20 – Priority Project 6 - “To assess options for improving community transport links”

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
Minibus Purchase	23,500
Road Tax	270
Motor Insurance	2,000
Deep Clean	130
Sign Writing	600
Total	26,500

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
South Petherton Parish Council	Secured	2,000
Parsonage Solar Farm	Secured	5,000
Reach	Secured	500
Go Fund Me	Secured	240
Rama Life Donation	Secured	260
South Petherton Enhancement Fund	Secured	3,000
Yarlington/Abri Homes	Secured	3,000
SSDC Community Grant	Pending	12,500
Total		£ 26,500

Rama Life plan to use funds from the Community Minibus hire to cover the regular service inspections, road tax, MOT and mechanical work needed with assistance from South Petherton Parish Council who have committed to supporting the project on an ongoing basis. Any funds needed beyond this to assist with the potential replacement of the minibus in the future will be done through traditional fund raising routes and by reaching out to the main organisations who hire it the most to include them in the fundraising.

Rama Life have full confidence in the success of this project. However, like a charity, Rama Life CIC have an 'asset lock', this means that if the business were to close at any point, all funds and assets would remain within the community by going, in this case, to South Petherton Scout Group.

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that a grant of £12,500 is awarded.

Financial implications

The balance in the Area North Capital Programme is £145,125. If the recommended grant of £12,500 is awarded, £11,000 will come out of the Capital Programme and £134,125 will remain. £1,500 will come from the Area North community grant (Revenue) programme. The balance is currently £10,680 and therefore £9,180 will remain.

Grants are awarded subject to all other funding being secured before the commencement of the project and are on a % basis of the full project costs. Payment of the grant cannot exceed the grant award and is proportionally reduced if full project costs are under budget.

Council Plan Implications

Focus 5: Health and Communities

To build healthy, self-reliant, active communities we will:

- Support communities so that they can identify their needs and develop local solutions
- Target support to areas of need
- Help people to live well by enabling quality cultural, leisure, play, sport & healthy lifestyle facilities & activities
- Work with partners to tackle health issues such as diabetes and hypertension and mental health
- Work with our partners to keep our communities safe

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications

Providing local access to a range of activities and services reducing the need to use multiple private cars to travel which therefore reduces carbon emissions.

Equality and Diversity Implications

Project helps enhance accessibility for all.

Key priorities for Area North - Area Chapter:

Healthy, Self-reliant Communities.

Background Papers

None.

Appendix A

Standard conditions applying to all SSDC Community Grants

The applicant agrees to:

- Notify SSDC if there is a material change to the information provided in the application.
- Start the project within six months of the grant offer and notify SSDC of any changes to the project or start date as soon as possible.
- Confirm that all other funding sources have been secured before starting the project, if these were not already in place at the time of the application.
Acknowledge SSDC assistance towards the project in any relevant publicity about the project (e.g. leaflets, posters, websites, and promotional materials) and on any permanent acknowledgement (e.g. plaques, signs etc.).
- Work in conjunction with SSDC officers to monitor and share the success of the project and the benefits to the community resulting from SSDC's contribution to the project.
- Provide a project update and/or supply before and after photos if requested.
- Supply receipted invoices or receipts which provide evidence of the **full** cost of the project so that the grant can be released.

Standard conditions applying to buildings, facilities and equipment

- Establish and maintain a “sinking fund” to support future replacement of the building / facility / equipment as grant funding is only awarded on a one-off basis.
- Use the SSDC Building Control Service when buildings regulations are required.
- Incorporate disabled access and provide an access statement where relevant.

Special conditions

- None

Agenda Item 8

Presentation on the Role of Scrutiny

<i>Director:</i>	<i>Nicola Hix, Strategy & Support Services</i>
<i>Lead Specialist:</i>	<i>Peter Paddon, Strategic Planning</i>
<i>Lead Officer:</i>	<i>Stephanie Gold (Specialist Scrutiny & Member Development)</i>
<i>Contact Details:</i>	<i>stephanie.gold@southsomerset.gov.uk</i>

Councillor Crispin Raikes, Chairman of Scrutiny Committee, along with the Vice-Chairs and Scrutiny Specialist will be attending Area North Committee to provide members with a presentation regarding the role of Scrutiny.

Agenda Item 9

Area North Committee – Forward Plan

Director: Nicola Hix, Strategy and Commissioning
Officer: Becky Sanders, Case Officer (Strategy & Commissioning)
Contact Details: becky.sanders@southsomerset.gov.uk

Purpose of the Report

This report informs Members of the Area North Committee Forward Plan.

Public Interest

The forward plan sets out items and issues to be discussed over the coming few months. It is reviewed and updated each month, and included within the Area North Committee agenda, where members of the committee may endorse or request amendments.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note and comment upon the Area North Committee Forward Plan as attached, and to identify priorities for any further reports.

Area North Committee Forward Plan

Members of the public, councillors, service managers, and partners may also request an item be placed within the forward plan for a future meeting, by contacting the Agenda Co-ordinator.

Items marked *in italics* are not yet confirmed, due to the attendance of additional representatives.

To make the best use of the committee, the focus for topics should be on issues where local involvement and influence may be beneficial, and where local priorities and issues raised by the community are linked to SSDC and SCC corporate aims and objectives.

Further details on these items, or to suggest / request an agenda item for the Area North Committee, please contact one of the officers named above.

Background Papers: None

Area North Committee Forward Plan

Further details on these items, or to suggest / request an agenda item for the Area North Committee, please contact the Agenda Co-ordinator; at democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk

Items marked in italics are not yet confirmed, due to the attendance of additional representatives.

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Background / Purpose	Lead Officer(s) SSDC unless stated otherwise
May '21	Area North – Area Chapter	Annual outturn report.	Locality Team Manager and/or Locality Team Leader
May '21	Community Infrastructure Levy Governance	An overview of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) governance required for SSDC to spend the strategic CIL funds.	Lead Specialist (Strategic Planning)
<i>TBC</i>	<i>Somerton Conservation Area</i>	<i>Report regarding the Somerton Conservation Area Appraisal and designation of extensions to the Conservation Area.</i>	<i>TBC</i>
<i>TBC</i>	<i>Community Grants</i>	<i>To consider any requests for funding.</i>	<i>TBC</i>

Agenda Item 10

Planning Appeals

Director: Kirsty Larkins, Service Delivery
Lead Officer: Barry James, Interim Planning Lead
Contact Details: barry.james@southsomerset.gov.uk

Purpose of the Report

To inform members of the appeals that have been lodged, decided upon or withdrawn.

Public Interest

The Area Chairmen have asked that a monthly report relating to the number of appeals received, decided upon or withdrawn be submitted to the Committee.

Recommendation

That members comment upon and note the report.

Appeals Lodged

None

Appeals Dismissed

None

Appeals Allowed

None