

Community Capital Grant Request (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

For members to consider requests for capital grants from Carymoor Environmental Centre, Castle Cary Moat Garden Committee, Henstridge Village Hall Management Committee and Sutton Montis Village Hall Committee.

Public Interest

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

Background

Community Capital Grant applications are considered twice a year in June and December. The next opportunity to consider applications will be at the Area East Committee meeting in June 2017.

Requests from community organisations for non-capital works are restricted to small grants with the upper limit of £1,000. A minimum amount of £100 has also been agreed. Capital projects requiring grants of between £500 and £1,000 can be dealt with at any time and are subject to Ward Member agreement.

Appendices A and B show the standard grants conditions used by SSSC and the policies under which all applications are assessed.

Recommendations

- 1) Members agree to extend the allocation to Galhampton Village Hall and the Castle Cary & Ansford Fairfield project for a further 6 months.
- 2) Members agree to top up the Community Capital Budget by £17,000 from the Parish Infrastructure budget.
- 3) Members agree a contribution of up to £6904 (36% of the total project costs) from the Community Capital Budget to Sutton Montis Village Hall Committee towards the refurbishment of Sutton Montis VH, subject to the standard conditions set out in appendix A
- 4) Members agree a contribution of up to £5800 (48% of the total project costs) from the Community Capital Budget to Castle Cary Moat Garden Committee towards the purchase of the Moat Garden, subject to undertaking an access audit and the standard conditions set out in appendix A; with funding released following exchange of contracts.
- 5) Members agree a contribution of up to £5326 (15% of the total project costs) from the Community Capital budget to Carymoor Environmental Centre towards the £35156 project, subject to the standard conditions set out in appendix A

- 6) Members agree a contribution of up to £1937 (41% of the total project costs) from the Community Capital Budget to Henstridge Village Hall towards the purchases of tables and chairs.

Extension of grant period for previous awards

SSDC policy is to award grants on the basis that the money is spent within 6 months.

Members will recall that an award of £12,500 was made in June 2012 towards a new hall for Galhampton. This allocation was last reconfirmed for a further 6 months at the June meeting. The group is now working on the final stage of the of the National Lottery Reaching Communities application process and if successful, will begin work on the hall early in 2017.

Members agreed to an award of £7920 towards the Fairfield project in Castle Cary at the meeting in June of this year. A bid to Viridor for a large grant towards the scheme was unsuccessful which has led to a delay. The group has continued efforts to raise the funds and has requested an extension for a further 6 months.

2016/17 Community Capital Budget

We have received applications for contributions totalling £18,063 for the December grants round. There is currently £2967 remaining in the Community Capital Budget. The AE budget summary (appendix C), shows that there is currently £24,971 ring fenced in the Parish Infrastructure Budget and £26,930 in the Community Planning Budget.

The Parish Infrastructure budget was established in order to support infrastructure projects that improve safety. Two schemes (Barton St David speed signs and Mudford SIDs) have been supported from this budget over the last five years. Officers consider that it is appropriate to reallocate some of this capital funding in order to support the applications in the December grants round.

Sutton Montis Village Hall Committee – Refurbishment of Sutton Montis Village Hall

Sutton Montis Village Hall Committee has applied for a grant towards urgent work to refurbish the hall.

Parish Precept information

Parish	South Cadbury
Parish population	284
No. of Households	140
Precept 16/17	£4420
Band D Charge 16/17	£30.05

The Project

Members may recall that in December 2012, Area East Committee agreed an award of up to £11,550 towards urgent repairs to the hall. The hall committee, responding to local views, decided to investigate the potential to extend the hall and have been working with specialists on a feasibility study. The Area East award was withdrawn and the funds returned to balances in anticipation of an application towards a more ambitious scheme.

Feasibility work identified that there is potential to provide a modest extension on the existing site and planning permission has been approved. The estimated cost of the extension was in excess of £140,000 and after further consultation, the hall committee has reached the conclusion that the cost is disproportionate to the benefit and has instead identified priority improvements to make the hall fit for purpose.

The users groups and the wider community have been consulted at each stage of the process.

The hall has continued to be the venue for a range of activities including two archeological talk evenings, a curry night, Italian supper night, Valentine's Day supper, Treasure Hunt, South African wine tasting evening, 4th July American Independence Day Quiz and supper, Cream teas and a bi-monthly coffee morning.

The building has continued to deteriorate over the last 4 years so much so that the committee feels that the repair work has to be the priority

A number of activities are not currently possible due to the state of the hall but are planned for when the repairs have been carried out. These include yoga, indoor light sports, bridge club and film nights. The full refurbishment remains an aspiration but a safe and comfortable hall is considered necessary to continue to raise funds for other work.

Some preliminary, investigative work has been started and the costs of this have been removed from the application as SSDC cannot fund retrospectively. The proposed work includes significant repairs to the south wall, the west wall, the entrance and porch and the provision of a new floor.

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

Category	Maximum score	Score
A Eligibility	Y/N	Y
B Equalities Impact	7	4
C Need for Project	5	4
D Capacity of Organisation	15	11
E Financial need	7	4
F Innovation	3	1
Total	37	24

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies. The application scores quite well in terms of need but the overall score is low due to the limited sources of funding and the fact that it is mainly focused on repair.

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Amount of Funding	Status
Parish Council	1% 11%	£200 £2000	Secured Applied for
SSDC (Area East)	36%	£6904	Applied for
Confirmed donations	4%	£800	Secured
Own Funds	48%	£9091	Secured
Total Scheme Cost	100%	£18996	

The group originally requested a little over £10,000. The lower recommended amount is due to the fact that some work has taken place, the Parish Council contribution was relatively small and the work does not significantly improve the facility beyond the necessary repairs. The group has requested a larger contribution from the Parish Council and this has improved the assessment score.

The hall committee has spent a considerable amount of hall funds on the feasibility study and planning application. The sources of funding are limited as very few funders will contribute towards this type of project.

Castle Cary Moat Garden Committee – Land Purchase

Castle Cary Moat Garden Committee has applied for a £5,800 grant towards purchasing the Moat Garden and securing the future use for the community.

Parish Precept information

Parish	Castle Cary
Parish population	3361
No. of Households	1648
Precept 16/17	117,744
Band D Charge 16/17	139.35

The Project

The Moat Garden is a small area of amenity space (under a quarter of an acre) on the edge of the historic hill fort minutes from the High Street in Castle Cary. Although the land itself is in private ownership, the area is used as a community garden/quiet space by local residents and the primary school. It has therefore benefited from a variety of grants over the years (including £500 from SSDC in 2009). The current owner acquired the site in 2007 and throughout this ownership a committed group of volunteers have improved and maintained the area. At the end of last year the owner indicated that she wished to sell and was seeking in excess of £15k.

In February 2016 an independent valuation was undertaken resulting in an assessed value of £12k. The owner has subsequently indicated a willingness to sell at this price.

A new management committee was formed and has subsequently gone on to establish a Community Interest Organisation which had its Charity Commission registration accepted in October. Subsequent to this a grant request for £5,800 has been approved by Garfield Weston Foundation to partially fund the purchase and some improvement works – total estimated cost for this and legal work is £12,900. A grant of £5,800 is sought from SSDC towards the acquisition with the residual money coming from the group's own funds which have been accrued through fundraising events and funding contributions from trusts and local businesses

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

Category	Maximum score	Score
A Eligibility	Y/N	Y
B Equalities Impact	7	3
C Need for Project	5	4
D Capacity of Organisation	15	10
E Financial need	7	4
F Innovation	3	2
Total	37	23

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies.

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Amount of Funding	Status
Parish/Town Councils	1%	£100	approved
SSDC (Area East)	48%	£5,800	Applied for
Garfield Weston Foundation	48%	£5,800	Secured
Other	3%	£300	Secured
Total Scheme Cost	100%	£12000*	

* acquisition cost only

Beyond normal fundraising activities, there is limited income generation potential from this site so a grant is recommended in preference to a loan.

Even though the site is challenging, it is suggested that an access audit may be able to suggest areas where access could be improved. Although this is an established community space, the group is very recently established which meant it was difficult for them to evidence need and the value the community places on this space. It is therefore suggested that it would be useful to undertake some user feedback over the coming year. This would also be helpful if they make applications for funding to other bodies in the future.

Our grants are usually paid retrospectively on production of receipted invoices, as this grant is for land acquisition it is suggested that funds should be released following exchange of contracts on request of the acting solicitor.

Carymoor Environmental Centre – ‘Going underground’ project

Carymoor Environmental Centre has applied for a grant of £5325.97 (15.1%) towards a £35155.97 ‘Going underground’ educational tunnel facility & project.

Parish Precept information

Parish	Cary Moor
Parish population	536 (based on 2011 Census)
No. of Households	234
Precept 16/17	£3,540
Band D Charge 16/17	£56.54

The Project

Carymoor Environmental Trust’s aim is to encourage waste reduction and increase recycling which is very much in line with South Somerset District Council aims of increasing recycling and protecting and enhancing the quality of the environment (Council Plan 2016-21).

Carymoor is committed to helping its visitors to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and to increase recycling, which benefits the environment, saves energy and reduces costs. Education is seen as the key to helping people to reduce waste and recycle more and to understand how their contribution helps.

Our nation sends a lot less waste into landfill than it used to – a triumph of government initiatives and the environmental movement. The Dimmer Landfill Site on which we are based is expected to stop operations in the near future. The waste will be entirely covered in clay and grass, and so the experience of seeing and genuinely understanding the extent of wastefulness in our society will disappear.

The project that Carymoor are seeking to develop is a tunnel that will show visitors what happens inside a landfill site and that will promote the ‘Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle’ message in a new and dynamic way.

Going underground will be a unique resource located behind the visitor centre at Carymoor and will give the impression that visitors are walking into an underground tunnel cut through the compacted waste of the landfill site.

This project will enable Carymoor to bridge the change in the land use of Dimmer Landfill Site, overcome this challenge and evolve. Establishing and promoting this new visitor attraction will mean we are to communicate the past history of the site, as well as current emerging technologies, and provide an inspirational and unique resource for our customers.

The Waste Tunnel is to be a simulation of tunnelling into the 15-metre thick landfill site, so visitors, most of whom are children, can experience the enormity of our society’s waste consumption and waste. The tunnel will give visitors a feel of what is buried inside a landfill and will show how what we throw away as a society has changed over time. The site opened in 1970 and is likely to close in 2017. The aim is to show how the attitudes to waste have changed and evolved during that period, from landfilling almost everything, through to the emergence of recycling, through to contemporary messages such as recovering energy from waste. There will be interpretation throughout the tunnel to highlight interesting facts to illustrate each decade of the site's operation and to show how reuse and recycling has gradually improved and attitudes have changed. The surfaces of the interior will be tactile and interactive and children will be asked to wear hard hats with miner’s lights so they can fully experience being underground!

Carymoor is visited by over 5000 people each year. This includes school children on visits, family groups for family activity days, community groups and their volunteer team who help with all aspects of our work. This project will provide a new resource for any visitors to experience and will help Carymoor to promote sustainability issues in an innovative way for the long term.

The Going Underground project has already been supported by a number of funders who have either pledged or given funds, including the Garfield Weston Foundation, an unnamed grant provider, Comply Direct, and SWP and Viridor. Castle Cary Parish Council have stated that they are supportive of the project but have declined to support with a local contribution. The SSDC grant would be the final piece in the funding and would enable the new bespoke project to start as soon as possible.

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

Category	Maximum score	Score
A Eligibility	Y/N	Y
B Equalities Impact	7	5
C Need for Project	5	3
D Capacity of Organisation	15	11
E Financial need	7	5
F Innovation	3	3
Total	37	27

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies.

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Amount of Funding	Status
Garfield Weston Foundation	21%	£7500	Secure
Unnamed grant provider	14%	£5000	Secure
Comply Direct	36%	£12330	Secure
SSDC (Area East)	15%	£5326	In Application
Viridor Credits	14%	£5000	Secure
Total Scheme Cost	100%	£35,156	

As well as provided a grant for the project Viridor will provide assistance in preparing the site (e.g. levelling the ground and clearing vegetation). Additionally Carymoor centre volunteers will provide their time to support the projects development.

Henstridge Village Hall – Chairs and Tables

Henstridge Village Hall Committee has applied for a grant of £1937 towards replacement chairs and tables.

Parish Precept information

Parish	Henstridge
Parish population	1814 (based on 2011 Census)
No. of Households	839
Precept 16/17	£34,463
Band D Charge 16/17	£51.95

The Project

The hall is described by local residents as a huge asset for parish and a natural hub for the local community. In 2015 the parish council have completed a refreshed plan for the parish that incorporates new facilities to the recreation ground but also access to the changing rooms and village hall facilities via a new patio and access path. In recent months the village hall committee have also reviewed their current facilities and have set in place a number of actions to improve accessibility and to develop the wider facilities providing more sustainability and comfort for individuals and user groups.

These actions include improved access to toilet facilities, actions to meet improved Disability Discrimination Act compliance such as a new hearing loop, improvements towards guttering and drainage on the exterior to the building and in the case of this application new seating and tables for the hall. This has meant that the village hall committee have had to think carefully about the grants providers they need to approach for various projects they have planned. This is why in the there is a lack of other grant providers highlighted within the application of this particular grant.

The project highlighted aims to purchase 120 new chairs and 27 tables (16 large, 11 small) to replace the current plastic chairs and old tables. A number of users groups include elderly member of the local community need new fit for purpose cushioned chairs (some with arms) to replace the current inadequate uncomfortable chairs and old tables. The new resources would support a large number of activities ranging from the weekly café, youth club, film nights, Women’s Institute, art groups, bridge club, carer groups, stay & play mother and toddler group, craft fairs and hobby groups, IT training courses and family history groups to name just a few.

Once purchased, the resources will enable the village hall users have fit for purpose, comfortable furniture to not only support the activities that they participate in but also enable the hall to be more attractive for hire, to be used further as a community hub for local residents as well as support local parish social events and celebrations.

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

Category	Maximum score	Score
A Eligibility	Y/N	Y
B Equalities Impact	7	4
C Need for Project	5	4
D Capacity of Organisation	15	9
E Financial need	7	5
F Innovation	3	3
Total	37	25

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies.

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Amount of Funding	Status
Parish Council	17%	£750	Applied for
SSDC (Area East)	41%	£1937	Applied for
Own Funds	42%	£2,000	Secured
Total Scheme Cost	100%	£4867	

All other funding has been secured. The project can proceed immediately if Area East funding is agreed.

Financial Implications

If members agree recommendations 1 & 2 as set out at the beginning of the report, there will be £19,967 in the Community Capital budget for allocation at this meeting. £7971 will remain ring-fenced for Parish Infrastructure projects.

If Members agree recommendations 3,4,5 & 6, the balance in the Community Grant Capital budget will be £0.

Corporate Priority Implications

All projects help to 'maintain and enhance the South Somerset network of leisure and cultural facilities, optimising opportunities for external funding to promote healthy living.'
(Focus Four: Health & Communities)

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications

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

Equality and Diversity Implications

All projects help enhance accessibility for all. In each of the projects the Neighbourhood development officers have advised the community groups to obtain an access audit for the venue, providing them with expert advice on how to make their community facility more accessible and user friendly.
