

## **Grant to William Blake Memorial Hall Management Committee (Executive Decision)**

*Service Managers:* Helen Rutter, Communities Lead & Sara Kelly, Area Development Lead (North)  
*Lead Officer:* Chereen Scott, Neighbourhood Development Officer (North)  
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### **Purpose of the Report**

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant towards the costs of refurbishment work to the Blake Hall in South Petherton to improve the toilets, create a fully accessible toilet and incorporate access to these facilities for the public.

### **Public Interest**

The William Blake Memorial Hall Management Committee has applied for financial assistance from the Area North community grants programme. The application has been assessed by the Neighbourhood Development Officer who has submitted this report to allow the Area North Committee to make an informed decision on the application.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that councillors award a grant of £5,000 to the William Blake Hall Management Committee, the grant to be allocated from the Area North capital programme (Local Priority Schemes), subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (appendix A).

### **Application Details**

Name of applicant	William Blake Memorial Hall Management Committee
Project	Blake Hall South Petherton public conveniences
Total project cost	£28,000
Amount requested from SSDC	£5,000
Application assessed by	Chereen Scott, Neighbourhood Development Officer

### **Community Grants Assessment Score**

The table below shows the grant scoring for this application. In order to be considered for SSDC funding under the Community Grants policies, applications need to meet the minimum score of 22.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Actual Score</b>	<b>Maximum score possible</b>
A Eligibility	Y	Y
B Equalities Impact	6	7
C Need for project	5	5
D Capacity of Organisation	13	15
E Financial need	3	5
F Innovation	3	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>37</b>

## Background

Currently there are no public conveniences in the village of South Petherton.

The Parish Council has undertaken an appraisal concerning new public conveniences. The local view was that the location needed to be either within or close to the village centre where most activity involving residents, shoppers and tourists takes place. The Blake Hall has been identified as a suitable location however the existing provision will need to be refurbished to provide public access and an accessible toilet that complies with regulations.

The Blake Hall is a registered charity managed by the William Blake Memorial Hall Management Committee, (registered with The Charity Commission number 304631). The object of the Charity is to provide and maintain a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of South Petherton and neighborhood.

The Parish Council act as custodian Trustees of the Blake Hall. The South Petherton Sports and Social Club lease the ground floor of the building where the toilets are located.

The Parish Council, Blake Hall Management Committee and Blake Hall Sports and Social Club formed a working group to look at how they can deliver publicly accessible toilets within the Blake Hall building. South Petherton Sports and Social Club has agreed to manage the publicly accessible toilets.

## Parish Information

Parish*	South Petherton
Parish Population*	3,367
No. of dwellings*	1,637

\*Taken from the 2011 census profile

## The project

The project is to refurbish the existing toilets in the Blake Hall in South Petherton to incorporate access for the general public.

An access review of the building has been carried out by Access For All and recommendations were provided for the refurbishment works and these have been taken forward with this project. The refurbishment works will include some reconfiguration of internal space and doorways, increasing passage width to create a turning circle for wheelchair access, installing a fixed ramp, new flooring, a new accessible toilet, refurbishment of existing toilets and a security access system at the entrance door.

The public conveniences will be inside the building which will provide appropriate security and protection against vandalism.

## Local support and evidence of need

The South Petherton Parish Plan (2007) identified a need for public conveniences, and this need was highlighted again in the Parish Plan review (2015) and the recent Neighbourhood Plan submission.

A publicly accessible toilet in the Blake Hall has wide support and will provide an amenity for the village as a whole (and visitors).

## Project Costs

Fixtures and fittings	£13,500
Labour and skip costs	£10,100
Security and access (doors, cameral and intercom system)	£3,000
Contingency	£1,400
<b>Total project cost</b>	<b>£28,000</b>

## Funding Plan

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Funds secured</b>
Parish Council	£15,000
Own funds	£5,000
South Petherton Sports & Social Club (SPSSC)	£3,000
<b>Total secured</b>	<b>£23,000</b>
Amount requested from SSDC	£5,000

## Consents and permissions

A building regulation application is being submitted to SSDC.

## Conclusion and Recommendation

This application is for £5,000 which represents 18% of the total project costs. The level of local funding committed to the project evidences strong local support. The Management Committee is committed to working with the Sports and Social Club to deliver this project.

It is recommended that this application for £5,000 is supported subject to all necessary statutory permissions and licences in place.

## Financial Implications

The balance in the Local Priority Project: Enhancing Facilities and Services budget is £9,304. If the recommended grant of £5,000 is awarded, £4,304 will remain. The Area North Capital Programme also has an uncommitted balance of £154,655.

## Council Plan Implications

The project supports:

SSDC Plan: Health & Communities: Support at least 50 community projects (H); Environment: Enabling energy reduction (M)

Area North Development Plan priority: Self-help and community facilities.

## Carbon Emissions & Climate Change Implications

None specifically relevant to this report.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

The improvements will provide the village with a public convenience that meets the current standards for accessibility. Access for All fully supports this application and has advised on the final plans.

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## Appendix A

### Standard conditions applying to all Community Grants.

This grant offer is made based on the information provided in application form no. AN17/14 and represents 18% of the total project costs. The grant will be reduced if the costs of the total project are less than originally anticipated. Phased payments may be made in exceptional circumstances (e.g. to help with cash-flow for a larger building project) and are subject to agreement.

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 this 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 if this was not already in place at the time of the application and before starting the project.
- 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 where buildings regulations are required.
- Incorporate disabled access and provide an access statement where relevant.

### Special Condition

- All statutory permissions and licences must be in place.