

## Grant to Speke Hall, Dowlish Wake (Executive Decision)

*Director:* Martin Woods, Director of Service Delivery  
*Manager / Lead Specialist:* Tim Cook, Locality Manager  
*Lead Officer:* Adrian Moore, Locality Officer  
*Contact Details:* adrian.moore@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462409

### Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant of £10,000 towards the costs of refurbishing the new kitchen and car park improvements for The Speke Hall Dowlish Wake.

### 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 Area West.

The Speke Hall Committee has applied to the Area West community grants programme for financial assistance with the costs of kitchen and car park improvements at The Speke Hall, Dowlish Wake. The application has been assessed by the Locality Officer who is submitting this report to enable the Area West Committee to make an informed decision about the application.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors award a grant of £10,000 to The Speke Hall, the grant to be allocated from the Area West capital programme and subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (appendix A)

### Application Details

Name of applicant:	The Speke Hall
Project:	Kitchen & Car Park Improvements
Total project cost:	£30,807
Amount requested from SSDC:	£10,000 (32.5%)
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	Actual score	Maximum score possible
A Eligibility	Y	Y/N
B Equalities Impact	5	7
C Need for project	5	5
D Capacity of organisation	14	15
E Financial need	5	7
F Innovation	2	3
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>37</b>

## Background

The Speke Hall in Dowlish Wake is an intrinsic part of local rural community life and used all year round by villagers and people from the 9 nearby conurbations, farms and isolated houses. The building is over 170 years old and Grade 2 Listed.

The car park (a sloping and predominantly grass area) had two ash trees in the middle, both of which suffered Ash Die-back Disease and have been recently felled. The car park surface now needs to be repaired which has led to the opportunity for re-landscaping and provision of a larger weatherproof surface to be laid.

The kitchen is in an existing extension to the rear of the hall. It has suffered from water ingress and its roof has recently been renewed. The old kitchen is badly designed for the many events that the committee provides and cannot now meet the standards that today's users require. Users of the hall's new kitchen will benefit from being able to use more modern and efficient catering equipment in a safer environment with purpose-made fume extraction.

The Speke Hall offers a single, highly flexible space with tables, seating and a raised dais, suitable for a multiplicity of uses. These include; musical performances, recitals, exercise classes, dancing, wedding and birthday celebrations, wakes, breakfasts, banquets, meetings, bridge/whist drives, BBQs and the like. It is a proven venue for a range of social functions, including community based, church based and privately sponsored events. It is used for the general welfare of the inhabitants of Dowlish Wake and its immediate rural communities without distinction of sex, race, political, religious or other opinions.

The Hall is used as a polling station and is also declared as available to be used as emergency accommodation in the event of any such need. Notwithstanding it being Listed Grade 2 it is provided with a ramp for wheelchair access and 'disabled' toilets. The kitchen is also accessible by wheelchair users.

Upgrading the kitchen facilities and car-parking will enhance the capability and appeal of The Speke Hall and enable it to realise its full potential to the benefit of this widespread rural community.

## Parish information

Parish*	Dowlish Wake
Parish Population	277
No. of dwellings	134

\*Taken from the 2011 census profile

## The project

The plan for the kitchen provides for improved storage and layout with two hobs complete with ovens and fume extraction. A new non slip floor is to be laid. White goods will comprise plumbed in boiling water heater, rapid cycle dishwasher, fridge-freezer and combination microwave.

Following the removal of the diseased Ash tree it is planned to increase the area of hard-standing for the provision of a better parking surface. This will provide grip in all weather conditions thereby improving the safer use of the car park by all users especially those with reduced mobility. It is intended to have a number of parking bays especially for Blue Badge Holders convenient to both the church and the hall as they are adjacent.

The Management Committee will be involved with running the project having initially drawn up the specification. The professional skills and qualifications held by the committee are well suited to managing a project of this size. The prime contractor will be involved in the day to day management as part of the installation contract.

### Local support / evidence of need

Many user groups have requested more modern and more efficient kitchen facilities and improved parking facilities

Plans for the new kitchen and car park improvements have been made available to the community for several months and there have been no unfavourable comments or remarks.

The project will be promoted on the Dowlish Wake Village web-site showing the new facilities and as happens now - provides links for hiring the facilities.

A social event is planned to formally introduce the 'WISH' project to the village and surrounding conurbations. (WISH = Works Improving Speke Hall).

Publicity of this project and all events are placed in our parish magazine each month and is circulated to 1028 homes.

### Project costs

<b>Project costs</b>	<b>Cost £</b>
Kitchen Units	7,500
White Goods	3,000
Building and fitting including electricity supplies	11,889
Car Park Resurface	8,418
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,807</b>

### Funding plan

<b>Funding source</b>	<b>Secured or pending</b>	<b>% of Total cost</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
Parish Council	Yes	1.6%	500
Own funds	Yes	14.0%	4,307
St Andrews Church	Yes	11.4%	3,500
Wessex Water	Yes	8%	2,500
Big Lottery	Yes	32.5%	10,000
Gannett Foundation	Pending (Unlikely)		0
SSDC Community Grant	Pending	32.5%	10,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>£30,807</b>

Application pending to Gannett Foundation but unlikely to be awarded, however, if awarded then SSDC funding can be reduced accordingly.

### Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that a grant of £10,000 is awarded.

## **Financial implications**

The balance in the Area West Capital programme is £113,563. If the recommended grant of £10,000 is awarded, £103,563 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**

### **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
- Help people to live well by enabling quality cultural, leisure, play, sport & healthy lifestyle facilities & activities

## **Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications**

Use of modern kitchen facilities to reduce electricity consumption and carbon footprint

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

The project aims to provide for people across all age and interest groups in the local community.

## **Background Papers**

None

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## 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.