

Community Grant to Horton Parish Council Playing Field Project (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant of £12,500 towards the purchase of play equipment, safety surfacing, multi-use sports wall, paths and landscaping to Horton Parish Council for The Horton Playing Field Project.

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.

Horton Parish Council has applied to the Area West Community Grants Programme for financial assistance with the purchase of play equipment, safety surfacing, multi-use sports wall, paths and landscaping at Horton Playing Field. 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 £12,500 to Horton Parish Council for The Horton Playing Field Project, the grant to be allocated from the Area West Community Grants Programme and subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (Appendix A).

Application Details

Name of applicant:	Horton Parish Council
Project:	The Horton Playing Field Project; purchase of play equipment, safety surfacing, multi-use sports wall, paths and landscaping at Horton Playing Field.
Total project cost:	£32,258
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	2	
D Need for Project	8	
E Capacity of Organisation	12	
F Financial need	5	
Total	29	

Background

The project need came to light in late 2017 when a collective group of villagers approached Horton Parish Council to see what could be done about the tired, uninspiring & overgrown Village Playing Field which comprised rusted swings, a rotted out picnic bench, a broken toddler multi frame, an overgrown playing pitch with rusted goal posts & a skate park in a bad state of repair. In April 2018 with the support of the Horton Parish Council, a volunteer group set about to make the Playing Field a vibrant new space that embraces and enhances the spirit of the community - The Horton Playing Field Project (HPFP) was born.

Parish information

Parish	Horton
Parish populations	Approximately 850

The Project

The aim of the project is to create a well maintained playing field, outdoor play and green space to encourage all of the community to increase their participation in active recreation, improve their personal wellbeing and enjoy the outdoor environment.

The objective is to create a community resource for residents that is efficient to maintain & delivers a long lasting recreation and play area. This will include:

- Walking / cycle trail for the younger children and the elderly to use.
- Pre-school age toddler sensory area to stimulate learning and safe play.
- Climbing multi-frame for school age children to help promote play and make contact with each other.



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- Exercise equipment for all villagers, particularly adults and the elderly to improve their health and fitness.
- Utilize the football pitch for various ball games including a multi-use sports wall to encourage football, hockey and basketball for families and small local community groups.
- Maintain the existing skate park to facilitate confidence and self-esteem.
- Provide a beautiful landscaped area with natural plantings, seating, picnic tables, BBQ's, and grassy mounds creating a natural playground for all to enjoy and appreciate.

Local support / evidence of need

The Project committee set about consulting with the community via a number of channels, to see what the village wanted & needed. The support was over whelming - the community needed an accessible attractive playing field that facilitates & inspires play and active recreation for all generations. The initial fundraising event, a community breakfast, saw over 145 villagers attend. Feedback forms were obtained. A community survey was carried out to gain additional feedback and an Easter Egg Hunt held to engage the younger generations input. Drawings / feedback / surveys were received on what the children wanted, as well as their carers. To gain further feedback and ideas Committee members presented at various community group meetings to gain valuable insight from all sectors of the community including the Ding Gardening Club, the Horton Parish Hall Committee, The Horton Ramblers, the Horton & Broadway Toddler Group, The Horton and Broadway Parish Church Committee.

During this process more fundraising events were held to seek further consultations and feedback as to the design and needs of the community. Once the community support was realised, the Committee members and villagers met formally to propose various designs. A consultation day was held at the Post Office and four further events to refine & vote on the design. In November 2018 the proposed design was presented to a full Parish Council and open public forum with unanimous support for the inclusive design. There have been regular updates and events to promote the project and keep the village informed on progress.

The local school with has over 120 students, and the village has quite a few families that have children that attend schools in Ashill, Combe St Nicholas, Taunton and Wellington that all try to use the playing field regularly. The local Pre-schools and day care nurseries also use the playing field (they are especially keen for the bike / access track and multi-use sports wall), and a local group uses the playing field for 'After Work Fitness' classes and a local 'Walking Football' group for the over 60's is extremely keen to use the playing field. By enhancing the facilities it will further encourage others to come and enjoy the space.

The project is publicised through social networks; (Facebook, Twitter & the HPFP Website), a hand delivered Project Newsletter (500 home circulation), the Horton Gazette Newsletter and Project posters throughout the local area all allow engagement with the wider community. There are bi-monthly updates to the Parish Council &

community groups including the Village Hall Committee, the Parish Church Committee, Neroche School (via their newsletter) and the Toddler Groups. All major news items are covered by the Chard & Ilminster Press.

The Project utilises many platforms to promote and engage the community, and this will continue throughout the Project, and long after the completion of the various stages. The Project Group social pages, newsletters, posters, School & Village newsletters, regular community group meeting presentations and Parish Council reports will continue. They provide a unique platform to engage with villagers directly and those from neighbouring local villages. The Project has committed to running a minimum four events each year to help cover the costs for maintenance of the field, equipment and updating the facilities as needed.

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
Entrance area	1,729
Nest swing including matting	4,337
Multi-use sports wall including goal posts installation	6,644
Self-binding Gravel Path Including installation & Grass mounds	5,313
Toddler area – roundabout, seesaw and trim trail item	14,235
Total	32,258

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Horton Parish Council	Secured	6,000
Horton Playing Field Funds	Secured	9,515
Co-op Community Grant	Secured	1,243
Clarks Foundation	Pending	2,500
Somerset County Council Improving Lives Grant	Secured	500
SSDC	Pending	12,500
Total		32,258

Conclusion and Recommendation

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

Financial implications

If the community grant to Ilchester Hall, Chiselborough is awarded the balance in the Area West capital programme will be £105,182. If the recommended grant to Horton Playing Field project of £12,500 is awarded the balance in the Area West capital programme will be £92,682.

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 3: Environment

To keep South Somerset clean, green and attractive we will work in partnership to:

- Promote recycling and minimise waste
- Promote the use of 'green' technology
- ***Maintain and promote access to our Country Parks and open spaces to promote good mental and physical health***
- ***Keep streets and neighbourhoods clean and attractive***
- Continue to support long term flood resilience
- Promote a high quality built environment in line with Local Plan policies
- Support communities to develop and implement local, parish and neighbourhood plans

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

Key priorities for Area West - Area Chapter: Healthy, Self-reliant Communities

- To improve pitch provision in Area West and particularly in Chard.

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