

Community Capital Grant Request (Executive Decision)

Portfolio Holder: Mike Best - Health and Well-being
Service Manager: Tim Cook, Locality Team Manager
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Purpose of the Report

Members are asked to consider the awarding of a capital grant to Charlton Adam Parish Council towards assistance in funding the Project Charlton's new play area at the Charltons Memorial Playing Field.

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 East.

Recommendations

Members agree:

- a grant of up to £12,226 (23.5% of total project cost) awarded from the Area East Capital Programme towards the provision of new Play Area at the Charlton's Memorial Playing Field.

Report

Project Charltons is a working group of the Parish Council approved in April 2019 to undertake the planning and fundraising activities for the refurbishment of the playground on its behalf. The Charltons Memorial Playing field is a large, valued and well used field in the middle of the two villages and currently includes a very worn out and unsafe children's play area.

The aim of the Project Charltons group is to redevelop a new play area within closer proximity of the Community Hall, so it can be more accessible by people using the hall such as playgroups and children's parties. The new play area aims to be a fun, safe and inclusive play area for a wide age range of children.

Since the working group was established they have carried out extensive public consultation to understand local needs and aspirations. Plans for the new play area have been developed with the support of SSDC's Locality Team, who have also given extensive guidance and support to the project over the last one and a half years. The applicant has developed a deliverable project, tested the market for the goods and services required and has secured significant external funding.

Parish Precept information

Parish	(2011 Census)
Parish population	1070
No. of households	506
Precept 2020/21	£15,500

The Project

The proposal is to relocate the play area to an area of the recreation ground that is closer to the Community Hall, which will improve accessibility for all. A master plan for the play area has been developed (see appendix A) and this is the first phase of the plan to establish many of the principle items of play equipment.

The group aims to carry on fundraising and gradually expand the range of equipment available. This planned approach ensures the ongoing development of the site has been future proofed.

The proposed new play equipment that would be funded as part of this grant application is set out in Table 1.0.

Description	Cost
Contractor Preliminaries	£685
Demolition of old play area	£2,478
HAGS Play 2.4m Olympic Swing, 1 bay, 2 Flat Seats (Product Code: SW0242(008))	£2,658
HAGS Play 2.4m Olympic Basket Swing + 2 Cradle Seat Extension Frame (Product Code: SWO24B2(008))	£5,226
Agility Trail including Inclined Balance Weaver, Log Walk Weaver, Balance Beam and Logwalk	£3,420
Playdale Playgrounds Little Hamlet Merrymeet plus including 3 no roofs green plastic slide (Product Code: QLTHMER006)	£16,228
Playdale Playgrounds Congo Climbing Unit (Product Code: JC/CON/S)	£12,316
Sutcliffe Play South West Discus Roundabout (Product Code: SW950)	£4,030
Professional Fees, Contract Management	£5,185
Total	£52,226

Table 1.0

The costs set out in Table 1.0 are the result of a competitive procurement process that tested the market and include the supply, installation and safety surfacing of the equipment.

The group employed the professional services of the local company Slade Parry Quantity Surveyors to assist them with the procurement process and they plan to employ them to carry out the remaining project and contract management. The company selected to carry out the works is Play UK (Playgrounds) Ltd a local company based in Somerset.

Local support / evidence of need

The redevelopment of the play area was identified in the Village Plan completed in 2017. In the summer of 2019 every single household in the village was consulted about the plans through a questionnaire in the Village News.

Additionally, all the children in the local C of E Primary school completed a questionnaire and the young people from the youth club also completed forms. According to the group, the feedback was extremely positive with a large response and many ideas being shared. The feedback was displayed at the Village Day in July 2019 and more feedback was received that has helped develop these proposals.

In 2015 a Play Area Audit was carried out by SSDC and found the existing facilities were in need of significant improvement.

The district councils formally adopted Play Policy has the overarching aim of “*improving the quality and quantity of play opportunities in South Somerset*” and it is considered that this application would positively contribute towards this policy aim.

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

Category	Max score available	Officer assessment score
A Supports Council Plan/Area Chapter	1	1
B Supports Equalities & Diversity	1	1
C Supports Environment Strategy	3	3
D Need for Project	10	10
E Capacity of Organisation	15	15
F Financial need	7	6
Total	37	36

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

Funding

Funding Sources	% funding	Amount of Funding	Status
Charlton Adam Parish Council	19%	£10,000	Secured
Viridor	57.5%	30,000	Secured
SSDC Grant	23.5%	£12,226	Applied for
Total		£52,226	

Overall the project meets the aims and objectives of our community grants scheme, will provide long lasting improvements to a valuable community resource and therefore the officer's recommendation is to approve the application subject to conditions.

Financial Implications

There is currently £71,331 uncommitted Capital in Area East Capital Programme.

If Members choose to support the recommendations contained in this report, it will mean that there is £59,105 remaining in the Capital in Area East Capital Programme.

Grants are awarded subject to all other funding being secured before the commencement of the project and are on a 23.5% 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

Supporting this grant application will contribute towards the following elements of the Council Plan:

Focus 3: Environment

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

Maintain and promote access to our Country Parks and open spaces to promote good mental and physical health.

Focus 5: Health and Communities

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

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

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications

Providing local access to a village play area reduces the need to travel long distances, therefore reduces carbon emissions.

Equality and Diversity Implications

This project will support the ongoing sustainability of the Village Hall and the Playing Field as a community resource for all.
