

## Community Grant to North Perrott Cricket Club

*Director:* Netta Meadows, Director of Service Delivery  
*Manager / Lead Specialist:* Tim Cook, Locality Manager  
*Lead Officer:* Adrian Moore  
*Contact Details:* [adrian.moore@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:adrian.moore@southsomerset.gov.uk) or 01935 462409

### Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant of £10,750 towards the purchase an All-Weather Two-Lane TP365 Cricket Net System at North Perrott Cricket Club (NPCC).

### 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.

North Perrott Cricket Club has applied to the Area West Community Grants Programme for financial assistance with the purchase of an All-Weather Two-Lane TP365 Cricket Net System. 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 a grant of £10,750 be awarded to North Perrott Cricket Club, 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:	North Perrott Cricket Club (NPCC)
Project:	Purchase of an All-Weather Two-Lane TP365 Cricket Net System
Total project cost:	£ 40,943
Amount requested from SSDC:	£10,750
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	1	
D Need for Project	7	
E Capacity of Organisation	11	
F Financial need	6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	

## Background

NPCC is an Idyllic village cricket club on the Somerset/Dorset border and is proud to have played cricket at its Willis Lane ground for over 60 years. It is widely acknowledged as having one of the finest playing surfaces in the South West of England. The ground was levelled and a wicket laid soon after the Second World War. NPCC began using the ground in 1946 and in 1993 the club purchased the ground from the private land owner, thanks in part to an anonymous sponsor, and a grant from the Sports and Arts Foundation. Becoming owners of the ground, the club sought to build a pavilion, and after considerable fund-raising the pavilion was built and officially opened in the 2000 season. A couple of years later, the club built a new score-hut and in 2004 upgraded it to an electronic scoreboard.

Until recently NPCC enjoyed complimentary use of the local Perrott Hill School cricket nets for their practice sessions. However, changes within the school has resulted in NPCC now being charged to use the school facilities, which is not financially sustainable for the club on a long term basis.

NPCC have a good membership of all ages and their facilities are available to all sexes and abilities. During the summer, practice nights are Tuesdays and Thursdays for Seniors, and Fridays for Juniors. In normal years, NPCC host 'All Stars' which is an introduction to cricket programme initiative promoted by the England Cricket Board (ECB). The senior players are qualified and competent coaches, and they deliver this 'All Stars' programme for children from age 5yrs, with over 50 children regularly participating.

The club hosts Dorset County Cricket Club in both 1-day and 3-day minor counties games as well as ECB Women's County Cricket, junior County Teams and both Somerset & Dorset with over 50 County matches.

The Club has developed from its origins as the Squire's XI to a thriving integrated club with positive development for women and girls. There are several women and girls participating alongside their male peers. A young woman, inspired to play cricket by watching her elder brother train at North Perrott, is now a regular in the First XI Team and has been part of the Somerset Women's Cricket squad.

NPCC runs 3 Saturday XI's, a Sunday league, a Friendly XI and Junior cricket from Under 8 through to under 16 age groups and compete at an extremely high level for a village club. In this shortened 2020 season NPCC reached the semi-final stage of The National Village Cup. One of the last four clubs in the country competing to reach the Final played at Lords.

The First XI Team compete against Taunton, Bath & Bristol Cricket Clubs. Despite this year's restrictions the 1st and 2nd XI teams managed to win their respective 'Bubble Leagues' and the 3rd XI cricket continued to be available throughout the shortened season. The Youth Teams at U12, U14 and U15 also managed to get some of their games in and all the NPCC Teams achieved a high-standard of match-play throughout.

## Parish information

Parish	North Perrott
Parish population	Approximately 250

## The Project

The aim of the project is to install an All-Weather Two-Lane TP365 Cricket Net System practice facility at the ground. This will allow the club to provide more cricket training and coaching for all ages in a safe environment, and allow NPCC to accommodate the growing number of cricketers living in and around the North Perrott area.

The new nets will improve the quality of training and provide a better degree of safety, particularly when younger players are using them. Two nets will allow the club to differentiate between players of different abilities and reduce competition for net time. Increased capacity will allow adult and junior teams to practice at similar times, allowing older youth members to stay-on and practice with adults if desired, and for adults to engage with the youth training.

## Local support / evidence of need

NPCC rely heavily on Volunteers throughout the community to support the success of the club and are always actively seeking additional support. The ground is located at the heart of the community and provides an informal place for families to meet and play and for community groups to use. The new nets will allow for ad-hoc net sessions organised by individual groups of people outside of club sessions.

To enable NPCC players to compete at the level they do, they must have access to good training facilities. Most Clubs in their Leagues and other village Clubs now have these All-Weather Training Facilities. NPCC are the only Club playing in the West of England Premier League Two that does not have them.

The Senior Players start training in December and the Youth section after Christmas. They would normally use a local school sports hall but with the Covid 19 restrictions this is unlikely to be possible. It is imperative for this coming season to have an outdoor facility they can use. Taking into consideration contractors lead-times and any further Covid 19 restrictions it is unlikely to have the facility installed until at least January/February 2021, only two months before pre-season matches are scheduled.

A marketing plan has been developed for the project to utilise the experience of existing members to gain local, regional, newspaper and radio coverage and other media coverage including Twitter feed and Facebook. The club's website will also publicise the new facilities.

## Project costs

<b>Project costs</b>	<b>Cost £</b>
All Weather Two-Lane TP365 Cricket Net System	40,943
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,943</b>

## Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Sponsorship (Local Business)	Secured	4,680
Parish Council & Village Group	Secured	1,100
Somerset Community Fund	Secured	1,000
Own Funds	Secured	4,013
The Tony Coles Trust (incorporating The Harry Burden Trust)	Secured	5,000
Sports England	Secured	14,400
SSDC Community Grant	Pending	10,750
Section 106 Contributions	Not Available	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>£ 40,943</b>

The beautiful Ground and pristine Pavilion are a blessing and a curse. Everyone who comes to the Ground prides NPCC on their facility. But looks can be deceiving. NPCC are not a wealthy club, the facility is run entirely by Volunteers, who work tirelessly through-out the year, not just in the cricket season, but to also raise the funds needed for the club to survive.

In 2020 none of the normal Fund-Raising Activities were able to go ahead. The shortened playing season due to the Covid 19 pandemic severely restricted the Club's income. The Club expected to host the following fund-raising activities in 2020:

- Church Fete
- Parrett Challenge
- Beer & Cider Festival
- Fireworks Night
- There was a scheduled cricket match between Dorset County CC & Hampshire County CC on 17th July that would have had spectators and generated surplus funds

The North Perrott village community and Parish Council are incredibly supportive of NPCC. The Parish Council Chairman has written a letter of support for this project. He explains in his letter to NPCC that the Parish Council would like to contribute more money but are unable to with such a small budget and extremely high overheads that include village infrastructure such as the village hall, maintenance of the graveyard and having only recently raised £1,200 from local businesses to enable the purchase of a Speed Indicator Device. As a further demonstration of their support a small group of Villagers have pledged to top-up the Parish Council donation by a £1,000.

## Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that a grant of £10,750 is awarded

## Financial implications

The balance in the Area West Capital programme is £63,802. If the recommended grant of £10,750 is awarded, £53,052 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**

### **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.**

## **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

- None