

Community Grant to South Petherton Bowls Club (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 All Ability Accessible Toilets, Clubhouse Extension & Storage Facilities.

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.

South Petherton Bowls Club has applied to the Area North Community Grants Programme for financial assistance with the purchase of All Ability Accessible Toilets, Clubhouse Extension & Storage Facilities. The application has been assessed by the Locality Officer who is submitting this report to enable the Area North Committee to make an informed decision about the application.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors award a grant of £12,500 to South Petherton Bowls Club, the grant to be allocated from the Area North Community Grants Programme and subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (Appendix A)

Application Details

Name of applicant:	South Petherton Bowls Club
Project:	All Ability Accessible Toilets, Clubhouse Extension & Storage Facilities
Total project cost:	£59,800
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	1	
D Need for Project	7	
E Capacity of Organisation	12	
F Financial need	5	
Total	27	

Background

South Petherton Bowls Club is a voluntary constituted community group that provides a safe and welcoming environment and facilities for all members of the community to take part in sport, recreation and physical activity. It is open to the whole community and their membership fees are kept very affordable at £65 for full membership and £10 social membership, which includes the use of Short Mat Bowls in the winter months.

As with all rural areas there is an aging population with few activities available. Membership of the club is continuing to grow and the club has worked with local schools, cricket club, tennis club and a local walking groups to encourage participation and use of the facilities.

At the beginning of 2020 the Bowls Club had a grant from the Big Lottery, Awards for All. With this, along with club funds, they have upgraded the interior of the clubhouse. For this work, club members and volunteers gave their own time and expertise so they could complete the project on a smaller budget by not having to recruit builders or decorators.

Once the Bowls Club began exploring in depth the current recommendations and requirements for modern sports club facilities it was identified that the existing toilet block, one changing area and some storage facilities were inadequate and sub-standard. It was found that the footprint of the current building was not big enough as it does not allow for adequate facilities for people with disabilities. This was fundamental and it also meant that there would not be sufficient space for the basic ladies and gents toilets. It was therefore decided to increase the footprint of the building by utilizing a redundant piece of ground behind the current building.

Parish information

Parish	South Petherton
Parish population	Approximately 4,500
Number of dwellings	825

The Project

The aim of the project is to provide modern disabled access ladies and gents toilet facilities and improved changing and storage facilities. The project involves demolishing the existing toilet block and replacing it with a modern, accessible and ecofriendly extension. The new building needs to be built on a slightly larger footprint than the original one.

In order to gain access to the site to construct the new toilet block, a large wooden shed that is adjacent to the toilet block, which stores bowling equipment will need to be taken down. Due to the shed's age and dilapidated state, it will not be possible to reinstate it. It is therefore planned to extend the length of the new toilet building to include a new equipment store that will be more secure and easier to maintain.

Part of the project is to also extend the end of the clubhouse as the men's changing room is too small. This will also include some indoor storage for Short Mat Bowls equipment, chairs and tables which cannot be kept in an outside building. This storage area inside will make the clubhouse less cluttered and allow much better access to Short Mat Bowls which many bowlers enjoy during the winter months.

With advice from local architects planning permission is being applied for and local professionals will be employed to do the work for the next stages.

Local support / evidence of need

The project will make it possible for more disabled residents to participate in community activities, and as this demand increases, more programs are likely to develop and grow when increased numbers of volunteers are involved.

The plan is to work with the local scout group and to also run women and girl's sessions. The local primary school will use the facilities and a local group of disabled adults and their careers will come for several sessions through the year.

Residents are easily able to find out about and join the bowls club by coming down to the facility or through the website, community notice boards and word of mouth. Also through Facebook, South Petherton TA13 magazine, library displays, posters in neighbouring villages and Parrett Talk magazine which covers other villages.

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
Architect, Planning and Building Regulations	4,000
New build including extension to the toilet block to replace the wooden equipment shed	45,000
Extension of the clubhouse, renovation of the men's changing rooms and creation of some indoor storage	10,000
Hiring of portable toilets during the building period	800
Total	£ 59,800

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
South Petherton Parish Council	Secured	1,750
Own Club Funds	Secured	10,550
Grant from Sports England	Secured	35,000
SSDC Community Grant	Pending	12,500
Total		£ 59,800

In 2020 none of the normal fund-raising activities were able to go ahead. However, through future income from hiring out the facility and annual membership fees, these funds will be reinvested back into the facility to cover any future maintenance work that is required.

Conclusion and Recommendation

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

Financial implications

If the previous grant considered in this agenda (South Petherton Arts) is approved then the balance in the Area North Capital programme will be £110,133.

If the recommended grant of £12,500 is awarded to South Petherton Bowls Club, then £97,633 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 North - Area Chapter: Healthy, Self-reliant Communities

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