

Community Grant to Bruton Town Council (Executive Decision)

Director: *Kirsty Larkins, Director of Service Delivery*
Manager / Lead Specialist: *Tim Cook, Locality Manager*
Lead Officer: *Nathan Turnbull, Locality Officer*
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Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant of £4,405 towards a weather resistant path.

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.

Bruton Town Council has applied to the Area East community grants programme for financial assistance of £4,405. The Locality Officer is submitting this report to enable the Area East Committee to make an informed decision about the application has assessed the application.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors award a grant £4,405, the grant to be allocated from the Area East capital programme and subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (appendix A)

Application Details

Name of applicant:	Bruton Town Council
Project:	Abbey Fishponds Path
Total project cost:	£23,241
Amount requested from SSDC:	£4,405
% amount requested	18.95%
Application assessed by:	Nathan Turnbull

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	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	11

F Financial need	7	5
Total	37	31

Background

The monument, which lies in three separate areas of protection, includes the site of an Augustinian priory later to become an abbey, an associated flight of medieval fishponds, and a post-medieval pillow mound. The site is divided by the London to Taunton main railway line and part of the abbey's inner precinct lies within the grounds of King's School on the north side of the railway line close to the boundary wall of St Mary's churchyard. The remaining part of the inner precinct, which also includes the flight of fishponds, is located on the north facing slope of Lusty Hill to the south of the railway line. An Augustinian priory was founded between 1127 and 1135 by William de Mohun, the Earl of Somerset and as part of its foundation charter it was granted the manor of Bruton.

Parish information

Parish*	Bruton
Parish Population	2,907
No. of dwellings	1,155

*Taken from the 2011 census profile

The project

The project is to construct a path by the Abbey Fishponds in Bruton, through land leased by Bruton Town Council from Kings School. The Fish Ponds are a Scheduled Monument and have a significant level of biodiversity. The path runs from the railway bridge over Dropping Lane up to Durslade Farm, providing safe access to the Hauser & Wirth gallery and all its associated attractions, to the Community Gardens at Durslade Farm and for walks up to the Dovecote. The path therefore has a lot of foot traffic and there is now a need for a weather resistant path that will minimise damage to the habitat and the Abbey Fishponds.

Local support / evidence of need

It is a vital scheme for the following reasons:

Habitat protection,

Protection of a site of historical importance,

Safe path for walking as Dropping Lane has no pavement or room to put one in.

The route will enable the 140,000 visitors to Hauser and Wirth to reach Bruton Town Centre on foot

Provide a safe route from the train station to Hauser and Wirth and to the Dovecote

Safe access to the countryside for residents

Promoting tourism and town centre economy

The Path will also be accessible for Disabled users

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
Leasing land from Kings School by BTC for 99 years	£12,636
Construction of footpath	£10,605
Total	£23,241

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Parish/Town Council	Secured	£12,636
Hauser and Wirth	Secured	£4,200
Bruton Conservation Trust	Secured	£1,000
Bruton Community Partnership	Secured	£1,000
SSDC grant award	Pending	£4,405
Total		£23,241

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that a grant of £4,405 is awarded

Financial implications

The balance in the Area East Capital programme is £80,324. If the recommended grant of £4,405 is awarded, £75,919 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

Council Plan themes and Areas of focus for 2021/22

Focus 2: Economy to promote a strong and growing economy with thriving urban, rural and land based businesses and improving productivity we will:

- Work with businesses and use our assets.
- Lobby for and support infrastructure improvements to enable growth.
- Capitalise on our high quality culture, leisure and tourism opportunities to bring people into the district

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.
- Keep streets and neighbourhoods clean and attractive.
- Promote a high quality built environment in line with Local Plan policies.

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.

Area Chapter Implications for 2021/22

No implications.

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

This project will support and improve carbon emissions by sustaining its biodiversity and by encouraging Car users to walk.

Equality and Diversity Implications

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

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.
- Note that they cannot apply for another community grant for the same project within a 3-year period of this award.

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.