

Community Grant to South Petherton Tennis 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 a new South Petherton Tennis Club - Clubhouse.

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 Tennis Club has applied to the Area North community grants programme for financial assistance with the costs of a new South Petherton Tennis Club - Clubhouse. The Locality Officer who is submitting this report to enable the Area North Committee to make an informed decision about the application has assessed the application.

Recommendation

That Councillors recommend to the Chief Executive that a grant of £12,500 be awarded, the grant to be allocated from the Area North capital programme and subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (appendix A).

It is to be noted that the first phase of the project (foul drainage works) has already started, this was in order to meet with the strict timings of Sport England funding requirements.

South Petherton Tennis Club know that their application for a Community Grant to Area North Committee is subsequently at risk. The start of the project and their delayed application to SSDC was unavoidable.

If their grant application to SSDC is not successful, South Petherton Tennis Club will need to take out a Bank Loan to cover the shortfall, to be repaid over 5 years.

Application Details

Name of applicant:	South Petherton Tennis Club
Project:	South Petherton Tennis Club New Clubhouse
Total project cost:	£108,565
Amount requested from SSDC:	£12,500
% amount requested	11.5%
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	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	2
D Need for Project	10	7
E Capacity of Organisation	15	12
F Financial need	7	6
Total	37	29

Background

South Petherton Tennis Club provides 3 tennis courts for the use of members, two of these courts are also available for public use. The Club is run by a volunteer committee and is affiliated to The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) through the Somerset LTA. The Club is an LTA Registered Venue which is renewed annually.

In 2019 the Club's Mixed Team topped Division 3 of the Yeovil and District Winter League. The Club Coach won the LTA Somerset Coach of the Year for the 2nd time and the Somerset Disability Coach of the Year for 2020. In 2020 the Club Coach ran the first wheelchair tennis coaching course and the Club hosted an LTA Junior Tournament.

The Tennis Club provides a safe and welcoming environment for all members of the community to take part in sport, recreation and physical activity. It is open to the whole community. The Club has improved its public access and booking system and are now part of the LTA 'Clubspark' scheme which allows people to search for, book and pay to use tennis courts in their local area.

The Club attracts many children through its extensive coaching opportunities, from 'Tennis Tots' to 'Teen Sessions' and the Club would be more attractive to this age group if they did not have to interrupt their sessions to access toilet facilities in another building behind a metal gate. Currently, wheelchair players can only access Court 3 and are limited to short playing periods due to absence of accessible toilets.

Among the Club's current members and on their coaching programmes there are a number of single players of all ages. Attending sessions at the club helps to keep them in contact with the community. The Tennis Club would like to make the Club more attractive to the whole community by providing improved facilities which will increase opportunities to play.

The Club have a large number of older players, aged 60 to 85 and they would like to encourage more players in this age group. As tennis is a social game, they hope to support older players and attract other older players by providing a comfortable space for social interaction with accessible toilet facilities to encourage them to play more often and for longer.

The project has been developed with South Petherton Parish Council, Somerset Lawn Tennis Association and South Somerset District Council. A new 30year lease has recently been completed with the Parish Council.

Parish information

Parish	South Petherton
Parish population	Approximately 4,500
No. of dwellings	825

*Taken from the 2011 census profile

The project

South Petherton Tennis Club wish to replace their existing second hand wooden hut, which was installed in 1964. It has no insulation and is in a dilapidated state. The existing hut only provides access to two of the three courts, does not have wheelchair access or offer hot water or toilet facilities.

The project is to replace this hut with a purpose built fully insulated building in accordance with current building regulations. It will have a large fully accessible-disabled toilet and permanent disabled access to help further develop junior tennis, wheelchair tennis and tennis for older players.

The building will be insulated to current building standards which will increase its energy efficiency.

Local support / evidence of need

In 2020 South Petherton Tennis Club conducted a survey of all its members. Respondents said that fully accessible toilet facilities were essential for attracting new members and increasing improved opportunities for children, wheelchair users, younger and older people to play tennis.

This project links into the Council Plan by addressing areas of Healthy Self Reliant Communities and the Environment. It aims to improve the physical and mental health of residents of South Petherton and the surrounding villages.

The Tennis Club aims to support the work of the tennis coach, who regularly coaches wheelchair players. A current wheelchair player is keen to help the Club attract more players but needs the new facilities to make this happen.

For those with specific needs, such as wheelchair tennis players, improved access to all three courts via permanent disabled access to the clubhouse and large disabled toilet facilities will increase opportunities to play and the amount of time they are able to spend at the Club. Currently wheelchair players cannot access any toilet facilities at South Petherton Recreation Ground or access the clubhouse to shelter from poor weather.

The project links to the Community Facilities, Sports and Recreation section of the South Petherton Neighbourhood Plan by providing new leisure and recreation activity to the local community through improved facilities. This will allow the Club to welcome children from village primary schools, who will be able to use the courts when the new toilet facilities are available. Also, children in the local cricket club can access the Tennis Club's toilets when they are using the cricket nets, which are directly behind the site of the proposed new Tennis Club Clubhouse

South Petherton Tennis Club are promoting the project via their website news page, Facebook page and quarterly newsletter as well as writing articles in the Parish Magazine, and other local publications such as Parrett Plus. People can find out more about the Club via their website, the South Petherton

Parish Council website, LTA - 'find a tennis court' web page, Parish magazine and signage outside the Tennis Club.

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
Professional and Planning requirements - Legal, Architects, Plans & Engineering	7,400
Foul Drainage connection - 65m away including connection fees	15,500
Foundation for new building, disabled access and soakaways	19,300
New building including internal fit out - toilet, kitchen etc.	60,600
Health and Safety - Security fencing, welfare facilities etc.	3,900
3 phase power supply	1,865
Total	108,565

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
South Petherton Parish Council	Secured	3,694
Own Funds	Secured	25,000
Sport England Community Asset Fund	Secured	40,000
Somerset LTA Grant	Secured	5,000
South Petherton Community	Secured	10,000
Battens Charitable Trust	Secured	3,000
Anonymous Local Trust	Secured	5,000
SSDC	Pending	12,500
Lawn Tennis Association Loan	Pending	4,371
Total		108,565

Conclusion and Recommendation

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

Financial implications

If the previous grant to Langport Transport Group is awarded the balance in the Area North Capital programme will be £128,125. If the recommended grant to South Petherton Tennis Club of £12,500 is awarded, £115,625 will remain in the Area North Capital Programme.

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***

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:

Promote the use of 'green' technology

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.

Area Chapter Implications for 2021/22

Support a range of improvements to community buildings.

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.

Special conditions

None