

Community Grant to Combe St Nicholas Running Track (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant of £5,915 towards Combe St Nicholas Running Track.

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.

Combe St Nicholas Primary School has applied to the Area West community grants programme for financial assistance with the costs of building an all-weather running track. The Locality Officer who is submitting this report to enable the Area West Committee to make an informed decision about the application has assessed the application.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors award a grant £5,915, the grant to be allocated from the Area West capital programme and subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (appendix A) with a special condition added that the School will repay the awarded grant within a 2 year period if the School field is not accessible for community use.

Application Details

Name of applicant:	Combe St Nicholas Primary School
Project:	Combe St Nicholas Running Track
Total project cost:	£12,915
Amount requested from SSDC:	£5,915
% amount requested	45.7
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	2
D Need for Project	10	8
E Capacity of Organisation	15	12
F Financial need	7	5
Total	37	29

Background

The Church School dates back to the 1800's, they have the main office, Hall, ICT suite and non-fiction library together with both KS2 classes. In 2008 the school was able to provide a purpose built KS1 building which now accommodates their Foundation Stage and KS1 children, allowing secure access to outdoor learning throughout the school day. As part of the creative curriculum, the school regularly makes use of the Forest School site in Sunday School Wood led by appropriately qualified staff. During break and lunchtimes, the children have access to a variety of stimulating play equipment and in addition, the opportunity to play team games on the school playing field.

The Tadpoles Pre-School, which is a Foundation Stage Department led and managed by the school, is registered to take children from 2½. The pre-school is situated on the school site; they also offer a Mother & Baby Group "Hatchlings" once a month. Mums or Dads are invited to come along with their baby/babies for coffee and a chat. Invites are also sent out to various professionals to talk about Baby First Aid etc. The School provide a Breakfast and After School Club provision. Breakfast Club runs from 7.45am - 9.00am and the After School Club is Monday - Thursday 3.30pm - 5.30pm.

The Vision for the School is 'That they may have life, life in all its fullness.' John 10:10. This means that they aspire to support the pupils to Reach their full potential through access to a broad and balanced curriculum, to Be inspired by Christian values, Attend a vibrant school which is at the heart of this village community and Develop an understanding of the wider world, one in which they feel empowered to contribute.

Combe St Nicholas School is in the beautiful village of Combe St Nicholas which is at the foot of The Blackdown Hills, an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is also close to Chard, enabling them to maintain links with the town.

Parish Information

Parish*	Combe St Nicholas
Parish Population	1,373

*Taken from the 2011 census profile

The Project

The school field, which is used by the pupils for PE and games, is a 100m walk from the school to the field and is only able to be used in fine weather. The children have been working on a project to achieve Healthy Schools Quality Mark and would like to establish a Daily Mile challenge. In order to do this a hard surface running track needs to be built in the field.

The Healthy Schools Quality Mark has been designed to recognise and encourage schools' contributions to pupils' health and wellbeing. It celebrates the positive actions that schools are delivering in terms of healthy eating and physical activity, and aims to help schools identify useful next steps in their provision.

The scheme is part of a wider series of government actions to support pupils' health and wellbeing, and is a commitment from the government's Childhood Obesity Plan.

Schools will complete a self-assessment and then receive a rating based on their responses around food education, compliance with the school food standards, time spent on physical education and the promotion of active travel.

Each participating school will receive a report based on their survey answers, and those achieving Gold, Silver or Bronze awards will receive a certificate.

The Government encourage all participating schools to use this scheme to reflect on their future actions, and to share their achievements with parents, pupils and the wider school community. Without a track, it is not possible for any pupils who are wheelchair users to access the field when the ground is soft.

The field is available to be used by the whole village, when not in use by the school, and so the green space has been offered to the villagers to be able to run in a safe way in the village.

The roads in Combe St Nicholas are very windy, many do not have pavements, and so this track would offer a safe place for any keen runners.

The Parish Council are supportive of this and so too are the Church and congregation.

The Circular path around the playing field will be 1.2m wide, 254m long with a 70mm stone base, with a terram membrane, overlaid with (40-50mm) self-binding Gravel.

This type of surface will provide an affordable long-term solution, with minimal environmental impact.

Local support / evidence of need

Pupils will have access to a safe running track to use daily.

The wider village community will have access to a safe running track to use when not in use by the children.

Access for all mobility and wheelchair users.

The track can support running as a sports activity in the village.

The village already host a successful 10k run annually.
Reduction in traffic use if runners are not forced to drive to other safe tracks.
Potential benefits also include better physical and mental health for the School and community the resulting benefit to health services.
This project will also develop cohesion between the different groups in the community.
The Parish Council are supportive of this project.

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
Construct path around playing field 1.2m wide 254 m long 70mm base - gravel	£12,915
Total	£12,915

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Parish/Town Council	Secured	£1500
Own Funds	Secured	£4000
Donation	Secured	£1000
School Governors	Secured	£500
SSDC	Pending	£5,915
Total		£12,915

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that a grant of £5,915 is awarded.

Financial Implications

The balance in the Area West Capital programme is £74,129. If the recommended grant is awarded, £68,214 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 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



South Somerset District Council

- 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:

Support a range of improvements to community facilities through S106 and Community grant.

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.
- Complete an evaluation survey when requested after the completion of the project.
- 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

Special condition added that the School will repay the awarded grant within a 2 year period if the school field is not accessible for community use.