



Community Grant to – Brewham Village Hall Restoration Project - Phase 2 External works (Executive Decision)

Strategic Director: Kirsty Larkins, Director of Service Deliver
Service Manager: Tim Cook, Locality Manager
Lead Officer: Terena Isaacs, Locality Officer
Contact Details: Terena.isaacs@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462268

Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant of £10,557 to Brewham Village hall Restoration Project, Phase 2 external works.

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.

Brewham Village Hall has applied to the Area East community grants programme for financial assistance with the costs of external village hall improvements. The Locality Officer is submitting this report to enable the Area East Committee to make an informed decision about the application and has assessed the application.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Councillors award a grant of £10,557 to Brewham Village hall Restoration Project, Phase 2 external works (50% total costs), 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:	Brewham Village Hall
Project:	Brewham Village Hall Restoration Project – External works
Total project cost:	£21,114
Amount requested from SSDC:	£10,557
% amount requested	50%
Application assessed by:	Terena Isaacs

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	1
D Need for Project	10	7
E Capacity of Organisation	15	10
F Financial need	7	5
Total	37	25

Background

The Brewham Village Hall Project Team's aim in restoring the hall is to bring the community closer together and to build a more connected, resilient community where individuals feel part of, and contribute to, its success.

Creating a modern, flexible, accessible space will mean more people, more often will be able to enjoy meeting together. A beautiful, comfortable area outside, where people feel safe to sit together and chat is crucial to improving individuals mental health after the isolation and distress caused by lock-downs.

Following the successful restoration of the main hall in 2020, Phase 2 (Internal) of the restoration project commenced in September and includes reconfiguration of internal space to include addition of a multi-purpose room, fully functioning new kitchen, new toilets, new electrics and plumbing. The building has been insulated to a high standard and made more accessible through levelling of floors and widening of doorways. The restoration will create a welcoming, user-friendly and accessible space inside. Funding for work carried out so far was secured via Viridor, Lottery Grant funding, fundraising and community donations. No funding has been sought from South Somerset District Council thus far.

The final stage (Phase 2 External) of the project is to create an outdoor space, which is user friendly and a welcoming space for the community.

Parish information

Parish*	Brewham
Parish Population	441
No. of dwellings	200

*Taken from the 2011 census profile

The project

To create a beautiful, comfortable outside space, where people will be able to sit, chat and enjoy the views over the churchyard and wider landscape, which is crucial to improving individuals mental health after the isolation and distress caused by lock-downs and to compliment the newly refurbished hall. The project includes a new terraced area and landscaped garden, repairing and repointing of stonework. A storage area will be created underneath the terrace. New glazed and widened door will open from the multi-purpose room onto the terrace.

Local support / evidence of need

The Project Team have consulted with the community in planning the restoration. In 2017 every household in the parish was surveyed to understand their needs in relation to the hall. In 2018 a weekend open event presented four different schemes of work and over 100 people gave their opinions and feedback that informed the final plans. At the phase 1 opening event in March 2020 the phase 2 plans were displayed and discussed. In early 2021, 27 letters of support were received and approximately 30 local individuals and businesses have given donations towards the works. They have communicated actively with the community via Facebook and there has been much engagement, with people expressing their support for the restoration, sharing how much they'd missed meeting at the hall during lock-downs and suggestions for future events, including food nights and a range of exercise classes.

The hall is a lifeline in the rural, isolated community. There are many elderly people, some living alone, who rely on the hall as a place to meet at fortnightly chat and coffee and other events. New people have moved in and since Covid more people are working from home and looking for social interaction within the community, without the need to drive.

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
Supply and fitting of new cast iron gutter and downpipe to match existing to north	1462
Supply and install new galvanised steel handrails, balustrades and trellis	2698
Supply and install new external solid timber boarded doors to enclose storage area below terrace	3786
Supply of new reconstituted stone flagstones to top of terrace and area below terrace	9481
Supply of new glazed steel door in new opening to terrace	3687
Total	£21,114

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Brewham Parish Council	Secured	100
Village Fundraising (Open Gardens & Teas)	Secured	1500
Private Donations from Parish Residents	Secured	5,000
National Lottery Awards for All	Secured	1394
Garfield Weston Foundation	Secured	2563
SSDC Community Grant	Pending	10,557
Total		£21,114

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that a grant of £10,557 is awarded to Brewham Village hall Restoration Project, Phase 2 external works.

Financial Implications

The balance in the Area East Capital programme is £52,361. If the recommended grant of £10,557 is awarded, £41,804 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 2020/24

- Work with our partners to reduce the impact of social isolation and create a feeling of community
- Work with our partners to support people in improving their physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Work with our partners to keep and help our residents feel safe in their homes and communities
- Enable quality cultural, leisure and sport activities

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

The building has been insulated to a high standard to reduce energy wastage.



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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.