
Community Grant to The Old School, Queen Camel – Toilet Conversion (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant of £3,509 towards the conversion of toilets at The Old School, Queen Camel.

Public Interest

Awarding grants is a key way that SSSC supports and helps to deliver community projects sponsored by Parishes and voluntary community organisations in the towns and villages across the district.

The Queen Camel Community Land Trust has applied to the Area East community grants programme for financial assistance with the costs of the conversion of toilets at The Old School. 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 £3,509 (50% of costs), the grant towards the conversion of toilets at The Old School, Queen Camel be allocated from the Area East capital programme and subject to SSSC standard conditions for community grants (appendix A)

Application Details

Name of applicant:	Queen Camel Community Land Trust Ltd
Project:	Toilet conversion
Total project cost:	£7,018
Amount requested from SSSC:	£3,509
% 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	2	2
C Supports Environment Strategy	3	2
D Need for Project	9	7
E Capacity of Organisation	15	8
F Financial need	7	3
Total	37	23

Background

The Old School Site was purchased from SCC by the Community Land Trust on 3rd May 2019. Work has continued throughout the pandemic to transform the site into a centre for community activity and as a base for service providers and SME's offering Health and Wellbeing services to the village and surrounding areas.

Much of the work completed to date has been carried out by a small group of volunteers which in itself creates opportunities for social interaction and physical activity. This is something the trust wish to build on.

Parish information

Parish*	Queen Camel
Parish Population	908
No. of dwellings	393

*Taken from the 2011 census profile

The project

The project is the reconfiguration, refurbishment and decoration of children's toilets and washbasins into two unisex toilet/washroom facilities, one with a shower specifically for use by the Day Centre.

The funding will be used for stripping the area and repositioning plumbing and electrics, installing toilets, washbasins and a shower, and heating the facility. Building two full size dividing walls each with a doorway, fitting new flooring and baby changing facilities. Much of the refurbishment and decorating work across the site can be done by volunteers with specialists, e.g. plumbers, electricians, carpenters, being contracted for the remainder of the work.



Local support / evidence of need

The need for the project has been established through extensive community consultation over the past 10 years. This is evidenced in the Queen Camel Community Plan and Neighbourhood Plan.

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
Materials and Professional services	3,600
Flooring	1,180
Below covering skirting, decorating and electrical	1,600
Sundry items plus contingency	638
Total	7,018

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Parish Council	Pending	500
Own funds	Secured	3,009
SSDC Community Grant	Pending	3,509
Total		7,018

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that a grant of £3,509 is awarded.

Financial Implications

The balance in the Area East Capital programme is £29,304. If the recommended grant of is awarded, £25,795 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 2022/23



South Somerset District Council

- Collaborate with local partners to reduce the impact of social isolation and create a feeling of community
- Work with local partners to support people in improving their physical and mental health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities
- Enable quality and inclusive cultural, leisure and sport activities

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

The group are environmentally friendly and in due course aim to have a site that is free of single-use plastic. They are investigating electric vehicle charging points and solar panels to provide the electricity for them.

Enabling people to access services locally reduces the need for travel and encourage local people to walk to the site if possible.

Upcycling as much as possible and this includes rescuing other's unwanted items (e.g. an Edwardian washbasin/pedestal put out for waste collection and now fitted in the listed building.

Equality and Diversity Implications

<i>An Equality Impact Relevance Check Form has been completed in respect of the Proposal?</i>	Yes
<i>The Impact Relevance Check indicated that a full EIA was required?</i>	No
<i>If an EIA was not required please attach the Impact Relevance Check Form as an Appendix to this report and provide a brief summary of its findings in the comments box below.</i>	
<i>If an EIA was required please attach the completed EIA form as an Appendix to this report and provide a brief summary of the result of your Equality Impact Assessment in the comment box below.</i>	
Additional Comments	
<i>The toilet conversion will improve the facilities for all of the residents and local villages who will benefit from the new facilities, providing better disabled access. An Access statement was completed in March 2018 to support the CLT after the purchase of the old school building.</i>	

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.

Additional conditions applying to Play & Facilities

- Provide good quality signage to buildings and facilities.