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## Community Grant award to Chilthorne Domer Recreational Trust – New Play Equipment and Wildlife Area (Executive Decision)

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### Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant of £7,638 towards Chilthorne Domer, new play equipment & wildlife area.

### 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.

The Chilthorne Domer Recreational Trust has applied to the Area East community grants programme for financial assistance with the costs of improving the play equipment and wildlife area at Chilthorne Domer recreation ground. 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 £7,638 (40% of 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:	Chilthorne Domer Recreational Trust
Project:	Play Equipment and Wildlife Area improvements
Total project cost:	£19,097
Amount requested from SSDC:	£7,638
% amount requested	40%
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	10	7
E Capacity of Organisation	15	11
F Financial need	7	5
Total	37	28

## Background

In 2010 the Trust's facilities (a rundown pavilion and a bare field) were shabby and underused, this triggered a major change in management commitment and aspirations.

A number of consultations resulted in a long-term ambitious plan to improve the outdoor play facilities at the recreational field. The plan has been instigated in stages over the intervening years, and the toddler equipment installation is the final part of the plan to install a wide range of outside play equipment to provide play opportunities for all ages.

Chilthorne Domer Recreational Trust manages and maintains the community facilities on the recreation ground in Chilthorne Domer for use by inhabitants of the village and surrounds without distinction of political, religious, or other differences. The facilities include a Pavilion with function room, multiuse sports hall, kitchen and toilets. Outside a field containing a football pitch, a cycle/running track with all-weather surface, outdoor play equipment and space for general recreational and social use.

The Trust installed an all-weather tarmac pathway around the field suitable for walking, running and cycling in 2019 as part of our "Chilthorne Runs in The Rain" project. The path was of huge benefit to the village during the Covid lockdown as it enabled people to exercise outdoors in all-weathers without close contact.

The Trust has worked hard to ensure the community remained safe during the pandemic and ensured all guidelines followed to reopen and provide positive community events with many families enjoying them coming out of the pandemic.

### Parish information

Parish*	Chilthorne Domer
Parish Population	574
No. of dwellings	227

\*Taken from the 2011 census profile



# South Somerset District Council

## The project

To install outdoor play equipment for the youngest members of the Chilthorne Domer community (playhouse with a bench, play panel, peep hole, toddler slide and mini climbing wall and a separate swing with baby seat) plus a circular seating bench designed to surround a tree, and to plant trees, shrubs and Spring bulbs at the recreation field.

The existing play equipment is designed for school age children and teenagers but are lacking provision for preschool children. Installation of equipment designed for toddlers will provide safe, age appropriate, play experiences.

Looking after very young children can be a stressful & lonely task, a suitable local play area will encourage trips outside and provide carers with opportunities to meet, thus reducing the risk of social isolation.

Shaded seating will provide a resting place for all ages and mobilities, encouraging outdoor exercise and socialisation for community members. The climate is changing, and heat waves are more common, so a chance to sit in the shade, away from harmful UV rays is increasingly important particularly for the very young and elderly.

Planting trees, shrubs and Spring bulbs will make the recreation field more wildlife friendly, absorb carbon, provide shade for people to rest under, make the field much more visually attractive and encourage people to take an interest in and learn about the natural environment. Increasing tree cover, enhancing biodiversity in public open spaces, and enhancing the local environment are all included in South Somerset District Council's Plan and Environmental Strategy.

## Local support / evidence of need

Multiple village open consultation meetings have been held; groups, youth club, residents with properties adjoining the recreational field, pupils attending the primary school and the WI have been canvassed for opinions.

The Trust management team are all local volunteers so have deep, frequent and wide-ranging connections with members of the community. They have in place a culture of asking for feedback, encouraging queries and suggestions regarding the facilities. This provides good opportunities for the community to tell them what they need and desire.

Provision of seating and play equipment specifically for toddlers has been an ongoing and persistent request from users for years and the desire to improve the biodiversity and to provide wildlife habitats on the field has been increasingly strong and expressed more recently.

## Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
Supply and delivery of toddler play equipment and circuit bench	14,666

Installation of play equipment and circuit bench including grass mats	3,540
Wildlife friendly shade trees including root grow and stakes x3	222
Wildlife friendly flowering shrubs x6	72
Spring flowering bulbs, crocus x5,000, miniature daffodils x1,000, snowdrops x1.000	597
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,097</b>

## Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Parish Council	Pending	3,819
Own funds	Secured	1,728
Lottery – Awards for All	Pending	5,712
Chilthorne Green Steps	Secured	200
SSDC Community Grant	Pending	7,638
<b>Total</b>		<b>19,097</b>

## Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that a grant of £7,638 is awarded.

## Financial Implications

The balance in the Area East Capital programme is £25,795. If the recommended grant of £7,638 is awarded, £18,157 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

### Environment – Priority 1

- Deliver schemes to enhance the quality of our local environment and its resilience to adapt to climate change
- Protect South Somerset's landscape and to seek to increase tree cover within our communities

### Healthy, self-reliant Communities – Priority 2

- 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 Recreational Trust Management Committee voted to recognise that there is an ongoing climate emergency and to consider the environmental impacts of all decisions.

This Project's planting of trees, shrubs and Spring flowering bulbs is the second wave of a decision to implement practices to encourage biodiversity in their management strategies, the first wave was to leave areas of the field unmown, encouraging wildflowers and wildlife.

The trees, shrubs and bulbs will lock carbon into their tissues as they grow and support the local wildlife by providing food and habitat for insects, birds and small mammals.

The manufacturer of the Play equipment and seating have excellent sustainability credentials. The seating and play equipment are largely made of wood, the Robina Wood used for the play equipment is from sustainable forestry in Europe and the wood used for the seating is from FSC certified sources. The manufacturer uses recycled materials in more than 70% of its products and 95% can be recycled at the end of its lifecycle.

The play equipment will be used by the local community and will reduce use of transport needed to travel to further afield recreational sites and time spent playing outside has no carbon footprint unlike computer games and watching TV.

## 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 <b>not</b> 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 <b>was</b> 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>	
<b>Additional Comments</b>	
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.

#### **Additional conditions applying to Play & Facilities**

- All play equipment considered for purchase will have passed an EN1176 test.
- All play equipment installed will have Impact Absorbing Surfacing (safety surfacing) installed to EN1177 standard.
- All play equipment installed will have a Post Installation Inspection completed by a fully trained person.
- Ensure that the play area is inspected and maintained in accordance with EN1176 or a successive standard
- Provide good quality signage to buildings and facilities.