



Community Grant - Ash Village Hall Car Park - All Ability Access Improvements (Executive Decision)

Strategic Director: Kirsty Larkins, Director of Service Delivery
Service Manager: Tim Cook, Locality Manager
Lead Officer: Adrian Moore, Locality Officer
Contact Details: adrian.moore@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462409

Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant of £3,750 towards All Ability Access Improvements to Ash Village Hall Car Park.

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.

Ash Parish Council has applied to the Area North community grants programme for financial assistance with the costs of All Ability Access Improvements to Ash Village Hall Car Park. The Locality Officer is submitting this report to enable the Area North Committee to make an informed decision about the application and has assessed the application.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors award a grant of £3,750 to Ash Parish Council towards all ability access improvements to Ash Village Hall Car Park, the grant to be allocated from the Area North capital programme and subject to SSSC standard conditions for community grants (appendix A).

Application Details

Name of applicant:	Ash Parish Council
Project:	All Ability Access Improvements to Ash Village Hall Car Park
Total project cost:	£7,500
Amount requested from SSSC:	£3,750
% amount requested	50%
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 available	Score	Officer assessment score
A Supports Council Plan/Area Chapter	1		1
B Supports Equalities & Diversity	1		2
C Supports Environment Strategy	3		1
D Need for Project	10		7
E Capacity of Organisation	15		12
F Financial need	7		4
Total	37		27

Background

Ash is a small rural village in South Somerset, 1 mile from Martock and 6 miles north-west of Yeovil and the surrounding hamlets of Milton, Witcombe, Highway and Durnfield, all of which are in the Parish of Ash.

Currently there are no compliant disabled parking spaces in Ash Village Hall Car Park, which is owned by the Parish Council. This can make it difficult for people with disabilities to access the Millennium Woods, which is a vital community asset, and also the Village Hall. Further, there is no wheelchair access from the car park to the Village Hall. There are also capacity issues in the car park, especially at busy times.

Making the two existing parking spaces compliant will reduce the overall spaces by one, but this can be mitigated by removing unnecessary standouts, and re-spacing and repainting existing spaces. The entrance to the car park will also be improved to facilitate better entry and exit at busy times.

Parish information

Parish*	Ash
Parish Population	626
No. of dwellings	261

*Taken from the 2011 census profile

The project

All Ability Access Improvements to Ash Village Hall Car Park

This proposal will expand the two existing disabled spaces, so that they are compliant, and will create a drop kerb and tarmac path from the car park to the existing pavement, giving full wheelchair access to the Village Hall, and to pavements leading to the rest of the village. A fence will be installed to prevent children from running from path into the car park.

Local support / evidence of need

This project will be for the benefit of everyone in the village and any visitors to the Millennium Wood. It will particularly benefit the disabled, wheelchair users and elderly residents who will be able to access the Village Hall and other facilities from the village car park.

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
Removal and making good of standouts, and improving of entrance kerbing	3,800
Burning off existing lines & repainting of lines and disabled bays	1,300
Signage - including for disabled bays	400
Creation of path and dropped kerb	1,200
Fence and gate between path and car park	800
Total	7,500

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Parish Council Funds	Secured	3,750
SSDC Community Grant	Pending	3,750
Total		7.500

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that a grant of £3,750 is awarded.

Financial Implications

If East Lambrook School Rooms is awarded £11,638 before this grant, then the balance in the Area North Capital programme will be £12,718. If the recommended grant of £3,750 is awarded, £8,968 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 and respond to the climate and ecological emergency, we will work in partnership to:

- Continue the delivery of the Environment Strategy action plan, reducing our carbon emissions by 10% every year, to reach carbon neutrality by 2030
- Adopt and commence delivery of an Open Spaces Strategy promoting green infrastructure across the district
- Enhance the quality of the environment and its resilience and ability to adapt to climate change in partnership with our communities and businesses
- To protect South Somerset's landscape to seek to increase tree cover within our communities and the wider environment
- Support the delivery of the County wide Climate Change Emergency Strategy
- Initiate and support actions and infrastructure to encourage a shift to low carbon transport options including walking, cycling and electric mobility
- Promote and improve recycling and minimise waste through the roll out of 'Recycle More' across South Somerset from June 2021 through the Somerset Waste Partnership
- Support the development of environmental and ecological aspects within local, parish and neighbourhood plans
- Promote Nature Recovery Networks across the district, with a focus on delivery via the Ham Hill project
- Work with external partners to benefit the wider national cause in developing and generating clean energy storage to reduce renewable energy wastage in turn reducing use of fossil fuels in UK energy production.

Focus 5 – Healthy, Self-reliant Communities

To enable healthy communities which are cohesive, sustainable and enjoy a high quality of life, we will:

- Embed social value into all processes and activities to ensure we maximise the support we give to our communities



South Somerset District Council

- Work with partners to keep and help our residents feel safe in their homes and communities
- Work with partners to reduce the impact of social isolation and create a feeling of community
- Work with partners to support people improving their physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Enable quality cultural, leisure and sport activities
- Proactively support residents facing hardship
- Help tackle the causes of economic and social exclusion, poverty and low social mobility
- Support older people to live and age well by increase their independence, reducing loneliness, and improving financial security.

Area Chapter Implications for 2021/22

Healthy, Self-reliant Communities

- Support a range of improvements to community facilities through S106 and Community grants

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

None.

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	
This project directly improves access for people of all abilities and specifically disabled users with mobility impairments using mobility aids such as wheelchairs etc. A full EIA is, therefore, not required.	

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

None.