
Community Grant - East Lambrook School Room Refurbishment (Executive Decision)

Strategic Director: Kirsty Larkins, Director of Service Delivery
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Lead Officer: Adrian Moore, Locality Officer
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Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant of £11,638 towards the East Lambrook School Room Refurbishment.

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 East Lambrook School Room Management Committee has applied to the Area North community grants programme for financial assistance with the costs of the East Lambrook School Room Refurbishment. 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 £11,638 to East Lambrook School Room Management Committee towards refurbishment of the School Room, 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:	East Lambrook School Room Management Committee
Project:	East Lambrook School Room Refurbishment
Total project cost:	£23,680
Amount requested from SSSC:	£11,638
% amount requested	49%
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 Score available	Officer assessment score
A Supports Council Plan/Area Chapter	1	1
B Supports Equalities & Diversity	1	2
C Supports Environment Strategy	3	2
D Need for Project	10	7
E Capacity of Organisation	15	12
F Financial need	7	5
Total	37	29

Background

East Lambrook is a small village (part of the parish of Kingsbury Episcopi which also includes the villages of West Lambrook, and Thorney) and has a population of 200 residents.

The School Room is used by all sections of the community and is the only facility of its kind in East Lambrook. It is an historic village hall hosting events and available for hire. It is made available to all ages for various activities such as regular pilates classes, table tennis sessions, drop in lunches, plant sales, coffee mornings and occasional quizzes, training events and other community gatherings.

East Lambrook School Room is a church and community space in the care of St James's Church, East Lambrook, in the benefice of South Petherton with the Seavingtons and the Lambrooks. The East Lambrook School Room Management Committee is a sub-committee of South Petherton, The Seavingtons and the Lambrooks Parochial Church Council Charity.

A committee of the Parochial Church Council deals with the day-to-day management. The committee has clear terms of reference, hiring agreements, and child protection policies all in place. The building is properly insured. The management committee meet quarterly and share the various tasks on a day-to-day basis.

Parish information

Parish*	Kingsbury Episcopi (<i>Includes the villages of West Lambrook, East Lambrook and Thorney</i>)
Parish Population	1,307
No. of dwellings	586

The project

- Upgrade the heating and electrics
- Double glaze extension windows and secondary glaze hall
- Upgrade the two existing toilets and provide disabled provision for one to ensure full accessibility

To update and improve the East Lambrook School Room as an asset for the local community: widen its appeal, usability, and accessibility. This will bring a return to greater use and to enable it to be better self-funded.

Local support / evidence of need

This hall is well used by the small community who attend regular events. The project has also secured financial support from the Parish Council.

The improvements will make the venue more accessible to all and will reduce on going costs and the carbon footprint. Accessibility work will widen use to a broader demographic.

The group uses Facebook, public notice boards and hand delivered flyers / leaflets to reach as many local people as possible.

The project is to be overseen by the management committee and will seek to use volunteer skills and labour where possible.

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £ inc VAT
Update heating, electrics and refurbish toilets	11,494
Double glaze extension windows and secondary glaze hall	11,786
Scaffolding	400
Total	23,680

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Parish Council	Secured	1,000
Own Funds	Secured	5,642
Additional fundraising events and donations to be received	Pending	400
Other grants	Pending	5,000
SSDC Community Grant	Pending	11,638
Total		23,680

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that a grant of £11,638 is awarded.

Financial Implications

The balance in the Area North Capital programme is £24,356. If the recommended grant of £11,638 is awarded, £12,718 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
- 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

Thermal efficiency work e.g., heating and windows will reduce energy use and therefore lower the overall carbon footprint of the Schoolroom.

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 positively impacts on all members of the village, especially the elderly, young and anyone with disabilities and long term health conditions. This is due to the improvements to the electrics, heating, windows, and toilets. A full EIA is, therefore, not required.	



South Somerset
District Council

Background Papers

Area North Committee – 24 February 2010

<https://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/CeListDocuments.aspx?MID=245&RD=Meeting&DF=24%2f02%2f2010&A=1&R=0>

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.