

## **Community Capital Grant Request (Executive Decision)**

*Ward Member:* Cllr, Mike Beech, Cllr Nick Colbert, Cllr Colin Winder,  
Cllr Tony Capozzoli, Cllr David Norris, Cllr Mike Lewis

*Assistant Director:* Helen Rutter, Communities

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### **Purpose of the Report**

For members to consider requests for capital grants from Bayford Mission Hall Society, Hadspen Village Hall Committee, Wincanton Town Council, Kingsdon Village Shop (Kingsdon Centre Ltd) & Mudford Parish Council.

### **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 Area East.

### **Background**

Community Capital Grant applications are considered twice a year in June and December. The next opportunity to consider applications will be at the Area East Committee meeting in June 2016.

Requests from community organisations for non-capital works are restricted to small grants with the upper limit of £1,000. A minimum amount of £100 has also been agreed. Capital projects requiring grants of between £500 and £1,000 can be dealt with at any time and are subject to Ward Member agreement.

Area East Committee has retained funding which is only available to communities with locally adopted community/parish plans and this is intended to help with implementing priority projects.

Appendices A and B show the standard grants conditions used by SSDC and the policies under which all applications are assessed.

### **Recommendations**

- 1) Members agree a contribution of £11,000 (14% of the total project costs) from the Community Planning Implementation budget to Bayford Mission Hall Society towards the purchase and refurbishment of Bayford Chapel, subject to the standard conditions set out in appendix A.
- 2) Members agree a contribution of up to £3000 (27% of the total project costs) from the Community Capital Budget to Hadspen Village Hall Committee towards the provision of additional storage space for the hall, subject to the standard conditions set out in appendix A.

- 3) Members agree a contribution of up to £10,043 (5% of the total project costs) from the Community Capital Budget to Wincanton Town Council towards the refurbishment of Cale Park Play Area, subject to the standard conditions set out in appendix A.
- 4) Members agree a contribution of up to £7000 (44% of the total project costs) from the Community Capital Budget to Kingsdon Village Shop (Kingsdon Centre Ltd) towards the refurbishment of the village shop and the facilities, subject to the standard conditions set out in appendix A.
- 5) Members agree a contribution of £4000 (50% of the total project costs) £2470 from Community Safety budget and £1530 from the Community Planning Implementation Budget to Mudford Parish Council towards the installation of speed signs subject to the standard conditions set out in appendix A.

### **Bayford Mission Hall Society – Purchase and Refurbishment of Bayford Chapel**

Bayford Mission Hall Society has applied for a grant towards acquiring and refurbishing Bayford Chapel for use as a community building.

#### **Parish Precept information**

Parish	Stoke Trister
Parish population	313 (based on 2011 Census)
No. of Households	157
Precept 15/16	£4435
Band D Charge 14/15	£29.51

#### **The Project**

The hall is described in the Parish Plan for Stoke Trister with Bayford as a huge asset for the parish. The future of the hall was uncertain at the time of publication and the Parish Council had begun to consider the response to the potential loss of the asset.

In early 2015, the Administrative Trustees of Stoke Trister with Bayford Parochial Church Council, convened a public meeting to announce that they could no longer maintain two premises within the Parish and that Bayford Mission Hall was to go for commercial disposal. Following the meeting a Working Group formed and conducted a Feasibility Study. Part of the Study was a community survey in which 79% of the households responded and of which 89% either considered it 'very important' or 'important' that Bayford continues to have a hall/meeting place. And again, of those that responded, over 82% were in favour of owning Bayford Mission Hall as a community facility.

The Community has responded to the potential loss of what is considered an important community facility and is working towards securing the building and making it a flexible meeting space for a range of local groups and services.

The purchase price has been agreed and once Bayford Mission Hall has been procured, it will be, within capabilities, immediately available to the parish for use. The Hall does however require significant repairs, and to achieve a broader utilization, it needs upgrading and conversion. Once this has been completed, it will be a fully functional small community hall complete with toilets and refreshment facilities. The Hall will then offer the parish, and

the wider community, a meeting space capable of fulfilling a range of activities including exercise classes, children's parties, sales room/market, polling station and bridge classes.

Area East has already contributed £1000 towards the costs of producing a feasibility study and business plan for the project.

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

	<b>Score</b>	<b>Maximum score</b>
A Eligibility	<b>Y</b>	
B Target Groups	4	7
C Project	4	5
D Capacity of Organisation	12	15
E Financial need	5	7
F Innovation	3	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>37</b>

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies.

<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>% Funding of Total Scheme Cost</b>	<b>Amount of Funding</b>	<b>Status</b>
Parish Council	5%	£4,000	Secured
Own Funds	16%	£12,000	To raise
SSDC (Area East)	14%	£11,000	Applied for
Viridor Credits	53%	£40,000	Applied for
Lottery	12%	£9,000	To be applied for
<b>Total Scheme Cost</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>£76,000</b>	

A good range of funders have been identified and a good strategy is in place to raise the additional funding.

### **Hadspen Village Hall – Extension to provide additional storage**

Hadspen Village Hall Committee has applied for a grant towards an extension to the hall to provide additional storage.

### **Parish Precept information**

Parish	Pitcombe
Parish population	532 (based on 2011 Census)
No. of Households	195
Precept 15/16	£5170
Band D Charge 14/15	£25.59

### **The Project**

Hadspen Village Hall was rebuilt in 2006 and has been very successful in providing a venue for a range of activities. As the use of the hall has increased and developed the lack of adequate storage has become an increasing problem. A significant amount of equipment; including additional tables and chairs have had to be stored off site and this puts considerable strain on volunteers.

A number of options have been considered including a separate shed on site but the management group has concluded that an extension is a better long term solution. The proposed extension will measure approximately 4.5m x 2.5m, built on a concrete base and be a wood frame insulated construction finished with wood cladding. The project includes replacing the existing boiler which has required an increasing amount of maintenance in recent years.

The village hall is identified in the Pitcombe Parish Plan as a really important local facility which provides access to a range of activities. Actions identified were focussed on improving the range of activities and no physical improvements to the hall were mentioned. This is reflected in the scoring in the table below but is not enough to qualify the project for funding under the Community Planning Implementation Fund.

The group has planning permission for the proposed work and the committee is in a position to proceed with the project.

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

	Score	Maximum score
A Eligibility	Y	
B Target Groups	4	7
C Project	4	5
D Capacity of Organisation	12	15
E Financial need	4	7
F Innovation	1	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>37</b>

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies.

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Amount of Funding	Status
Parish/Town Councils	9%	£1000	Secured
SSDC (Area East)	27%	£3000	Applied for
Own Funds	64%	£7100	Secured
<b>Total Scheme Cost</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>£11,100</b>	

The Village Hall Committee is considering a longer term project to purchase some additional land to provide a recreational space for the village. The Hall committee has planned to use existing funds for this project in order to retain the ability to approach other external funding sources.

### **Wincanton Town Council – Cale Park improvements**

Wincanton Town Council has applied for a grant towards improvements to the Cale Park play equipment and surrounding area.

### **Parish Precept information**

Parish	Wincanton
Parish population	5272 (based on 2011 Census)
No. of Households	2863
Precept 15/16	£180,900
Band D Charge 14/15	£91.02

### **The Project**

Rickhayes Recreation Ground (now renamed Cale Park) is the largest open space area within the town. Over the years the surrounding area became vandalised and started to take on the feeling of being somewhat threatening and uninviting.

At the start of 2013, a group of local volunteers began work on the River Cale with the aim of clearing litter and debris and bringing back native wildlife to the river. Community Action to Transform the Cale Habitat (CATCH) now meet regularly to litter pick, help with tree planting and support local development work.

At the same time, the Town Council started working with South Somerset District Council on how to regenerate Rickhayes and the Play Park in particular. In early 2013 they commissioned a Landscape Architect to look at options for the whole recreation ground area. He created an initial master plan which has undergone extensive public consultation through dedicated workshops, local press articles and as a sitting project within the Town Council's offices.

Alongside this, SSDC Officers have worked with local schools and the youth club to finalise plans for the Play Area culminating in an agreed master plan for the whole area and a fantastic plan for a play area which will meet the needs of young people of all ages, including provision for disabled children.

Wincanton Town Council has invested significantly in better youth facilities including the successful Skate Park and MUGA. However, play equipment for younger children has now become the priority. The need for investment is identified in the Wincanton Peoples Plan, survey updates during 2012 and has been emphasised by the development of a local 'Wincanton Rec is a Wreck' Facebook site which attracted a huge amount of local support.

SSDC data identifies an unmet demand for equipped play space of 6282 sq m.

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

	<b>Score</b>	<b>Maximum score</b>
A Eligibility	<b>Y</b>	
B Target Groups	5	7
C Project	5	5
D Capacity of Organisation	13	15
E Financial need	7	7
F Innovation	2	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>37</b>

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies.

<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>% Funding of Total Scheme Cost</b>	<b>Amount of Funding</b>	<b>Status</b>
Town Council	14%	£25,800	Secured
Viridor Credits	53%	£98,099	Applied for
SSDC (Leisure)	19%	£34500	Secured
SSDC (Area East)	5%	£10043	Applied for
Other Trusts and Foundations	9%	£15,903	Secured
<b>Total Scheme Cost</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>£184,345</b>	

The request was for £12,500 however, due to pressure of the budget, the recommended amount has been reduced to cover the third party contribution required by Viridor Credits. It should be noted that the overall contribution from SSDC represents 24% of the total project costs. The SSDC (Leisure) contribution is from a CH&L budget as there are currently no developer contributions available for this scheme. The success of the Viridor bid is crucial and if unsuccessful, the project will be significantly revised and a new application would be required.

### **Kingsdon Village Shop – Interior refurbishment works**

Kingsdon Centre Ltd has applied for a grant towards a new heating system. Kingsdon Centre Ltd is an Industrial Provident Society for the benefit of the Community (IPS Bencom) that operates the Kingsdon Village Shop.

## Parish Precept information

Parish	Kingsdon
Parish population	303 (based on 2011 Census)
No. of Households	164 (based on 2011 Census)
Precept 15/16	£11,000
Band D Charge 14/15	£71.48

## The Project

Kingsdon Centre Ltd is responsible for operating the Kingsdon Village Shop. The shop is run solely by volunteers from all sectors of the community, for the benefit of the local residents, many of whom are retired. The concept and establishment of this volunteer led and managed community shop came about following the closure of the only shop within the village in 2013. Located within the boundaries of the old disused Kingsdon Primary School, a temporary shop was set up. A six month 'Tenancy of Will' was granted for Kingsdon Centre Ltd to demonstrate that there was a need within the village for this service. Within this period, all expectations were surpassed, and a 25 year full maintenance lease was granted in November 2014.

Since then Kingsdon Centre Ltd and their volunteers have developed a working relationship with the 'Plucknett Foundation' who have supported the village shop to focus on building wider, stronger relationships with suppliers and local authorities as well as more personal local relationships by promoting volunteering opportunities in the shop and supporting vulnerable isolated residents within their community.

By doing so, the village shop have enhanced their business model, incorporating a village tea rooms, shop, small information point and meeting space as a community hub. These developments have meant that the small trading area has now reached its limits. The initial concept of a small 'pop up shop' and the increased local demand for the 'hub' has meant that the current internal layout of facilities has placed a ceiling on potential trading figures. This could impact on the longer term viability of the village shop and tea rooms. Now the facility has grown in popularity, there is not enough space to welcome local residents when functions are held there. The volunteer management committee have concerns with the availability of space in the shop & tea rooms due to the proposed increase in local population in the coming years (estimated extra 50-70 people).

In order to generate greater income to help fund future refurbishment (their intended sinking fund) of the premises and to increase the product selection options currently available, greater floor space is now required. This 'open plan' layout will have additional benefits such as better facilities to cater for small groups/clubs who wish meet. The enhancements will also provide a more accessible layout enabling local residents to use the space easily. The key aims and objectives identified by Kingsdon Centre Ltd are:

- Increased trading area to increase turnover and revenue, to ensure the ongoing viability of the village shop thus providing a much needed local service
- Greater range of products/ services provided to local residents
- Better community group / meeting facilities for residents and outlying villages
- Preservation and maintenance of local grade 2 listed building
- More environmentally friendly use of utilities (efficient water / heating, etc)
- Improvement to current layout & facilities of the building making them more accessible for all.

- Development of retail training opportunities and personal skills
- Increased usage of the tea room as an information point and social area for people to meet and feel more included within their community.

The Parish Council are very supportive of the Kingsdon Village Shop but due to a change in Parish Council Councillors and the current asset acquisition of the old school playing fields as their new recreation ground, the Parish Council have not yet confirmed the value of the grant support they can offer. A future meeting is planned between the Parish Council and the Kingston Village Shop in the New Year.

If the grant application is successful the planned improvements will take place in early January and will be completed by Easter 2016.

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

	Score	Maximum score
A Eligibility	Y	
B Target Groups	6	7
C Project	4	5
D Capacity of Organisation	14	15
E Financial need	3	7
F Innovation	2	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>37</b>

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies.

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Amount of Funding	Status
Parish/Town Councils	3%	£500	Applied for
SSDC	44%	£7000	Applied for
Local fund raising donation	1%	£200	Secured
Plucknett Foundation	12%	£2000	Secured
Own Funds	39%	£6369	Secured
<b>Total Scheme Cost</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>£16,069</b>	

The success of the South Somerset District Council (Area East Committee) grant application is crucial and if unsuccessful, the project will be significantly revised and potentially could put a halt to the planned developments.

## **Mudford Parish Council – Installation of speed sign/s**

Mudford Parish Council has applied for a grant towards the installation of two new flashing speed limit signs at either end of the village (a priority for the parish as highlighted within the parish plan).

### **Parish Precept information**

Parish	Mudford
Parish population	696 (based on 2011 Census)
No. of Households	329 (based on 2011 Census)
Precept 15/16	£28,177
Band D Charge 14/15	£101.78

### **The Project**

In spring 2009, Mudford Parish Council completed their parish plan after three years of consultation with local residents, businesses and active groups in the local community. The parish plan identified issues and priorities for the parish of Mudford. Although a plan that is now ageing, it is still a well-used and relevant plan to today's community. Within the consultation strong responses on safety suggested that it was an issue in 2009 and it continues to be a concern in 2015 with the parish council activating a project to target speeding vehicles through their community. This action not only meets a recent community issue (enhanced from concerns of increased traffic as a result of the Primrose Lane proposed development) but also the highlighted objective 1 priority within the 2009 Mudford Parish Plan.

In the plan objective 1 was to *'investigate further traffic calming measures such as chicanes, installation of pedestrian crossing, extension of the 30mph limit to Hinton Cross, 20mph limit in the village and 30mph flashing speed signs'*. Although some of these actions have been ruled out by Somerset County Council highways department, there is support from highways to establish and install two vehicle active signs displaying flashing lights showing the speed limit for the main road through the village. Professional guidance, officer time and potential installation support has been offered by the County Council but there is no financial support available from the County Council to assist at this time with this project.

The Parish Council still see this as one of their main priorities within the parish and would like to install two flashing vehicle activated speed limit signs (one at either end of the village). These signs should encourage driver observation of the speed limit, decrease speeding and make the village a safer place to live.

Mudford have actioned this project after recent studies from speed indicator devices (SID) installed in the village twice yearly showed the following results:

- August 2014: average speed of 38mph through the village
- October/ November 2014 = average speed of 36mph and 37mph respectively
- June / July 2015 = 36mph

The (SID) intervention limit (speed at which location is deemed to have speeding problem) is deemed to be 36 mph for Mudford. In the 12 months from June 2014 to June 2015 there were at least 14 car accidents in Mudford. The Community Speedwatch has also provided data showing an average of at least 500 vehicles movements per hour through the village of Mudford.

If the Parish Council is successful with the grant application, the project would commence in early 2016 and would not only meet an important objective within the parish plan but also help reassure local residents that measures are being implemented to meet their growing road safety concerns within the village of Mudford.

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

	Score	Maximum score
A Eligibility	Y	
B Target Groups	4	7
C Project	4	5
D Capacity of Organisation	11	15
E Financial need	5	7
F Innovation	1	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>37</b>

Projects scoring above 22 points are eligible for SSDC support under the current policies.

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Amount of Funding	Status
Parish/Town Councils	50%	£4010	Secured
SSDC	50%	£4000	Applied for
<b>Total Scheme Cost</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>£8010</b>	

The request is for £4000 which would be allocated from the discretionary Area East Community Safety (£2,470) and Community planning Implementation Budgets (1,530). The success of the £4000 South Somerset District Council (Area East Committee) grant application is crucial and if unsuccessful, the project will be significantly revised and potentially could put a halt to the planned developments.

## Financial Implications

There is currently £20,930 unallocated within the Community Capital budget. If Members agree the above recommendations, a sum of £887 will remain to be allocated in this financial year or roll forward to 2016/17.

There is currently £26,930 unallocated within the Community Planning Implementation budget and £2,470 within the Community Safety budget. If Members agree the above recommendations, a sum of £0 would be available within the Community safety budget and £14,400 from the Community Planning Implementation budget.

### **Corporate Priority Implications**

All projects help to 'maintain and enhance the South Somerset network of leisure and cultural facilities, optimising opportunities for external funding to promote healthy living.'  
(Focus Four: Health & Communities)

### **Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications**

Providing local access to a range of activities and services reducing the need to travel which therefore reduces carbon emissions.

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

All projects help enhance accessibility for all. In each of the five projects the Neighbourhood development officers have advised the community groups to obtain an access audit for the venue, providing them with expert advice on how to make their community facility more accessible and user friendly.

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