

Grant to Chilthorne Domer Recreational Trust (Executive Decision)

Assistant Director: Helen Rutter/Kim Close, Communities
Service Manager: Charlotte Jones, Area Development Manager (North)
Lead Officer: Sara Kelly, Neighbourhood Development Officer (North)
Contact Details: sara.kelly@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462249

Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant for £10,000 to Chilthorne Domer Recreational Trust towards the cost of building work to the pavilion building to widen the corridors and create an accessible toilet, create a new store room, purchase new inclusive outdoor play equipment and extend the car park.

Public Interest

Chilthorne Domer Recreational Trust has applied for financial assistance from the Area North community grants programme. The application has been assessed by the Neighbourhood Development Officer who has submitted this report to allow the Area North Committee to make an informed decision on the application.

Recommendation

It is recommended that councillors award a grant of £10,000 to Chilthorne Domer Recreational Trust, to be allocated from the Area North capital programme (Local Priority Schemes), subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (appendix A).

Application Details

Name of applicant	Chilthorne Domer Recreational Trust
Project	Enhanced park and play at Chilthorne Rec
Project description	Internal building work to provide accessible toilet and wider corridors, store room extension, enlarging the car park, new inclusive outdoor play equipment.
Total project cost	£148,886
Amount requested from SSDC	£10,000 (6%)
Recommended special conditions	None - SSDC standard grant conditions
Application assessed by	Sara Kelly, Neighbourhood Development Officer (North)

Community Grants Assessment Score

The table below shows the grant scoring for this application. In order to be considered for SSDC funding under the Community Grants policies, applications need to meet the minimum score of 22.

Category	Maximum score	Score
A Eligibility	Y/N	Y
B Equalities Impact	7	7
C Need for Project	5	5
D Capacity of Organisation	15	12
E Financial need	7	6
F Innovation	3	3
Total	37	33

Background

Chilthorne Domer Recreational Trust is a registered charity and occupies land leased by the Parish Council. The freehold is owned by South Somerset District Council. The objective of the Trust is the provision of recreational facilities for the use of the inhabitants of the parish of Chilthorne Domer without distinction of political, religious or other opinions.

The trust is responsible for the playing field which includes a football pitch and outdoor play equipment as well as a pavilion with function room, multi-use hall, changing and shower rooms and a kitchen.

Over the last 6 years the committee has taken a phased approach to bring about a wide range of improvements to the pavilion building and recreational facilities. Water and heating systems have been improved, the kitchen has been refurbished, loft insulation has been added, new windows and doors have been installed, new outdoor play equipment has been purchased and an all-weather pathway has been built around the field giving access to exercise and play facilities suitable for all ages and abilities. The trust has also successfully broadened its sports provision by becoming a venue for youth and walking football teams.

The village primary school which is immediately next to the playing field uses both the field and pavilion on a regular basis including for their breakfast club which runs every weekday morning during term time.

Parish Information

Parish*	Chilthorne Domer
Parish Population*	574
No. of dwellings*	229

*Taken from the 2011 census profile

Developing the Project

Following a complete refresh of the trustee body for the recreation trust in 2010, the management team has fully reviewed the condition of the pavilion and playing field and developed a business plan to improve the facility.

The trustees have been working tirelessly to deliver a multi-phased programme of works. They have held several public consultation sessions at each stage of their progress to ensure that the community and its users have had the opportunity to input their ideas and help decide on the priority and timing of the various phases.

Access for All have also been consulted and have proved very supportive when working with the architects to produce the best possible solution for disabled users.

The trustees had clear aims to improve the accessibility of the pavilion building and grounds as well as to improve energy efficiency thus reducing running costs and maintaining affordable hire charges.

Members may be aware that the Area North Committee awarded a community grant of £6000 in July 2014 towards the previous phase of improvements that focussed largely on energy efficiency. Part of that grant was used to pay for the architects drawings that were needed to inform this next phase of works. Since then, fundraising has been taking place to enable the work to move forward and the trustees have recently successfully applied for a grant of £110,110 from Viridor Credits.

The next phase will deliver widened corridors, a fully accessible toilet, a store room extension, new inclusive outdoor play equipment and a car park extension.

Local Support/evidence of need

Users and the local community have been consulted on a regular basis and their input has firmly shaped the plans that the trustees have put together.

The car park is fairly small for a facility of this size. Parking on roads around the site often creates access issues for residents and can be a danger when the school children start and finish school each day. It is a recurrent problem that is raised at every consultation event and is therefore a high priority action to be remedied. The extended car park will not only resolve these issues but will also enable the creation of two dedicated disabled bays.

The current layout of the corridor areas makes wheelchair access almost impossible and there is no dedicated accessible toilet. The plans for the revised layout have been supported by Access for All who have written in support of the improvements confirming that the creation of an accessible toilet will make the center compliant with current recommendations.

Currently the multi-use hall that is used by many groups such as skittles teams and the short mat bowls club is used to store large items of equipment that take up approximately a quarter of the floor space. By building a store room extension this hall will be restored to its full capacity and groups will have secure storage for their equipment.

At present there is no inclusive play equipment in the village. This project will provide a wheelchair accessible roundabout and slide as well as other play equipment in a landscaped play area. This is a very popular part of the project based on letters of support from the community.

The Parish Council and numerous local groups have all committed funding towards the next phase of works. The trustees have also received some private donations demonstrating that the entire community is supportive of these plans.

Project Costs

Building work including contingency	£84,327
Play equipment	£31,783
Car park	£30,794
Landscaping, post installation inspections etc	£1982
Total project cost	£148,886

Funding Plan

Funding Source	Funds Secured
Own funds	£6,000
Chilthorne Domer Parish Council	£3,000
Viridor Credits	£110,110
Chilthorne Domer Church School	£3,000
Chilthorne Domer village hall	£2,000
SCC Health and Wellbeing grant	£750
Other local organisations and private donations	£3,350
Total secured	£128,210
Amount requested from SSDC	£10,000*

*This is 6% of the total project cost.

A grant application has been submitted to Sport England for the remainder of the funding required. Should this application prove unsuccessful, the trustees have the option of reducing the specification for the car park extension and not resurfacing the existing car park area in order that the project can still proceed.

The Future

The trustees have adopted a business-like approach in order to bring about long term improvements. They have shown their aptitude for good planning and financial control. Upmost in their minds has always been the need to deliver cost effective solutions that will benefit all of their existing and future users.

There is a strong commitment to continuous improvement to produce a facility that can be enjoyed by all members of the community.

Consents and permissions

Planning permission has been granted – 15/02856/FUL

Building regulations have been approved by SSDC – 15/03909/OTHV

The pavilion is licensed by SSDC and therefore the Trust will have to submit alterations for approval to the licensing team.

Conclusion and Recommendation

This application is for £10,000, which represents 6% of the total project cost. The trustees are organised and committed and have shown very clear intentions to continue to improve the recreational facilities for the benefit of all users.

It is recommended that this application for £10,000 is supported.

Financial Implications

There is £194,655 available in the Area North Capital programme for Local Priority Schemes. If the recommended grant of £10,000 is awarded, £184,655 will remain in this allocation for this year and for future years.

Council Plan Implications

Focus Four: Health & Communities: encouraging communities to be healthy, self-reliant and with individuals who are willing to help each other.

Carbon Emissions & Climate Change Implications

Whilst there are no comments directly related to this phase of the improvements, much work has already been undertaken to reduce carbon emissions and make the pavilion building more energy efficient.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The building works will ensure that the pavilion is fully compliant with current recommendations and the addition of two disabled parking bays is welcomed. The wheelchair accessible slide and roundabout will mean that children with mobility problems will now be able to enjoy the facility

Appendix A

Standard conditions for Community Grants.

This grant offer is made based on the information provided in application form no. AN15/09 and represents 6% of the total project costs. The grant will be reduced if the costs of the total project are less than originally anticipated. Phased payments may be made in exceptional circumstances (e.g. to help with cash-flow for a larger building project) and are subject to agreement.

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 this 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 if this was not already in place at the time of the application and before starting the project.
- 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.

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 where buildings regulations are required.
- Use a contractor selected from the SSDC approved list for play area facilities.
- Incorporate disabled access and provide an access statement where relevant.

Special conditions

None