

Community Grant to Seavington Parish Council (Executive Decision)

Director: Martin Woods, Service Delivery
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Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant of £12,235 towards the refurbishment and extension of the play area and improved youth facilities at Seavington Playing Field.

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.

Seavington Parish Council has applied to the Area North community grants programme for financial assistance with the costs of refurbishing and extending the play area and improving youth facilities. The application has been assessed by the Locality Officer who is submitting this report to enable the Area North Committee to make an informed decision about the application.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors award a grant of £12,235 to Seavington Parish Council, the grant to be allocated from the Area North capital programme and subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (appendix A).

Application Details

Name of applicant:	Seavington Parish Council
Project:	Seavington Play Together – Play Area refurbishment, extension and improved youth facilities
Total project cost:	£60,454
Amount requested from SSDC:	£12,235
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	Actual score	Maximum score possible
A Eligibility	Yes	Y/N
B Equalities Impact	5	7
C Need for project	5	5
D Capacity of organisation	13	15
E Financial need	5	7
F Innovation	2	3
Grand total	30	37

Background

Seavington is a small rural community comprising two villages – Seavington St Mary and Seavington St Michael with a population of over 500. This is set to rise over the coming years with a new development having just been completed and beginning to be occupied offering 13 homes and an additional site for 20 homes identified in the Local Plan.

The renewed play area and youth facility improvements will provide much needed and wanted facilities for young people in the community who, due to the rural nature of the area have limited access to other amenities and opportunities. It will provide a focal point within the community for children and families who can then also access the playing field and other facilities on the site including the wildlife area, Millennium Hall, Community Shop, café and toilets. It will also support the Seavington Youth Club and the local Home Educating Group who meet frequently in the hall.

Seavington Playing Field Association have recently received news that their grant application to the Peoples Postcode Lottery for the “People’s Pathway Project” for £16,000 to fund an all-weather footpath around the playing field has been successful. This will improve overall access to the playing field and will greatly complement the planned improvements outlined in this application.

Parish information

Parish*	The Seavingtons: Seavington St Mary Parish Council Seavington St Michael Parish Council
Parish Population	511 Seavington St Mary Parish - 384 Seavington St Michael Parish - 127
No. of dwellings	

**Taken from the 2011 census profile*

The project

The play area improvement project has been developed through a partnership between the Parish Council and Seavington Playing Field Association. The project is managed by a team of local volunteers which is headed by one of the trustees of the Playing Field Association.

Some existing equipment is being retained and refurbished and will include the slide, swings and springers. New equipment will be added in the form of a double zip wire (aerial runway), roundabout, climbing hut, spinner bowls, low ropes trail, multiplay climbing unit, safety mating, Hamstone boulders and football goals on the playing field.

Once the work starts on site, it anticipated that it will take 6-9 weeks to refurbish the existing equipment and install the new equipment. Once the equipment is all installed, Seavington Playing Field Association will cover insurance and maintenance costs supported by the Parish Council. Both the Parish Council and the Playing Field Association will work together to develop a sinking fund for future equipment replacement.

The Playing Field Association are currently placing regular articles in the local free magazine, “The Seavingtons’ News” to update the local community of the progress being made and this will continue until the project is complete.

Local support / evidence of need

The Parish Council developed a village plan document in 2005 that identified the needs of local people. In 2013 it was agreed that this should be updated and a questionnaire was circulated to all households via The Seavingtons' News asking residents for their thoughts and views on a number of topics, including local facilities. One aspect identified in both the 2005 and 2013 questionnaires was the need to add additional equipment to the play area.

In 2018 Seavington Playing Field Association carried out a specific consultation with local young people about the play area, including the local Youth Club and Home Educating Group. The consultation identified that the number one equipment priority for young people was a zip wire (aerial runway), closely followed by a climbing frame, swinging facilities and spinning facilities. At this point, a group of local people was formed to look specifically at developing the play area to meet the identified needs of young people. The group met with representatives from the SSDC Locality Team to discuss options and has led to the development of plans to refurbish some of the existing equipment and install new equipment.

These plans have been discussed with the Seavington Youth Club, the Home Educating Group and young people within the community to assist in the selection of the preferred equipment and its placement on the site. The Seavington Youth Club have also carried out their own fundraising and have contributed £600 to the project.

To date Seavington Playing Field Association has carried out the feasibility work, consultations and procurement to identify the best equipment for the project in line with community need reporting back to the Parish Council and Playing Field Association at each step. It is planned to have an official opening, inviting the local community to come and try out the new play area and youth facilities, alongside promoting it on the village website, through the local press and again via "The Seavingtons' News".

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
Refurbishment of remaining play equipment including VAT	2,791
Supply and installation of new pieces of play equipment including VAT	27,953
Supply and installation of new pieces of play equipment without VAT	32,540
ROSPA Inspection, Football Goals, Boulders, Safety Mating	3,212
Discount from preferred play equipment supplier	- 6,042
Total	60,454

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or Pending	Amount £
Own Funds	Secured	2,000
National Lottery Small Grant	Secured	10,000
Seavington Youth Club	Secured	600
Seavington News	Secured	1,000
Section 106 Monies	*Pending	18,619
Bernard Sunley Charitable Trust	Pending	3,000
Clarks	Pending	1,500
Leonard Laity Stoate	Pending	1,500
ASDA Foundation	Pending	5,000
Pebble grant (Rank Foundation)	Pending	5,000
SSDC	Pending	12,235
Total		60,454

*SSDC has invoiced the developer for the S106 contribution but has not yet received the monies.

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that a grant of £12,235 is awarded.

Financial implications

The balance in the Area North Capital programme is £166,337. If the recommended grant of £12,235 is awarded, £154,102 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

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 reduce the impact of social isolation and create a feeling of community.
- Work with partners to support people in improving their own physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- Enable quality cultural, leisure and sport activities.

Area Chapter implications

Healthy, Self-reliant Communities - To enable healthy communities which are cohesive, sustainable and enjoy a high quality of life we will:

- Support a range of improvements to community facilities.

Equality and Diversity Implications

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.

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.