

## 11. **Community Grant Application for Youth Shelter Funding by Odcombe Parish Council (Executive Decision)**

Strategic Director: Vega Sturgess, Strategic Director – Operations & Customer Focus  
Assistant Director: Steve Joel, Assistant Director – Health & Well-being)  
Service Manager: Lynda Pincombe, Community Health & Leisure Manager  
Lead Officer: Robert Parr, Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer  
Contact Details: rob.parr@southsomerset.gov.uk  
or Tel: 01935 462413

### **Purpose of the Report**

To present before Members a community grant application to provide a Youth Shelter at Odcombe Recreation Ground.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to agree a grant award of £3,000 (or part thereof) from the Revenue Grants Budget, subject to the conditions set out in Appendix One.

### **Background**

Odcombe Parish Council initiated outreach youth work by the Somerset Rural Youth Project in January 2009 and the people they worked with have expressed a desire for a Youth Shelter where they can meet.

The recreation ground currently has one youth facility in the form of a BMX track, which the parish council have recently improved to ensure it is in a good condition for people to use.

The district council owns the recreation ground and there is a 'Delegation Agreement' with the parish council, signed in 1976. This agreement devolved the management, maintenance and development of the site to the parish council. However, the parish council is required to obtain the consent of the district council before it erects and new structures on the site.

### **Report**

Odcombe Parish Council has demonstrated a commitment to this project with the allocation of £3,000 of their own funds and set out the intention to establish a steering group to develop proposals for the recreation group.

The South Somerset District Council adopted Young People Strategy sets out the aim of:

*'Providing stimulating things to do and places to go'.*

Objective two of the strategy is:

*'To ensure 70% of young people have access to at least two youth facilities within 15 minutes walking distance by 2012'.*

Consequently the provision of a Youth Shelter would fulfil our council's aims and objectives in this regard for the village of Odcombe.

Having assessed the grant application, which scored 22, the minimum required score and therefore it is being brought before members for consideration.

The estimated cost of the project is currently £9,299 and the parish council have done some market testing to ensure the estimates are realistic. However, there is only one youth shelter example given and more options and quotes would be needed to ensure best value is assured.

The proposal is subject to funding applications and fund raising efforts being successful and a summary of the projects planned funding sources is set out in Table 1.0.

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>% of Projects Total Funding</b>	<b>Amount of Funding</b>	<b>Status of Funding</b>
South Somerset DC	32%	£3,000	Applied For
Odcombe Parish Council	32%	£3,000	Secured
Somerset County Council	22%	£2,000	Secured
Other Grant or local fundraising	14%	£1,299	To be raised
<b>Total</b>	<b>%100</b>	<b>£9,299</b>	

**Table 1.0**

The target date for completion is 31st December 2010 and this is considered a realistic date given the fund raising and work still to be done to make this project happen.

The provision of a youth shelter can help to improve the facilities available to young people in an area and if done well there is national evidence that suggests this type of provision can also reduce levels of antisocial behaviour (source: *Thames Valley Police – Youth Shelters and Sports Systems A good Practice Guide*).

The success or failure of this type of project is very much dependent on the consultation with young people, local residents and other stakeholders such as the youth service, councillors or the police. The design and location of the youth shelter is also vital as the new facility should be suitable for its location, avoid nuisance to local residents and be located in a place that young people will want to congregate.

To ensure the detailed proposals are therefore suitable for the Odcombe recreation ground a condition has been added that requires the design to be agreed by the Play & Youth Facilities Officer before work is commissioned or products purchased. This permission will also satisfy the requirements of the 'Delegation Agreement' for the site.

### **Financial Implications**

The uncommitted 2009/10 budget stands at £16,526 If members agree this award of £3,000, it will leave a balance of £13,526.

### **Implications for Corporate Priorities**

Play Supports the following corporate aims: -

- Theme three – Improve housing, health and well-being of our citizens

- Key Target 3.20 – Increase children and young people’s satisfaction with parks and play areas and adult participation in sport and active leisure.

**Other Implications**

None

**Background Papers**

None

---