

Community Capital Grant Request - West Coker Commemoration Fund (WCCF) (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

Members are asked to consider the awarding of a capital grant to West Coker Commemoration Fund (WCCF) towards assistance in funding improvements to the West Coker Memorial Hall.

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 Area South.

Recommendation

That Area South Members agree a grant of up to £6,708 (50% of total project cost) awarded from the Area South Capital Programme to West Coker Commemoration Fund (WCCF) towards the provision of new double glazed windows, masonry works and new flooring, subject to the standard conditions set out in Appendix A.

Report

The West Coker Memorial Hall is owned by the village and operated on its behalf by the West Coker Commemoration Fund, which is a registered charity no. 26984. The trustees are working to upgrade the building and facilities to modern standards, particularly for disabled access and environmental efficiency.

In the last twelve months the WCCF has replaced all lighting with low energy consumption units, improved disabled access to the building, installed disabled toilets/baby changing facilities, redecorated and installed fire doors to meet current regulations.

The hall is used extensively and has held a wide variety of events, ranging from themed dinners for 80+ guests, Whist Drives, Quiz Nights, Meetings (held in a variety of formats) Film Club, Gardening Club, Live Music events, Jumble Sales, Coffee Mornings, Exercise Classes. The hall has three rooms, the Main Hall, Jubilee Room and Committee Room all of which can be hired on an hourly or longer basis. Hire rates are detailed in table 1.0 below.

Description (Room/Function)	Band - A	Band – B
Main Hall (meetings/classes)	£10 per hour	£20 per hour
Committee Room & Jubilee Room	£8 per hour	£16 per hour
Evening Function (events & parties)	£60	£120
Kitchen		
Food preparation	£15	£30
Substantial use	£30	£60
Wedding Receptions	£300	£500

Table 1.0

The rates to book the hall have been assessed in comparison to other local halls including Odcombe, East Coker and Norton sub Hamdon and found to be comparable.

Parish Precept information

Parish	(2011 Census)
Parish population	2,018
No. of households	947
Precept 2020/21	£62,000

The Project

The WCCT have been carrying out significant upgrades to their building to bring it up to modern standards and this project is a continuation of that work.

The upgrades that form this project are:

- Replacing single glazed windows with double glazed to improve security and reduce energy use/cost of the hall
- Blocking up with masonry lower sections walls that are currently glazed or timber to improve safety and security
- Replacing the existing wooden block floor with new hard wearing vinyl flooring.

Local support / evidence of need

The Parish Council is supportive of this project and has awarded £5,000 towards the cost of these improvements.

Ward member comment:

Cllr Gina Seaton: *"I strongly support this application for a grant towards the improvements proposed at The West Coker Village Hall for the following reasons:*

- 1. The proposed work will complete the need to install improved insulated double glazed Windows and all associated works to improve security and reduce energy costs, which in return will greatly reduce The Hall's carbon foot print.*
- 2. The Hall floor has had years of heavy wear and tear. It is a much used Village venue and now very much needs to be replaced.*

I am very happy to support both the proposed works above to be carried out".

Cllr Nicola Clark: *"I am very happy to support this grant application. West Coker village hall is a well utilised and run community space and I know that the people in the community value it as a local asset. The Parish Council and local community groups have been working very hard to make the hall as accessible and usable as possible and it would be great for Area South to support them in this".*

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

Category	Maximum score	Score
A Eligibility	Y/N	Y
B Equalities Impact	7	4
C Need for Project	5	4
D Capacity of Organisation	15	13
E Financial need	7	4
F Innovation	3	1
Total	37	26

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

Funding

Funding Sources	% funding	Amount of Funding	Status
West Coker Parish Council	37%	£5,000	Secured
Own Funds	8%	£1,100	Secured
Local fundraising and use of volunteer labour	5%	£607	Ongoing
SSDC Grant	50%	£6,708	Applied for
Total		£13,415	

Overall the project meets the aims and objectives of our community grants scheme, will provide long lasting improvements to a valuable community resource and therefore the officer's recommendation is to approve the application subject to conditions.

Financial Implications

There is currently £265,040 uncommitted Capital in Area South Capital Programme.

If Members choose to support the recommendations contained in this report, it will mean that there is £258,332 remaining in the Capital in Area South Capital Programme.

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

Supporting this grant application will contribute towards the following elements of the Council Plan:

Environment

To keep South Somerset clean, green and attractive we will work in partnership to:

- Promote a high quality built environment in line with Local Plan policies.

Health and Communities

To build healthy, self-reliant, active communities we will:

- Help people to live well by enabling quality cultural, leisure, play, sport & healthy lifestyle facilities & activities.

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

Providing local access to a village hall reduces the need to travel long distances, therefore reduces carbon emissions. The upgrading of single glazed windows to double glazed will improve the energy efficiency of the building.

Equality and Diversity Implications

This project will support the ongoing sustainability of the Village Hall as a community resource for all.
