

Crewkerne Community Grant Applications (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

To request grants towards 3 projects in Crewkerne: to install floodlights on the rugby pitch at Henhayes Recreation Ground, the provision of a new skate park and an extension to the Henhayes Centre.

Public Interest

Three Community Grant applications from Crewkerne organisations are being considered.

Recommendations

That subject to the standard terms and conditions, Members support the following grant requests, which can be covered with funds from the Area West Capital Reserve:

- 1) £10,000 to Crewkerne Rugby Football Club towards new floodlighting with the following additional terms and conditions applied to any support given to the project:
 - a. The Club receives confirmation in writing of funding from RFU Lead Up and Legacy programme.
 - b. The Club and Crewkerne Town Council agree a satisfactory lease for the use of the existing rugby pitch and floodlights.
 - c. The Club develop a sinking fund in line with Rugby Football Union recommendations to fund future floodlight replacement,
- 2) £12,500 to Crewkerne Town Council towards a new skate park in the town,
- 3) £12,500 to the Henhayes Centre towards a new extension.

Crewkerne Rugby Football Club

Crewkerne Rugby Football Club (CRFC) was established in 1975 and has grown rapidly over the last 5 years. The club currently has 170 members, 55 of whom are full adult members, 75 are junior members and 40 are social members.

At present the club plays on Saturday's and Sunday's and trains Tuesday's and Thursday's all on one rugby pitch at Henhayes Recreation Ground in Crewkerne. This pitch has temporary floodlights down one side, which are not adequate and are dangerous due to their limited light coverage.

The Club fields 6 youth, 1 veteran and 2 senior teams in the county leagues and has grown considerably since developing junior opportunities and establishing a youth section in 2012. The club has fourteen qualified Rugby Football Union (RFU) coaches who run the structured youth coaching sessions for juniors at the weekends and during school holidays.

Flood lighting

Crewkerne Rugby Football Club's project is to install four 18 metre floodlighting columns to develop the rugby facilities at Henhayes Recreation Ground and enable evening matches and suitable floodlit training to take place.

To floodlight the existing rugby pitch at Henhayes Recreation Ground, in Crewkerne.

Anticipated costs: £42,000 (no VAT) for the supply and fit of 4 no 18 metre floodlights

The current floodlights are down one side of the rugby pitch and during a recent non-technical playing pitch assessment for a new South Somerset Playing Pitch Strategy, the grass coverage was rated as 'Poor' on the pitch. The reason for this is that currently Crewkerne RFC are only able to train on the half of pitch which has floodlighting, and the grass cannot recover from also being used for weekend matches.

By installing floodlighting across the entire rugby pitch, the club will be able to ensure that training takes place across the pitch to ensure even wear of the playing surface.

Crewkerne Town Council has agreed to be responsible for the procurement of the floodlights to eliminate the need to pay VAT on the project. This is their contribution towards the project, as the VAT on this project is an additional £8,400. Members would be awarding funding to Crewkerne Town Council and not Crewkerne Rugby Football Club if they supported this project.

Assessment Scoring

The Senior Sport and Healthy Lifestyles Officer has assessed the grant application and given it the following score:

Category	Maximum Score	Score
A Eligibility	Yes/No	Yes
B Equalities Impact	7	4
C Need for the Project	5	4
D Capacity of Organisation	15	13
E Financial need	7	5
F Innovation	3	2
Grand Total	37	28

A breakdown of funding for this application is detailed in the table below:

Funding Source	%	Amount of funding	Status
Rugby Football Union	48%	20,000	Applied for
Crewkerne Rugby Football Club	28%	12,000	Secure
SSDC	24%	10,000	Applied for
Total scheme cost	100%	42,000	

Councillor Angie Singleton, a Crewkerne ward member, has been consulted and is in support of this project and has stated;

“Very happy to support the application at Committee - I have been very impressed over the last few years with the way CRFC has increased its youth participation and been actively involved in several community events since finding a new home at the GRC. The addition of these floodlights shows a commitment within the club for continued improvement of their facilities. I wish them every success”.

The Club has demonstrated that they have exhausted other sources of funding for this project.

Planning permission for the project has been secured.

Crewkerne Rugby Football Club is working closely with both the Somerset RFU and the RFU. Jon Bendle, RFU Area Facilities Manager makes the following comments about the club;

“I can confirm that Crewkerne RFC has been invited onto the RFU Lead Up & Legacy Capital Investment Programme, and the RFU are working with the club on this project as a high priority within the Somerset RFU Facility Plan.

Within the RFU National Facility Strategy, projects are identified locally by constituent bodies based on their playing programme and the facilities needed to either retain or grow activity and players. Those projects that can demonstrate the readiness factors to deliver the project are prioritised for RFU capital investment under the RFU Lead up and Legacy Programme which aims to deliver a network of clubs with the following outcomes”;

- 1. Improved quality of experience for all users of the club*
- 2. Improved financial sustainability of clubs*
- 3. Improved retention and growth of players (ages 14-24) and volunteers within local club communities*
- 4. A wider range of business and social users outside of rugby*

In view of Crewkerne Rugby Football Club’s impressive growth in developing junior rugby over the last five years and their commitment to increasing local participation in rugby, it is recommended that members provide full support to this project in order that the Club and Town Council can move forwards the scheme.

Crewkerne Skate Park

There was a skate ramp in the Happy Valley Park, it was one of the first of its kind to be installed in South Somerset 16 years ago. It was very popular not just with skateboarders but also children and young people using scooters and bmx bikes, however as new materials became available its design was very outdated. Two years ago a small group of teenagers in the town formed themselves into a working group called ABSIC (A Better Skatepark in Crewkerne) and have worked with the town council to get a modern replacement. During this period, in April 2015, the old skate ramps had to be taken away because they had eroded and become too dangerous to use. The teenagers continued to fundraise themselves and have raised over £2,000 locally; this has included contributions from many families and young people in the town. After a tendering process, which involved ABSIC, Crewkerne Town Council have chosen Maverick Industries to design and install a new skate park.

Maverick Industries are a skater run business specialising in the design and installation of spray in-situ concrete skate parks. The company have been involved in some high profile

projects across the UK and are known to push the boundaries to improve both the design and quality of skate parks.

Maverick have already consulted with the teenagers of ABSIC and pupils at both Wadham and Maiden Beech Schools, to ensure they come up with a design that meets the needs of the children and young people in and around Crewkerne.

The new skate park will be larger and more durable than the metal skate ramp it is replacing. It will be made from spray in-situ concrete, which has many advantages:

- It's an ideal hardwearing riding surface and skaters' and riders' first choice.
- It's vandal-proof, even under the most severe conditions.
- It will not rust, rot, decay, burn, break, or bend, and doesn't contain loose fixings.
- It's much quieter than steel or wood.
- It gives good traction and the least slippery when wet, it also dries the quickest.
- Concrete is far more durable and low maintenance than any other skate park material.

Benefit to the community

The provision of a free to use skate park in Crewkerne will be beneficial for a number of reasons:

- 1) It provides a safe environment for wheeled sports – the few injuries there are related to skate boards and other wheeled sports generally occur outside skate parks and are often caused by irregular surfaces.
- 2) Gives children and young people a safe and attractive space to gather and socialise whilst watching and / or participating in skating, rollerblading or scootering. Comments obtained via a household survey recently carried out for the Crewkerne Community Plan, suggested that more activities and facilities were needed in the town for young people, so a new skate park will help fill that need.
- 3) Provides a fun and positive way for children and young people to take part in exercise and maintain good health. Wheeled sports often appeal to children and young people that do not have an interest in participating in team games like football and cricket. So the provision of the skate park will provide an additional healthy activity in the town.
- 4) Helps reduce anti-social behaviour by bringing more families, children and young people into Happy Valley. This in turn will deter those individuals who use the park for antisocial behaviour. The local beat officer is fully supportive of the project and feels that it will provide a good focal point for the community and neighbourhood police.
- 5) Economic benefit as it will attract 'skate tourists', these are often teenagers that cannot drive, so are reliant upon a lift. It is very usual for parents to arrive in a town, after dropping off their 'Skater' child, where they will spend a few hours shopping, eating and drinking before picking up their son or daughter from the skate park.

As the skate park is located in a public park it will be open to whoever wants to use it. Happy Valley is located just off the main road to Misterton, which makes it easy for teenagers and young people living there to access the facility. As ABSIC will be promoting the new skate

park via their friends and social media, it is likely to attract young people from quite a wide catchment area.

SSDC Community Health and Leisure have been consulted on the project and have said:

“The provision of youth facilities such as skate parks, which provide opportunities for wheeled play and recreation is fully supported by the aims and objectives of the District Council. The proposals put forward by Crewkerne Town Council are well considered and have been led by the young people in the community. The skate park will provide a quality facility that will be well used and valued by the residents and visitors of the town for many years to come, and therefore I give my support to this project.” Rob Parr Senior Play & Youth Facilities Officer.

Finance

The total cost of the project including design, groundworks, building works and all necessary site security and welfare items is £80,000.

The Town Council proposes to fund the scheme in the following way:

Funding Source	%	Amount of funding	Status
Crewkerne Town Council	19%	£15,000	Secured
ABSIC, local fundraising	2%	£2,097	Secured
S106 Maiden Beech	24%	£19,398	Secured
SSDC	16%	£12,500	Awaiting decision
S106 funds	39%	31,005	Awaiting decision
TOTAL	100%	£80,000	

The Neighbourhood Development Team Leader has assessed and scored the grant application in the following way:

Category	Maximum score	Score
A Eligibility	Y/N	Yes
B Equalities Impact	7	2
C Need for Project	5	5
D Capacity of Organisation	15	13
E Financial need	7	7
F Innovation	3	2
Total	37	29

As the application exceeds the minimum score of 22, it is recommended that the grant should be approved.

Henhayes Centre

The Henhayes Centre is a charity located in central Crewkerne that provides a building for social, educational and recreational purposes, particularly for the older residents and disabled people in and around the town. The Henhayes Centre is well used by many older people living in and around Crewkerne. The Henhayes provides a freshly prepared meal every day and offers a wide variety of activities primarily aimed at older residents, these include:

- Monday Memory Group for people with dementia

- Physio fit for people unsteady on their feet
- Over 50s keep fit
- Short Mat Bowls
- Pioga for the over 50s
- Tuesday Welcome Group – activities and socials for the over 70s
- Venue for a number of U3A groups
- Musical events

A survey carried out last year showed that 67% of their users live within Crewkerne, with the vast majority of them being in their 70s and 80s. The other 33% live within an 8 mile radius of the centre, mainly living in villages within Area West, as well as Chard and Ilminster. Many of the users live alone and they appreciate the friendliness of the centre and value the social interaction the Henhayes provides.

New extension and its benefits

The Henhayes Centre has recently been granted planning permission to build a small glazed extension on the front of the building, which will be a new entrance porch. Although modest in size, this new extension will have a number of considerable benefits to both the organisation and more importantly its users:

- 1) **Creation of an informal warm social area.** The users of the Centre would like to use the current lobby area as an informal social space where they can sit and have a chat over a cup of tea. Although this is possible during the summer months, for most of the year, it is too cold and / or draughty for the users of the centre to sit in this area. Every time the automatic entrance doors slide open a blast of cold air comes in, making it difficult for them to keep the area at a constant comfortable temperature. Evidence acquired from a user survey carried out last year, showed that many people want to be able to just pop into the Henhayes Centre for a chat and a cup of tea, rather than get involved with some of the more organised activities that take place in the meeting rooms. The creation of a warm informal social area will be attractive to many older people all year round, and will help reduce social isolation and loneliness amongst the older population.
- 2) **Improved energy efficiency** - The new extension will become the entrance porch and this will create an effective buffer between the elements outside and the informal social area. This will enable the Henhayes to maintain a comfortable warm area in the current lobby.
- 3) **Additional much needed storage space** - Currently any tables and chairs that are not being used are stacked up against the walls in the large meeting room. Not only does this look untidy, it also creates a risk if young children climb on the stacked furniture. This then restricts their ability to hire the room out to groups wanting to use the room for activities with young children. As the Henhayes Centre is reliant on room bookings to cover the running costs of the centre, they want to make the rooms as attractive as possible to all potential room bookers. The new entrance lobby will contain additional storage cupboards, where they can keep many of the items currently stored in the walk in cupboard, located next door to the large meeting room. By freeing up space in that cupboard, they can then store furniture in there, thus removing stacks of chairs and folded up tables from the large meeting room.

Finance

The cost of the project is outlined below:

Item / activity	Cost (£)
Building works including glazing	35,420
Electrics & heating	6153
Flooring	1178
Storage & furniture	738
Fees	1580
Contingency	£2000
TOTAL	£47,069

All the above costs include delivery and installation.

The Henhayes Centre proposes to fund the scheme in the following way:

Funding Source	%	Amount of funding	Status
Crewkerne Town Council	10%	£4700	Secured
Own funds	3%	£1580	Secured
SSDC	27%	12,500	Secured
Other grants	60%	£28,289	Working towards
TOTAL	100%	£ 47,069	

The remaining balance of £28,289 will be found from a combination of grant trust funds and S106 contributions, which the Neighbourhood Development Team Leader is helping the group secure.

The Neighbourhood Development Team Leader has assessed the grant application and has given it the following score:

Category	Maximum score	Score
A Eligibility	Y/N	Yes
B Equalities Impact	7	6
C Need for Project	5	4
D Capacity of Organisation	15	11
E Financial need	7	5
F Innovation	3	2
Total	37	28

The score exceeds the minimum score of 22 required to recommend approval.

Financial Implications

If Members agree to all three grants, which would be an allocation of £35,000, this would reduce the Area West Capital Reserve from £57,433 to £22,433.

Council Plan Implications

Supporting these 3 projects helps address the Health and Communities priority of the SSDC Council Plan in the following ways:

- Free to use skate park provides a social space and healthy activity for children, teenagers and young adults.
- Creation of a warm informal social space for older residents helps combat loneliness and isolation.

Assisting the projects also helps to meet the following action within 2016-17 action plan:

- Support at least 50 community projects

Carbon Emissions & Climate Change Implications

The Henhayes extension will help improve energy efficiency in the main building.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The Henhayes Centre is fully accessible to everybody and the new extension will comply with all access requirements.

Background Papers

- Crewkerne Rugby Football Club planning documents 15/03006/FUL
 - Crewkerne Skate Park planning documents 16/02064/FUL
 - Henhayes Centre planning documents 16/00729/FUL
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