

Community Grant to Chaffcombe Village Hall (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant of £5,455 towards the cost of an extension to create an additional store for sports equipment and for fascia replacement for Chaffcombe Village Hall.

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.

Chaffcombe Village Hall has applied to the Area West community grants programme for financial assistance with the costs of extending the size of the existing front porch of the village hall in order to create extra storage space and to replace the existing wooden fascia boards with uPVC. The application has been assessed by the Locality Officer who is submitting this report to enable the Area West Committee to make an informed decision about the application.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors award a grant of £5,455 to Chaffcombe Village Hall, the grant to be allocated from the Area West capital programme and subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (Appendix A)

Application Details

Name of applicant:	Chaffcombe Village Hall
Project:	Extension to create an additional store for sports equipment and for fascia replacement for Chaffcombe Village Hall
Total project cost:	£10,910
Amount requested from SSDC:	£5,455
Application assessed by:	Adrian Moore – Locality Officer

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	4	7
C Need for project	4	5
D Capacity of organisation	14	15
E Financial need	5	7
F Innovation	1	3
Grand total	28	37

Background

Chaffcombe Village Hall is an intrinsic part of local rural community life in Area West and is used all year round by a vibrant community made up of villagers and people from the nearby conurbations, farms and isolated houses.

The Village Hall offers a single, highly flexible space and is described as “cosy” on the village webpage with tables, seating and a raised dais, suitable for a multiplicity of uses. These include; Coffee Mornings, Meetings, Lunches & Dinners, Card Games, Dancing, Concerts, Sewing Groups, an Art Venue, Art Classes, Vinyl Evenings, Sports - including Table Tennis and Short Mat Bowls. It is a proven venue for a wide range of social functions, including community based, church based and privately sponsored events. The hall is available for hire for wedding receptions, children’s parties, workshops and charity fundraising events.

In 2015 the internal structure of the hall was altered to enable more seating for concerts and to create more space for sporting activities. There is a very keen table tennis following in the village and the local club now has three high quality table tennis tables which has given rise to the requirement for more suitable dry and safe storage facilities for them. The proposed extension at the front of the building is designed to increase the area of storage to easily accommodate the table tennis tables. It will also be flexible enough to store chairs, tables, and parts of the mountable stage and the Short Mat Bowls equipment which are currently stored in the main hall. This clearance will result in a larger area for use in the main hall, with far less clutter, which is desirable when events such as Concerts and Dinners take place.

The wooden facias located below the gutters require regular painting. This work is currently carried out by a contractor on a regular basis which is costly and not without health & safety risk working at height. Experience has shown that the use of uPVC in windows fitted at the front of the hall in 1990 and to the rear in 2011 has resulted in the windows being more or less, maintenance free and has therefore resulted in lower operating cost for the village hall and a safer environment since their fitting. It is envisaged that the same benefits would accrue by replacing the wooden facias (which despite regular painting are in poor condition) with uPVC.

Attendees of village hall events will have an improved experience, making it a more attractive venue as there will be less items stored in and cluttering the main hall. The seated capacity of the hall will be increased, permitting a larger capacity seated concert audience.

The longevity of the table tennis tables (which are prone to damage during their movement) will be increased resulting in lower long-term running costs. Each table costs in the region of £700 to replace and needs to be in a good condition to play league matches. The only alternative current "safe" method of storing the table tennis tables out of the main hall is in the rear store which is located to the rear of the site. The likelihood of damage to both the tables and those moving them during transit, makes this undesirable.

Parish information

Parish*	Chaffcombe
Parish Population	229
Number of dwellings	-

*Taken from the 2011 census profile

The project

The application covers two separate projects, both of which will be of benefit to users of the hall but in different ways. The proposed extension comprising of combined entrance and store at the front of the building is designed to increase the area of storage. The work to replace the wooden facias with uPVC is to reduce long term maintenance costs and remove the need to regularly work from height while carrying out routine painting.

A great deal of care has been taken to improve the look of the village hall with these works. A lot of consideration and thought has gone into matching existing windows, stone and brickwork designs and reusing materials and matching new materials.

The Project Manager for all this work will be a Trustee of the Village Hall who leads the Village Hall Building and Maintenance Group having run his own successful building company and having successfully managed the significant internal building project carried out in 2015. To reduce costs a number of skilled tradesmen living locally will assist with the building of the extension by providing their labour and expertise without cost. The only outside contracting cost required is for the construction of the new fibreglass roof of the combined entrance and store.

Local support / evidence of need

A public meeting for local residents was held in late 2018 when all residents were invited to make comments about the design proposed by the Buildings and Maintenance Group, following the identification of the need for additional storage space by all Trustees in 2017. A number of suggestions were taken into account and a modified final design was approved by the Trustees with a majority 9-3 vote in favour at a meeting in early 2019. This design was subsequently submitted to SSDC planning and was approved in June 2019.

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
Fibre glass roofing	1,260
Windows	1,643
Insulation	840
Other materials/H&S signage/Additional insurance costs	3,098
Facia Replacement	4,069
Total	10,910

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Parish/Town Council	Secured	300
Own Funds	Secured	5,155
SSDC	Pending	5,455
Total		10,910

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that a grant of £5,455 is awarded.

Financial implications

The balance in the Area West Capital programme is £149,284. If the recommended grant of £5,455 is awarded, £143,829 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

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

- Support communities so that they can identify their needs and develop local solutions
- Help people to live well by enabling quality cultural, leisure, play, sport & healthy lifestyle facilities & activities

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

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.

Special conditions