

Community Grant to Iminster Tennis and Bowling Club (Executive Decision)

Director: Netta Meadows, Director of Service Delivery
Manager / Lead Specialist: Tim Cook, Locality Manager
Lead Officer: Nathan Turnbull Locality Officer
Contact Details: Nathan.Turnbull@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462462

Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant of £12,500 to Iminster Tennis and Bowling Club towards resurfacing three Tennis Courts.

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.

Iminster Tennis & Bowling Club has applied to the Area West community grants programme for financial assistance with the costs of resurfacing three tennis Courts, 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 £12,500 to Iminster Tennis and Bowling Club, 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:	Iminster Tennis and Bowling Club (Matt Hamilton)
Project:	Resurfacing of three outdoor Tennis Courts
Total project cost:	£26,209
Amount requested from SSDC:	£12,500
% funding requested	48%
Application assessed by:	Nathan Turnbull

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	Comments
A Supports Council Plan/Area Chapter	Y/N	Y
B Supports Equalities & Diversity	Y/N	Y
C Supports Environment Strategy	3	1
D Need for Project	10	8
E Capacity of Organization	17	12
F Financial need	7	4
Total	37	27

Background

Ilminster Tennis Club joined forces with the bowling club in 1957. The tennis club has been moving from strength to strength over the years with well over 100 tennis members in 2019. The club was able to move from 2 courts in 2007 with the new club development to 3 floodlight courts which offer an excellent surface. The tennis club run 9 league teams during the summer and 2 in the winter. The club has also a strong foundation of youth tennis players who have progressed into league players and on wards to a county level and the club has dedicated professional coach.

Parish information

Parish*	Ilminster
Parish Population	5,808
No. of dwellings	2716

*Taken from the 2011 census profile

The project

The current courts are coming towards the end of their normal life span, they were laid in 2006 and have been painted and cleaned twice in this period to keep them at higher level as possible until needing to be resurfaced.

They are not accessible for wheelchair or people with limited mobility due to the surface quality. Ilminster Tennis and Bowling Club have looked at multiple options for resurfacing and spent much time visiting and talking to other clubs. The Club have opted for a 'Macadam replacement', which is a direct ('like for like') replacement known for its longevity.

The club has investigated options and has identified 'Macadam' as the preferred solution.

It can be cleaned and repainted after a period of around 5 years and this means the courts are kept well-maintained using club funds to extend the life of the court.

The Tennis club intend to work with the local doctor's surgeries and supporting services to provide structured taster sessions in sporting activity, inclusive sessions that are adapted for physical and mental needs, social events, discrete exercise programs and many more activities that are focussed on addressing the obvious need identified above.

One of the projects main goals is to provide disabled people with access to tennis; this project will enable community access to coaching inclusively with people of different abilities, making sure the surface for all players is safe and inclusive.

The Club recognises the need to offer a greater range of activities that extends the reach to the younger and older members of our community including the most vulnerable, they aim to explore providing opportunities for disability tennis including; learning disability tennis, deaf tennis, visually impaired (VI) tennis and physically impaired tennis – the latter includes ambulatory tennis and wheelchair tennis.

Local support / evidence of need

The Lawn Tennis Association view* is that community courts need protection (and in some cases improvement) and are a priority in order to increase levels of tennis participation in South Somerset.

*Source: South Somerset Leisure Facilities Strategy

Consultation with the Lawn Tennis Association, other local clubs and club members supports the project and the surface proposed.

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
Resurfacing of Three Outdoor Tennis Courts ex VAT	£26,209.00
Total	£26,209.00

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Parish/Town Council	Secured	£2,000.00
Own Funds	Secured	£10,000.00
Fundraising /Donation	Secured	£1,709.00
SSDC Community Grant	Pending	£12,500.00
Total		£26,209.00

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that a grant of £12,500 is awarded to Ilminster Bowling and Tennis Club.

Financial implications

The balance in the Area West Capital programme is £132,329. If the recommended grant of £12,500 is awarded, £119,829 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

None

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.
- Note that they cannot apply for another community grant for the same project within a 3 year period of this award.

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