

Community Grant to Ilchester Hall, Chiselborough (Executive Decision)

Director: Netta Meadows, Director of Service Delivery
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Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant of £12,500 towards the cost of an extension to create storage space at Ilchester Hall, Chiselborough.

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 the district.

Ilchester Hall has applied to the Area West community grants programme for financial assistance with the costs of building an extension to create storage space. 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 Ilchester Hall, the grant to be allocated from the Area West capital programme and subject to SSSC standard conditions for community grants (appendix A)

Application Details

Name of applicant:	Ilchester Hall
Project:	New extension to create storage space
Total project cost:	£39,426
Amount requested from SSSC:	£12,500
% amount requested	31%
Application assessed by:	Nathan Turnbull

Community Grants Assessment

The table below shows the grant scoring for this application. Applications must meet the minimum score of 22 to be considered for SSSC funding under Community Grants policies.

Category	Officer assessment score
A Supports Council Plan/Area Chapter	1
B Supports Equalities & Diversity	1
C Supports Environment Strategy	2
D Need for Project	8
E Capacity of Organization	12
F Financial need	3
Total	27

Background

Ilchester 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 Hall offers two rooms, the first being a flexible space with tables, seating and high ceiling, suitable for a multiplicity of uses. These include; Village Fairs, St. Georges Day Supper, Film Nights, Parish Supper, Village Walks and Breakfast, Village Lunches, Village Arts Group, Talks, Spring and Autumn Markets The Book Club (The tea pot group). 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.

The second room is an old office, which can be used for meetings or smaller events.

The proposed extension at the side of the building is designed to increase the area of storage to easily accommodate, chairs, tables, portable staging, stage lighting, event signs and other equipment, which are currently stored across the two rooms. This clearance will result in a larger area for use in both rooms, with far less clutter, which is desirable for events to take place.

Attendees to the hall will have an improved experience, making it a more attractive venue, as there will be less items stored and less items cluttering the main hall, this will in time help the financial implications of running the hall.

Parish Information

Parish*	Chiselborough
Parish Population	275
No. of dwellings	-

*Taken from the 2011 census profile

The project

The application covers one project, which will benefit users of the hall. The proposed extension is designed to add well-needed storage space.

A great deal of care and consideration has gone into planning this extension, collectively the committee decided to go for solid stone construction, cavity walled, ham stoned faced front aspect with concrete rendered blocks to the rear, they felt it would be in keeping, being in a conservation area.

Management Committee members will be involved with running the project having initially drawn up the specification. The prime contractor will be involved in the day-to-day management as part of the installation contract.

Local support / evidence of need

Users have expressed concerns at hiring the hall due to health and safety issues and lack of space, which will affect running costs and ultimately have financial impact on the hall if the extension is not provided.

From the outset, they have been in deep discussion with the Parish Council, who use the hall for their meetings and special public events.

The Committee have consulted with the neighbours on both sides who are happy with the proposal.

The design was subsequently submitted to SSDC planning and was approved in September 2020.

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
Demolish existing shed, and rebuild as per plans and clear site	34,854
Rewiring and associated electrical work	2,194
Flooring boards, loft ladder plus misc. (Bradford's verbal quote)	500
5%contingency	1,878
Total	39,426

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Parish/Town Council	Secured	*1,000
Own Funds	Secured	24,434
Other- Village benefactor	Secured	2,490
Total		27,924



South Somerset District Council

*£250 secured over the last 4 years resulting in £1,000.

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that a grant of £12,500 is awarded.

Financial implications

The balance in the Area West Capital programme is £117,682. If the recommended grant of £12,500 is awarded, £105,182 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

Council Plan Themes and Areas of focus for 20/21

Healthy, Self-reliant Communities - To enable healthy communities, which are cohesive, sustainable and enjoy a high quality of life we will:

- Embed social value into all processes and activities to ensure we maximise the support we give
- Work with partners to reduce the impact of social isolation and create a feeling of community
- Work with partners to support people in improving their own physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Enable quality cultural, leisure and sport activities

Environment - To keep South Somerset clean, green and attractive and respond to the climate emergency we will work in partnership to:

- Promote a high-quality built environment

Key Priorities for Area West – Area West Chapter

Healthy, Self-reliant Communities

- Support a range of improvements to community buildings

Equality and Diversity Implications

The project aims to provide for people across all age and interest groups in the local community.



South Somerset
District Council
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.