
Community Grant to Wincanton Men's Shed – Wincanton Men's Shed Extension (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant of £11,500 towards the Wincanton Men's Shed Extension.

Public Interest

Awarding grants is a keyway that SSDC supports and helps to deliver community projects sponsored by Parishes and voluntary community organisations in the towns and villages across the district.

The Wincanton Men's Shed has applied to the Area East community grants programme for financial assistance with the costs of Wincanton Men's Shed Extension. The Locality Officer is submitting this report to enable the Area East Committee to make an informed decision about the application and has assessed the application.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Councillors award a grant £11,500 (38% of costs) the grant to be allocated from the Area East capital programme and subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (appendix A)

Application Details

Name of applicant:	Wincanton Men's Shed
Project:	Wincanton Men's Shed Extension
Total project cost:	£30,000
Amount requested from SSDC:	£11,500
% amount requested	38%
Application assessed by:	Terena Isaacs

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	Max Score available	Officer assessment score
A Supports Council Plan/Area Chapter	1	1
B Supports Equalities & Diversity	2	2
C Supports Environment Strategy	3	1
D Need for Project	10	7
E Capacity of Organisation	15	11
F Financial need	7	4
Total	37	26

Background

The Wincanton Men's Shed was one of the first in the country to be set up, in 2013. From the early days of the men being attracted by bacon butties, the Shed has evolved to become a community opportunity for men at any stage in their lives, but with a particular emphasis on older and isolated men who tend to find 'shoulder to shoulder' activity easier than 'face to face'.

The experience, skills and knowledge of the core group has always been around woodworking and the men have purchased and accumulated a wide range of hand and power tools to create different artefacts. The group and its projects have grown and in 2017 an 18m² extension was added to provide more workbench and assembly space.

Parish information

Parish*	Wincanton
Parish Population	5272
No. of dwellings	2,981

*Taken from the 2011 census profile

The project

The project is to extend the Wincanton Men's Shed. The extension will measure approximately 35m². Providing the increased space to meet the growing needs of this facility.

The Men's Shed members have come up with the design to make best use of the space adjoining the existing buildings. They have taken advice from Building Control and designed the extension with the help of an agricultural buildings construction company.

The project is a partnership between the Men's Shed and the Balsam Centre (who own the premises) and will be co-produced throughout.

Post Covid people are eager to try new activities and learn new skills. A new SSDC funded employment project based at the Centre will be able to make use of the enlarged shed for skills development and training.

Local support / evidence of need

It has become increasingly apparent that what is really needed is a social space for people whose main motivation in coming to the Shed is for peer support, social connections and a wider range of opportunities.

In the recent past there has been increasing interest from more diverse sections of the community including young people, people with dementia, families and women, in pursuing Men's Shed type activities.

The existing Men's Shed members will gain space to allow existing and new members to join and be actively involved. The additional space will offer potential for e.g. small scale, low tech engineering, metalwork, clay, basketry activities (not all at once!) which will attract a new user demographic. They will be able to open every day if needed, including on a Saturday with the intention to offer the space to the monthly Repair Cafe, which is looking for a home, thereby sparking environmental thinking and activity.

Staff at the Centre will support users into interest/support groups in the Men's Shed and will encourage intergenerational activity, e.g. a bike project with older Shedders and young people/Shedders.

People with dementia and mobility problems will also benefit and be able to use the space.

It has not been possible to accommodate new groups due to the overall lack of space and the focus on woodworking which takes up most of the current available space.

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
Supply and Construction of small agricultural building to form extension.	30,000
Total	30,000

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Own Funds	Secured	2,500
Mackie Trust	Secured	10,000
Private Donor	Secured	1,000
Private Donor	Secured	5,000
SSDC Community Grant	Pending	11,500
Total		30,000

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that a grant of £11,500 is awarded

Financial Implications

If the previous two grants in the agenda are approved, the balance in the Area East Capital programme will be £18,157. If the recommended grant of £11,500 is awarded, £6,657 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 2022/23

- Collaborate with local partners to reduce the impact of social isolation and create a feeling of community
- Work with local partners to support people in improving their physical and mental health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities
- Enable quality and inclusive cultural, leisure and sport activities

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

Enabling people to access services locally reduces the need for travel and encourage local people to walk to the site if possible.

Creating a larger working space will give the opportunity to offer the monthly Repair Café a home, repairing and recycling broken items is better for the environment.



Equality and Diversity Implications

Please describe the outcome of your Equality Impact Assessment. As a minimum an Equality Impact Relevance Check form must be completed which will indicate whether a full Equality Impact Assessment is required. Please see template guidance notes. [Equality Impact Assessment - South Somerset District Council](#)

Please complete the questions in the box below along with a brief summary of the outcome of the EIA process. A copy of either the Impact Relevance Check form or full Equality Impact Assessment form should be appended to this report.

If you need advice on completion of these forms please contact David Crisfield david.crisfield@southsomerset.gov.uk

<i>An Equality Impact Relevance Check Form has been completed in respect of the Proposal?</i>	Yes
<i>The Impact Relevance Check indicated that a full EIA was required?</i>	No
<i>If an EIA was not required please attach the Impact Relevance Check Form as an Appendix to this report and provide a brief summary of its findings in the comments box below.</i>	
<i>If an EIA was required please attach the completed EIA form as an Appendix to this report and provide a brief summary of the result of your Equality Impact Assessment in the comment box below.</i>	
Additional Comments	
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.
- Complete an evaluation survey when requested after the completion of the project.
- 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.