

Area South Committee – 3rd February 2010

Community Grants Evaluation 2008/09

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For Information Only

Purpose of the Report

To review the grants awarded for 2008/09 and look at the evaluation outcomes.

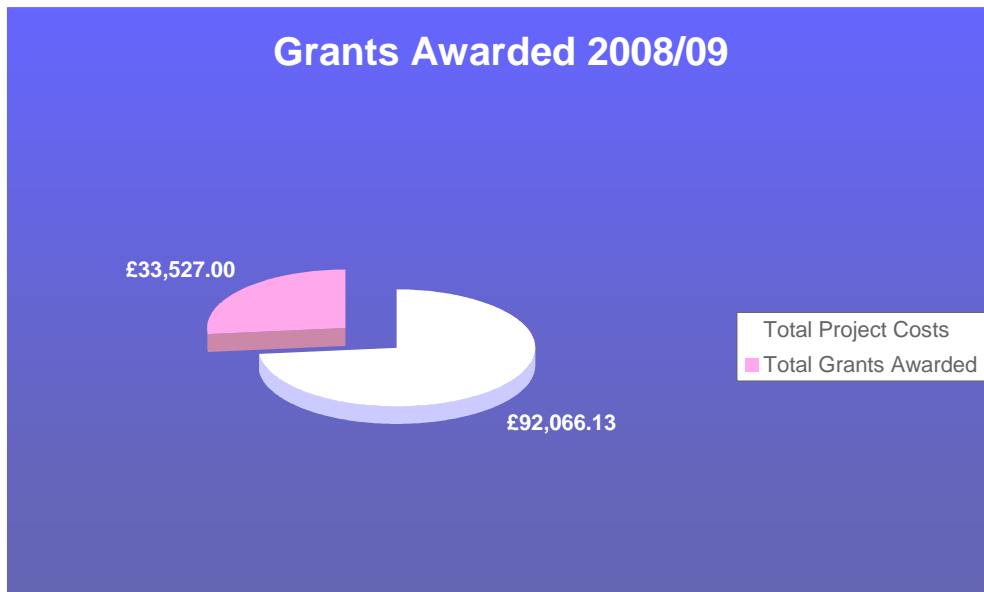
Background

We provide small community grants to voluntary and charitable organisations, not-for-profit groups, Parish or Town councils and other organisations that benefit the wider community. Where applications meet a clearly identified local need we will fund up to 50% of project costs of a maximum of £12,500.

Grants awarded in 2008/09

Group	Project	Funding Theme	Budget	Total Project Cost £	Amount awarded by SSDC £
Odcombe FC	New Goal Posts for football teams	Sports & Rec	Revenue	644	161
Ivel Barbarians Junior RFC	Funding to support community coach to remain part of the South Somerset & Mendip Community Rugby Partnership	Sports & Rec	Revenue	24,000	1,000
Yeovil Music Centre	Funding for start up costs of community orchestra	Arts & Heritage	Revenue	7350	747
Fiveways Special School	Funding for second phase of hydrotherapy pool to install sensory lighting in the pool/pool area	Community General	Capital	26,357.20	8271
East Coker Parish Council	Funding towards new showers/kitchen for new pavilion	Sports & Rec	Capital Sports	20000	4000

South Somerset Mind	Implement new recovery program to help people with physical disabilities or learning disabilities	Healthy Living	Revenue	20,058.13	9516
Abbey Community Association	Refurbishment of community hall	Community buildings	Revenue	10,684.70	5342.35
Yeovil Opportunities Programme	Funding for equipment /mini bus	Community general	Revenue	18,500	9000
Magnolia Day Hospital	Equipment for Arts Therapy Project	Community general	Revenue	1281.62	600
Gemma Hayward – Bursary	Help with coaching and competition costs	Sport and Rec	Revenue	150	150
SSDC Sports Arts & Leisure	Barwick Play Day	Community General	Revenue	1,364	682



Evaluation

Monitoring forms are completed at the end of project/year which enable us to look at particular benefits and successful outcomes. The following table and information has been collated as a result of these forms.

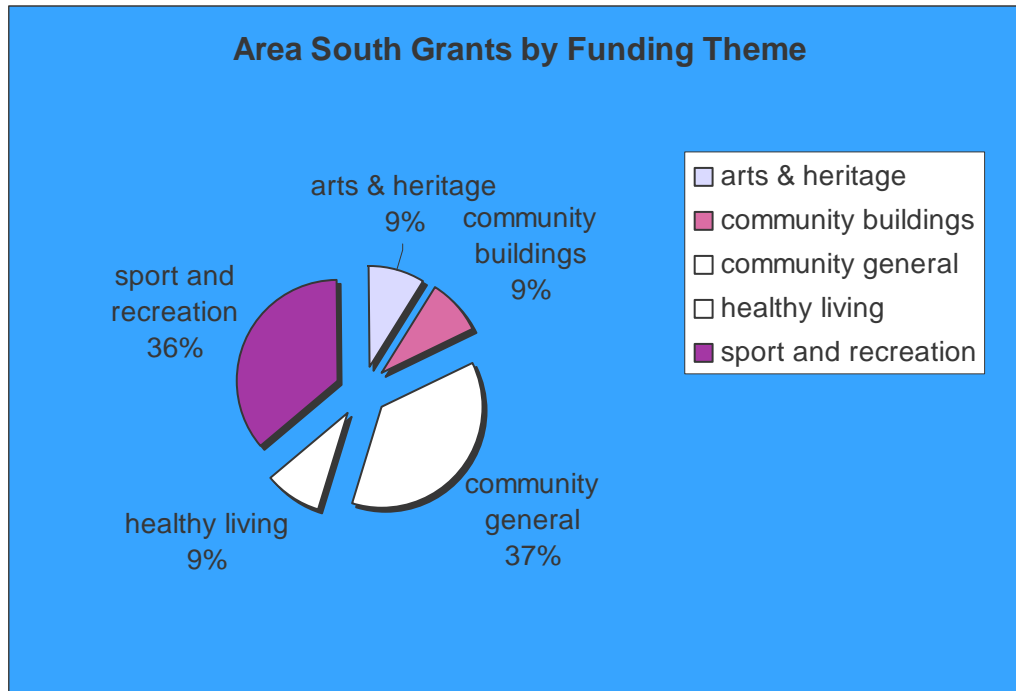
Benefits and Successful Outcomes

Group	Benefits of project to community	Successful Outcomes of Project
Ivel Barbarians Junior RFC	Qualified coaches go to into both primary & secondary schools to teach	Community Coach going to schools for rugby insights. Successfully holding bags trophy competition at the club. Holding tag festival at the club for schools. remain part of the South Somerset & Mendip Community Rugby Partnership
Yeovil Music Centre	Music made accessible to all ages. It provides a meaningful hobby/interest for all and motivates and encourages independence. Children mix from different schools and this encourages different friendship groups. The ethos is non-judgmental and fosters acceptance of all regardless of ability. It develops personal, musical and ensemble skills and confidence	Music centre moved from being a publicly funded and supported group to a constituted voluntary group and function independently. Music Centre has a thriving community choir. Security of the continuity of the Music Centre.
South Somerset Mind	60 people trained in recovery. Volunteers trained specifically to support service users in their recoveries. New referral pack designed which is used daily. Set-up of peer support group.	Increased volunteers and re-engagement with the community. Increased participation in user forum which includes fund raising events for activities. Aiming to address people with social issues such as homelessness and addiction issues
SSDC Sports Arts & Leisure	Community Cohesion. Play & Youth Development. Awareness of local groups and associations. Inter-generational working. Help to reduce anti-social behaviour.	Number attending was high. Excellent feedback from Audit. Increased play awareness and development opportunities.
Abbey community Association	Community Hall is now Secure. The walls are now clean & easier to wash down.	Pre-School are now in a secure hall. Rain no longer gets into the hall. Gives easier access to the outside. Improved cleanliness of the kitchen.
East Coker PC	Enhanced meeting room for parish council & hiring out. Much improved facilities for sportsmen/women ie. Changing rooms, showers etc	Building will now accommodate 2 activities at any one time. Building is more secure. Meets health & safety legislation including access for disabled.

In 2008/09 at least 1400 people benefited from projects and the number of volunteers involved in delivering projects was 88.

As a result of the community grants scheme a large amount of match funding has been received by the community groups for example we granted Ivel Barbarians £1,000 towards funding of which the project cost was £24,000. Fiveways Special School were granted £8271 of which the project cost was £26,357.20.

Funding is grouped into appropriate themes. The chart below shows the percentage of funding for each theme for 08/09.



In 2008/09 20 Application packs requested were not completed and returned therefore a questionnaire was sent out to ask reasons why. We were interested to know if people found the application forms complicated, if they funded the project from elsewhere or the project didn't go ahead. We only received 5 replies to which the same reason applied, this was the projects were not yet ready to go ahead and were waiting for further information/legal agreements etc. One had not been sent back as they missed the deadline but intended to return in April ready for the new financial year. Based on the above information it seems no need to make any major changes to the forms.

Financial Implications

None

Implications for Corporate Priorities

The projects we have funded contribute to the following Corporate Aims and Objectives:

Corporate Priorities

- Improve the housing, health and well-being of our citizens
- Ensure safe, sustainable and cohesive communities
- Deliver well managed, cost effective services valued by our customers
- **Objective 10** - Achieve an annual increase of 10 per cent in the number of cases in which homelessness is prevented.
- **Objective 16** - Maintain above 80% the people satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live

And contributes to the following Key Target Areas:

- (3.31) Increase engagement in the Arts
- (3.19) Increase children and young people's satisfaction with parks and play areas and adult participation in sport and active recreation.
- (4.26) Increase participation in regular volunteering
- (5.11) Increase overall/general satisfaction with local area

Conclusion

The 08/09 Grants scheme has been very successful making a difference to community groups, schools, clubs and organisations. From comments received on evaluation forms it is clear that community groups value this scheme. The investment of £33527 has allowed groups in area south to receive £92066 in other sources. Residents of Area South have reaped the benefits of the funding awarded and will continue to do so in the future as long as the community grants scheme continues.

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