

South REPF 2023/24 - officer evaluation report

Scoring summary for Capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society

Ref no.		Organisation	Scheme	Total Project Cost	Amount Requested	Suggested score
SREPF\100041		Thomley Hall Centre Ltd	Installation of 54 Solar Panels, Storage Battery and 4 EV/PHEV Charging Points	£26,736	£26,736	10
SREPF\100042		Aston Rowant Cricket Club	Net Zero Junior & Development Team Sports Pavilion at Aston Rowant	£130,172	£50,000	8
SREPF\100084		Thame Players Theatre Company	Installation of Solar Panels	£28,840	£20,000	8
SREPF\100082		Thame Town Council	Installation of secondary glazing in upstairs office and toilet facilities	£11,326	£11,326	7
SREPF\100089		Earth Trust	Re-surface badly pot-holed visitor car park and short entrance track	£7,335	£7,335	6
SREPF\100063		Little Milton Parish Council	Procuring and siting two Speed Indicator Devices on A329 in Little Milton	£4,500	£3,500	5
SREPF\100086		South Moreton Community Benefit Society	Window replacement	£8,200	£8,200	5
				Total Requested	£127,097	
				Total Budget	£45,000	
				Budget Remaining	-£82,097	

Scoring and award matrix for REPF Grant applications

Suggested Scores	Scores: The scoring thresholds which identify what priority level the project falls into can be amended, depending on the number of applications received and potential allocation of funds to ensure maximum community benefit. As agreed by the Cabinet Member.
7 - 12	Project is recommended for funding
0 - 6	Project is not recommended for funding

Projects MUST score at least one point in the Project outputs/outcomes section in order to be recommended for funding.

Need for project.

Points		
0	No evidence of need for project has been provided	
1	Limited evidence for need for project has been provided	A small scale survey of employees or service users has been carried out.
2	Good evidence of need for project has been provided	A larger scale survey has been carried out asking the wider community
3	Detailed evidence of need for project has been provided	A full business plan or formal community consultation have been provided.
+ 1	If no other projects like this are located locally	Is there a similar facility or business within a reasonable distance or not. For example, EV charging points, will the project provide the only charging point in a village, or are there already several public charging points available in the village.

Climate Action

Points		
-1	The project will negatively impact on the council's climate agenda,	The project will have a detrimental effect on the local environment without any mitigation in place, this could be via destruction of green space and wildlife habitat, increase in greenhouse gas emissions, installation of non-energy efficient equipment, or purchase of new diesel or petrol vehicles etc.
0	The project has not considered its impact on the environment, or not provided any information in this area.	No evidence of environmental impact of the project has been provided in the application form.
1	The project will have some positive impact on the council's climate agenda	Small scale improvements such as replacing some lightbulbs with energy efficient ones, installing bike racks, implementing an energy smart meter
2	The project will have a positive impact on the council's climate agenda	Installation of EV charging points, renewable energy systems, creation of green spaces for nature, creation of new cycle paths or active travel routes.
+ 1	The organisation applying has a sustainability/climate action forward plan or strategy in place	Evidence of a climate action policy has been provided

Social Action

Points		
0	The project has no wider community benefits	The project only benefits the immediate applicants, such as a private business e.g. installation of equipment to cut costs for the business
1	The project has limited wider community benefits	The project will benefit a small number of groups or individuals, less than 50 people
2	The project has several wider community benefits	The project will benefit a large number of community groups or more than 50 people

Projects MUST score at least one point in one of the following sections.

Projects outputs/outcomes

Applications applying for **Capital grants for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas** will be assessed against the following outputs/outcomes. Please note, projects will be scored against their highest achieving output i.e. if a project will increase productivity by over 10% and safeguard 3 jobs it will score 3 points. The jobs safeguarded will be brought to the grant panels attention but not scored.

Points	Jobs safe-guarded	Adoption of new to the firm technology or process	number of firms with improved productivity
0	0 jobs safe-guarded	Adoption of 0 new to firm technology or processes	Expected 0% increase in productivity
1	1-5 jobs safe-guarded	Adoption of 1 new to firm technology or processes	Expected 1%-5% increase in productivity
2	6-10 jobs safe-guarded	Adoption of 2 new to firm technologies or processes	Expected in 6%-10% increase in productivity
3	10+ jobs safe-guarded	Adoption of 3 or more new to firm technologies or processes	Expected over 10% increase in productivity

Applications applying for **Capital grants for growing the local social economy and supporting innovation areas** will be assessed against the following outputs/outcomes. Please note, projects will be scored against their highest achieving output i.e. if a project will create a new business and create 3 jobs it will score 3 points. The jobs created will be brought to the grant panels attention but not scored.

Points	Jobs created	Number of new businesses created
1	1-5 jobs created	
2	6-10 jobs created	
3	10+ jobs created	New business created

Applications applying for **Capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups** will be assessed against the following outputs/outcomes. Please note, projects will be scored against their highest achieving output i.e. if a project will increase user numbers by over 50% and increase perceptions of facilities by 20% it will score 3 points. The increase in perceptions will be brought to the grant panels attention but not scored.

Points	Expected improved perceptions of facilities or amenities	Increase users of facilities or amenities
1	1-25% expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities	1-25% expected increase in user numbers
2	26-50% expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities	26-50% expected increase in user numbers
3	50%+ expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities	50% + expected increase in user numbers

Thomley Hall Centre Ltd	Ref	SREPF\100041
Project Name: Installation of 54 Solar Panels, Storage Battery and 4 EV/PHEV Charging Points		
Project Description: Thomley plans to install 54 solar panels, a 60 kWh battery system, inverter, 4 EV/PHEV car charging points (solar power compatible and IP65 waterproof-rated) and accompanying infrastructure.		
<p>The solar panels will have the capacity to generate 21.6 kWp of electricity. The panels selected have been chosen for their long-term durability and minimum performance loss over their lifetime.</p> <p>The EV/PHEV car charging points will use the Type 2 connector, rated at 7 kW. This is the most common connector and rating used in the UK. This choice offers maximum interoperability (drivers typically carry compatible charging cables with them) and ensures our installation will continue to be utilised by the nearly 1.5m fully electric vehicles (EV) and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV) currently on the road in the UK.</p> <p>Installing solar panels and EV/PHEV charging points will reduce Thomley’s emissions and energy costs – as well as those of our visitors – and make the charity more resilient: our rural location makes us more vulnerable to power cuts when the grid fails.</p> <p>The goals of this capital project are linked with the objectives of Thomley’s strategy (Survive, Adapt and Thrive – 2021-2024):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop our site to its full potential – This includes building new programmes and services for visitors, and creating new, sustainable income streams that reduce reliance on grant funding. • Demonstrate and measure our impact – It is essential that our activities deliver impact so we attract and retain support from beneficiaries, funders and partners. • Grow awareness of Thomley – We must reach and support as many people as possible by improving our marketing and communications. 		
Application Theme: Capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society		
Location of Project: Worminghall		
Potential number of beneficiaries: 11,646		

Total project cost	£26,736
Organisation's contribution	£0
Other secured funding	£0
REPF Grant Requested	£26,736
Organisation's latest bank balance	£242,222.74

Scoring

<p>Need for Project "Our research shows that 35% of our visitors travel more than 15 miles to reach Thomley. As the number of EV and PHEV vehicles on the road continue to increase, providing access to EV/PHEV charging points will improve access to Thomley for increasing numbers of visitors and help reduce their emissions.</p> <p>Our research shows there are 16 Tesla Superchargers and some low-speed 3 kWh chargers near Thomley, but only a limited number of 7kWh public access EV Charging Points within a 15-minute drive of our facility (https://www.zap-map.com/live/):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 at Welcome Break Oxford Services (5.4 miles; 15 minutes) • 1 at Abingdon Arms, Beckley (6 miles; 14 minutes) " 	Score	2/4
<p>Action on Climate Emergency Thomley have considered the environmental impact of their project and are looking to reduce the environmental impact of the visitors traveling to the centre. They have supplied a copy of their environmental policy.</p>	Score	3/3
<p>Social Action Thomley has a large customer base that they are able to evidence via their booking system</p>	Score	2/2
<p>Project Outputs "50%+ expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities 1-25% expected increase in user numbers"</p>	Score	3/3
<p>Financial and project management plans Detailed project plan provided, with timelines for works and risk assessments. Thomley have again asked for full project costs which for a project this size is outside the scope of the policy to award. Should the panel wish to award officers recommend limiting the award to £20,052 and making the offer conditional on Thomley confirming they would cover the remaining 25% of the project costs.</p> <p>Demand for services and other similar facilities There is a high demand for the services Thomley provide as they are the only disability focused play centre in the county of this scale. They have a significant customer base and offer a unique venue to the families with young people with disabilities.</p> <p>Project completion within timeframe 2 month project</p>		
<p>DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS They have requested 100% funding. The grant policy states organisations can only request up to 75% unless exceptional circumstances apply such as major funder pulling out or the project will provide significant benefit to our residents. They have applied for funding under each of the interventions.</p>	Total score	10/12

Applicant responses

Need for Project

How do you know there is a need for your project?

This project is needed to fulfil Thomley's commitment to its Environmental Policy and to help the council realise its goal of making South Oxfordshire a carbon-free district by 2030.

Solar panels and battery storage are needed to help Thomley reduce its emissions, energy costs, and dependence on an unreliable, rural electricity grid. Thomley has had to close its facility, on average, 3 days per year because of site-wide power outages caused by electricity grid failures.

EV/PHEV Charging Points are needed to accommodate ongoing growth in Thomley's visitor numbers: since 2016, Thomley has experienced 150% growth in visitor numbers (37,508 projected in 2023; 14,975 actual in 2016).

Our research shows that 35% of our visitors travel more than 15 miles to reach Thomley. As the number of EV and PHEV vehicles on the road continue to increase, providing access to EV/PHEV charging points will improve access to Thomley for increasing numbers of visitors and help reduce their emissions.

Our research shows there are 16 Tesla Superchargers and some low-speed 3 kWh chargers near Thomley, but only a limited number of 7kWh public access EV Charging Points within a 15-minute drive of our facility (<https://www.zap-map.com/live/>):

- 2 at Welcome Break Oxford Services (5.4 miles; 15 minutes)
- 1 at Abingdon Arms, Beckley (6 miles; 14 minutes)

Social Action

Please provide an estimate of the number of people who will benefit from your project

11646

Who will benefit from your project?

Installing solar panels, battery storage and EV/PHEV charging points at Thomley will benefit the following groups:

Visitors to Thomley – The more than 11,646 unique visitors who come to Thomley every year will benefit by having access to EV charging points. This will improve their access to Thomley, make it more affordable for them to travel to and from our facility, and onward from Thomley.

Local businesses – Shops, pubs and other local attractions will benefit from increased visitor numbers to Thomley because visitors often travel onward from Thomley to other destinations.

South Oxfordshire – All of South Oxfordshire will benefit from improved air quality as a result of the reduced emissions resulting from our solar panels and EV charging points.

Action on Climate Emergency

Please tell us about any steps your organisation has taken to improve it's own environmental sustainability?

Thomley has an Environmental Policy that commits the Charity to minimising the impact of its activities on the environment. Included in the Policy is a commitment to 'minimise toxic and greenhouse gas emissions generated by our activities.'

Thomley has taken the following steps to improve its environmental sustainability:

- Site-wide audit conducted to identify and address energy, waste, and water usage reduction opportunities
- Biodigester installed to break down food waste and other organic material
- Replacement of all lighting to energy-efficient LED bulbs
- Elimination of single-use plastic items in our café

- Planned capital projects include solar panels and EV charging points
- Adoption of hybrid working for staff members who do not need to be on site to carry out their duties
- Use of Cloud-based computing systems to reduce the amount of computer hardware we need to purchase and replace
- Extension of our Sensory Garden to create more green space
- Creation of a Horticultural Area that allows us to grow vegetables and fruit that are used in our café

Please tell us about the environmental impact this project may have.

The positive environmental impacts of installing solar panels, battery storage and EV/PHEV charging points will be numerous, and help advance the council's climate agenda in the following ways:

Reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved air quality:

The electricity generated by the solar panels will be zero emission. Visitors travelling to and onward from Thomley in EV/PHEV vehicles will create zero or reduced emissions. Thomley's annual CO2 output is projected to be reduced by 5,000 kg.

Reduced usage of non-renewable energy:

Installing solar panels will reduce Thomley's usage of non-renewable energy from the grid. Thomley's annual usage of non-renewable energy is projected to be reduced by 19,743 kWh.

Reduced energy consumption:

Visitors travelling home or onward from Thomley in EV/PHEV vehicles will be able to charge their vehicles at our site and not have to drive out of their way to access a charging facility.

Incentivising sustainable practices:

Installing solar panels and EV/PHEV charging points at Thomley will promote clean energy, clean transportation and incentivise sustainable practices in South Oxfordshire. It will encourage visitors to adopt EV/PHEV vehicles.

Reduced noise pollution:

EV/PHEV vehicles generate less noise than conventional vehicles.

Minimal land impact:

The installation of the solar panels (rooftop), battery (side of building) and EV/PHEV charging points (car park) will be completed without impacting any green space at Thomley.

Project outcomes

Tell us more about the key outcomes you want to achieve through your project, and how you will know if it was a success.

The key outcomes we want to achieve through this project are the following:

1. Increasing the perception of Thomley's facilities and amenities by more than 50%. We will demonstrate this outcome by including questions in our regular, large-scale visitor surveys.
2. Increasing the number of new visitors to Thomley by more than 10%. We use Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and Electronic Point of Sales systems (EPoS) to track visitor numbers and will be able to demonstrate this outcome.
3. Furthering the goals of our Environmental Policy by reducing our emissions and reducing our use of non-renewable energy. Thomley's annual CO2 output is projected to be reduced by 5000 kg and Thomley's annual usage of non-renewable energy is projected to be reduced by 19,743 kWh. We will be able to demonstrate by comparing our energy production to our total energy consumption.

4. Increasing visitor income and secondary visitor income by more than 10% (£34,750 per year). Increased visitor numbers at Thomley will directly result in increased sales in our café on the day and will also lead to greater awareness of our other services that will result in an increase in long-term income from more stays in our overnight Camping Pods and Camping, increased bookings of Sensory Play rooms, increased enrolment in Achieve Life Skills programme. We will be able to demonstrate this through our management accounts and annual accounts.

5. Reducing our energy costs over the long-term, enabling the Charity to spend less on facility overhead costs and more on direct service delivery. The solar power system and battery we plan to install are projected to realise £112,375 in energy cost savings over 15 years. We will be able to demonstrate this through our management accounts and annual accounts.

Aston Rowant Cricket Club	Ref	SREPF\100042
Project Name: Net Zero Junior & Development Team Sports Pavilion at Aston Rowant		
<p>Project Description: Aston Rowant Cricket Club intends to build a 'Net Zero Junior and Development Team Sports Pavilion' on its second ground in the spring of 2024. After continual expansion of it's membership, an ever growing junior section and establishment of a senior 3rd and 4th XI during the early 2000's the club needed to develop a second ground. This was eventually established in July 2011 in a separate field split from the main ground by a connecting path between Aston Rowant and Kingston Blount.</p> <p>The second ground is used as the base for our junior and development teams, hosts several Oxfordshire County age group games and in previous years has been used by the local forest nursery. Since it was established there has been no changing or toilet facilities with users having to shelter from rain in a temporary gazebo.</p> <p>Having held a consultation meeting with local residents as well as the ECB, Oxfordshire Cricket Board and Sport England we have come up with a design for a new purpose built timber pavilion which is both in keeping with local rural environment and has all the internal facilities expected of a modern sports pavilion. Facilities include (i) two team changing rooms; (ii) dedicated showers and toilets for each changing room; as well as (iii) an accessible disabled toilet, (iv) a dedicated gender neutral changing room complete with its own toilet and shower, and finally (v) a club room with facilities to make drinks and house first aid equipment. There will be an accessible veranda and we will be placing between 8-10 picnic benches in front of the pavilion as further accessible seating. We intend for this building to be net zero and as such environmentally sustainable and have planned for all the energy requirements to be met entirely by solar power.</p>		
Application Theme: Capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society		
Location of Project:		
Potential number of beneficiaries: 1500		

Total project cost	£130,172
Organisation's contribution	£80,172
Other secured funding	£0
REPF Grant Requested	£50,000
Organisation's latest bank balance	89773

Scoring

Need for Project A public consultation has been carried out, but no results or evidence from the consultation has been submitted with the application. The application states that previous plans (2017) for upgrading the pavilion were not met with public approval. It is not clear if these new plans have public support or not.	Score	1/4
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<p>Action on Climate Emergency The build is intended to be carbon neutral, with rainwater harvesting systems, along with solar panels and has limited heating requirements (due to summer / daylight useage times) The contractor has been choosen specifically due to their emphasis on environmental sustainability.</p>	<p>Score</p>	<p>2/3</p>
<p>Social Action The club has a large number of cricket users and provides facilies for wider community use. The local primary school use the site for sports days, and a Forest school has preciously used the facilities.</p>	<p>Score</p>	<p>2/2</p>
<p>Project Outputs "50%+ expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities 26-50% expected increase in user numbers"</p>	<p>Score</p>	<p>3/3</p>
<p>Financial and project management plans Remaining funding for project is in place and they have supplied a project plan. Demand for services and other similar facilities Has carried out a public consultation but has not provided any evidence to show the outcomes from the consultation. Project completion within timeframe 01/03/24 - 01/07/24 4 month project fits with scheme timeline</p>		
<p>DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS Is there support for the new proposals as results from the consultation are not included. It does state in the application 'following a positive public consultation'.</p>	<p>Total score</p>	<p>8/12</p>

Applicant responses

Need for Project

How do you know there is a need for your project?

The cricket club has hosted its AGMs in 2022 and 2021 and there has been a specific agenda item at the forum for club members to formally engage and provide feedback on the plans for this project. Club members voted unanimously on both occasions for this project to go ahead and we have continued to stay in touch with them via weekly email newsletters with details of the planning process and designs as they have evolved.

The club has been attempting to upgrade its facilities since 2003 with a failed attempt in 2017 that achieved planning permission for a multi-million pound facility but was not realised due to insufficient funding. These initial plans were also not met positively by local residents and so the club took extra measures this time to fully engage with the community, ensure there is a need for this project and it is supported by all stakeholders but crucially was achievable financially and within the club's means.

A formal consultation with residents of Kingston Blount and Aston Rowant was hosted on 24th August at the main clubhouse. This was publicised via Aston Rowant Parish Council who were also invited to participate which several of them did. Club members were also invited to provide their final input to the designs. Following a positive public consultation the club then hosted a meeting on the 19th October with the ECB's facilities and planning manager, Neil Higginson as well as Keith Cowley who is Oxfordshire Cricket Boards support and facilities manager. They were able to provide formal input themselves as well as feedback information from Sport England to confirm their support for our plans and agreed that there is a real need for this project particularly given Oxfordshire's current drive to increase female participation in the sport.

Social Action

Please provide an estimate of the number of people who will benefit from your project
1500

Who will benefit from your project?

We ensure Aston Rowant Cricket Club and its grounds are always accessible to everyone and we actively encourage local residents to visit and enjoy the idyllic surroundings. Each week we publicly advertise on local Facebook pages and parish notes the games, events and bar opening times to encourage community participation. The club has developed an excellent relationship with the community which has benefited the club just as much as the locals. The club's practice facilities are open and accessible year round to the public and there are wide flat open grassy spaces regularly used by dog walkers, exercise groups and young families as it is arguably the perfect setting to teach a child to ride a bike!

The club has acted as a community social hub for the past decade as sadly there are no longer any pubs or restaurants within walking distance of the local villages. Upgrading the facilities will therefore have a hugely positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the community who will benefit from a thriving sports club.

Icknield Community College use the club for practice and matches and Aston Rowant Primary School host their sports days there. The Little Firefly Forest School previously used the club's facilities year-round for 3 years, specifically the second ground, where they provided an outdoor nursery for ages 2-5 and built a small 'grow your own' garden. Due to the inadequate facilities the school sought an alternative this winter but we hope a new facility will lead to their return.

From a cricketing side this project is specifically targeted at increasing the level of participation in cricket by young families and also women who we will continue to champion and encourage to take up the sport. Wider groups such as Oxfordshire Cricket and Sydenham also regularly use our facilities.

Action on Climate Emergency

Please tell us about any steps your organisation has taken to improve it's own environmental sustainability?

The club has taken several steps to improve it's environmental sustainability and reduce its carbon footprint. For kit we run a recycling scheme and organise annual 'bring & buy sales' and have a policy where our sponsor and suppliers are tied into minimum 5 year contracts reducing kit turnover. We're partnering with Lord's Taverners, a charity redistributing kit to youngsters worldwide, and will become a regional hub in 2024. This only becomes possible with a second pavilion which frees up storage space in containers previously used for changing.

The club has moved all communications and payments systems online. We have a policy of not using single use plastics and encourage carpooling to reduce the amount of away match car travel.

The showers and heating systems in the main building run off a smart system and are only switched on when required. The plan is for the new pavilion to be entirely solar powered with no central heating. Energy efficient lighting is already in use in the main building and will be used in the new project.

Around the grounds we only water pitches at night and do not burn our green waste instead allowing material to biodegrade naturally. Pesticides are not used and we deliberately leave grass to grow longer away from the pitches. In 2012 a new hedgerow was planted around the second ground which together with regular shrub planting promotes biodiversity.

Biffa are a club sponsor and we keep an open dialogue with them to ensure we are environmentally sustainable with our waste. We have clearly labelled bins and discourage a throwaway culture. We understand due to our size and network as a sports club we have an enormous social responsibility to drive change and raise awareness on climate sustainability and intend to continue doing everything we can.

Please tell us about the environmental impact this project may have.

We recognise that we as a club we have an enormous social responsibility to drive change and promote environmental sustainability and so have designed a building that is both carbon neutral and an excellent first step to setting an example to both our members and the local community. We have taken a number of measures to incorporate sustainability to this design and are looking to build in several technical elements starting with our renewable energy system. We will be installing 12 x 5100w PV solar panels on the south facing roof of the pavilion to generate around 4.65kWh for at least 4 hours of the day to heat water for the showers, and power the indoor lights, tea urn and pump for the rainwater harvesting system. We intend for the building to be off-grid and entirely self-sustainable in terms of electricity consumption. A 5kW inverter will also be installed as well as 3.3kW battery for the cloudier days.

A rainwater harvesting system will be installed for flushing the building's toilets which will reduce our mains water consumption. Low energy LED lighting will be installed throughout the internal rooms of the building and we will not be installing any external lights to reduce our impact on the natural environment. The building is intended to be used during daylight hours only and therefore there is actually very little need for external lights. The facility will predominantly be used for summer sports and so we do not intend to install any central heating which will again further reduce energy consumption.

There will be no parking facilities adjacent to this new facility and in-fact it has always been a rule since the ground was first established in 2011 that its users must park in our main car park and walk to the ground to reduce the impact on the environment and preserve the natural rural setting.

We have planned to dispose of all waste water and foul drainage into a cess pool which will collect the waste and in-turn be emptied in its entirety from the site bi-annually by a waste water removal vehicle. We're passionate about preserving the precious chalk streams in the Chilterns area and so want to avoid any waste water entering these chalk aquifers so a cess pool drainage scheme was recommended as the best solution to minimise our environmental impact.

We have opted to make Passmores our preferred supplier for the building because the company puts a large emphasis on being environmentally sustainable and in particular uses ethically sourced timber. We have opted for a prefabricated timber design to reduce the build time and minimise site traffic passing onto the grounds. In particular, we have worked hard to promote biodiversity around the ground by planting and maintaining the hedgerows. Although we acknowledge that this project will involve the partial removal of around 5m of hedging to allow for site traffic to pass we plan to immediately replace this hedging after construction is complete in July 2024.

Project outcomes

Tell us more about the key outcomes you want to achieve through your project, and how you will know if it was a success.

A key outcome is to further increase engagement with the community and encourage more social cohesion. Several pubs have closed in the area over the past decade resulting in no pubs or restaurants within walking distance of Kingston Blount. We would like to continue to develop our relationship with the community and success would be to improve the facilities and remain a hub for residents to come and socialise.

This project is vital for the club's economic sustainability which in turn has a positive effect on the community. Increased levels of community engagement means the club can increase its opening hours and will therefore involve more members of the community working behind the bar and helping run our facilities. Involving and collaborating with members of the community in a rural setting is an important step to reducing social isolation and helping give members of the community a sense of belonging. In terms of measuring success we would love to see the club's annual net surplus continually exceed £20,000 enabling the club to save for the larger project of replacing the main pavilion.

Last year was the first time our All Stars section was over-subscribed and we unfortunately had to turn away some families due to a lack of facilities. A key measure of success will be not having to cap our numbers which in turn promotes the physical wellbeing of families in the area. We estimate junior participation to increase by 30% as a result of this project which will also enable us to start a women's softball team as a new activity and increase the number of ground hires to external teams each season. We hope this facility will also see the extension of our rental agreement with the local forest school who desperately need the shelter and toilets.

Thame Players Theatre Company	Ref	SREPF\100084
Project Name: Installation of Solar Panels		
<p>Project Description: The proposed solar panels will significantly reduce energy bills by harnessing the power of the sun to generate electricity. Once fitted on the south-west elevation of our roof the solar panels will be connected to an inverter and a battery. When sunlight hits the panels, electronic flow is activated in individual solar panels. The electric current (direct current or DC) generated will be converted into alternating current form (or AC, as used domestically) by the inverter to make it usable. After conversion, electricity flows to either electric loads or power meters which measure the power generated. The solar battery converts the DC energy produced by the solar panels and stores it as AC power for later use, offsetting the need for grid-supplied power, leading to lower electricity bills and reduced carbon emissions.</p> <p>During the day, the solar panel system generates solar electricity. The battery storage system will check if all the generation is being used to power our lights and appliances. Surplus energy is used to charge the battery and once the battery is fully charged, if there is still more solar electricity being generated, this will be exported to the grid. As a performing theatre, in the evenings our demand exceeds the electricity generated from the solar panels, so this will be diverted from our battery, ensuring we are entirely using the solar power we have captured.</p> <p>The process will take under 4 weeks, from technical / structural survey to commissioning and testing. Once a contract has been signed, scaffolding will go up, and a roofing contractor will strip the roof tiles. The plastic trays, panels and flashing will be installed and the roof tiles replaced. The battery and inverter will be installed as the final element before handover.</p>		
Application Theme: Capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society		
Location of Project:		
Potential number of beneficiaries: 7500		

Total project cost	£28,840
Organisation's contribution	£8,840
Other secured funding	£0
REPF Grant Requested	£20,000
Organisation's latest bank balance	49371.48

Scoring

Need for Project Limited evidence of need for the project has been provided, however they have provided context for the project and details of the cost saving expected by the project	Score	1/4
Action on Climate Emergency They have had a carbon and energy assessment carried out on the building using Energy Solutions Oxfordshire via Low Carbon Hub and have already acted on some of the recommendations of the report, such as LED lighting and installing draught excluders and double glazing. This project is the next step on	Score	2/3

their journey.		
Social Action The theatre is used by a wide number of community organisations and serves an audience of around 7,000 per year.	Score	2/2
Project Outputs "50%+ expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities 1-25% expected increase in user numbers"	Score	3/3
Financial and project management plans Basic project plan provided.		
Demand for services and other similar facilities The theater has a large audience and is a focal point for the community in Thame. The cost savings that a project like this could give the oraganisaiton will allow them to continue to provide services to their community.		
Project completion within timeframe 1 month project		
DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS Limited evidence of need for project.	Total score	8/12

Applicant responses

Need for Project

How do you know there is a need for your project?

The theatre building is over 100 years old and sustainable improvements are far more necessary than in contemporary buildings. We have been aware of the importance of re-use and recycling since moving into the theatre in 1977. Since becoming the building owners in 1997, we are even more aware of our responsibilities in terms of maintaining the building, ensuring it is energy-efficient and meets the appropriate environmental standards. Our management committee meets monthly to make decisions about the upkeep of the building amongst other matters.

We are acutely aware of our environmental responsibilities as a community resource: the Players Theatre is the only dedicated theatre serving Thame, south-east Oxfordshire and west Buckinghamshire. As well as our own productions and visiting acts, the theatre hosts the only cinema in Thame. It also hosts events for local community groups.

As a non-profit-making charity, funds have always been stretched: set-building materials are re-used; costumes are re-sized for different actors; recycling bins have been in use for several years. Our ethos hasn't changed – we submitted a planning application for solar panels in the past and it was rejected by the conservation officer. This time our application was successful (see uploaded comments), so the solar panels project can be started, once funds are in place.

We're aware of rising energy costs and are keen to reduce these while improving our carbon footprint. To see how changes we're making affect this, we commissioned a survey from the Energy Solutions Oxfordshire services of the Low Carbon Hub. Introducing measures they recommend will reduce our footprint and produce energy savings over years to come. To help us become greener we also joined Thame Green Living (see uploaded report). Thanks to them we are now booking a digital camera heat survey.

Social Action

Please provide an estimate of the number of people who will benefit from your project
7500

Who will benefit from your project?

The Players Theatre is Thame's only dedicated theatre and cinema facility, serving Thame, south-east Oxfordshire and west Buckinghamshire. It is run by Thame Players, an amateur group, and is a popular and valued cultural resource, providing a wide diversity of entertainment for local people. The theatre is also a venue for community organisations, business hire and cultural events.

The beneficiaries of the installation of solar panels will be in several categories. Firstly, the theatre itself, an older building that is successful as a contemporary entertainment venue, is being safeguarded for future generations, through the introduction of environmental and energy-efficient systems such as solar panels. The theatre is seen as a beacon for the arts in the local community, and with such improvements, demonstrates its green credentials and its desire to continually reduce its carbon footprint. Working with local environmental organisations such as Thame Green Living, the theatre is seen as contributing to sustainable development and increasing renewable resources locally.

Our audiences, currently around 7,000 per annum, including families, young people, the elderly and disabled, and those on low income, will also benefit from the addition of solar panels because electricity costs will reduce over time, so that our overheads are kept lower and we are not exposed to escalating energy costs from external suppliers. Electricity is a major cost for theatres because of the need for extensive stage lighting. This means we can

afford to keep ticket prices low, improving access to the arts locally. The theatre receives around 30 visiting acts a year as well as staging five of its own productions, which all rely on lighting, so lower electricity costs will mean savings can be devoted to other projects to improve the theatre for future audiences.

Action on Climate Emergency

Please tell us about any steps your organisation has taken to improve it's own environmental sustainability?

A carbon and energy assessment of the building was undertaken this year using the Energy Solutions Oxfordshire service of the Low Carbon Hub, because we know ongoing improvements are needed to maximise operational efficiency and reduce energy usage.

We received advice on energy-saving measures and low-carbon technologies that are practical to install and will help improve energy efficiency and sustainability, including an analysis of energy consumption, a review of equipment, controls and settings, and a report on energy, cost and carbon savings. Previously, we had begun introducing more efficient low-energy LED lighting, upgraded draught excluders, fitted double-glazing where appropriate, replaced part of the pitched roof extension with a new structure to meet insulation requirements and help reduce heat loss.

We have this year installed more environmentally efficient stage lights using less energy, and dispersing less heat because the wattage is significantly lower.

The Low Carbon Hub also approved the installation of a new air conditioning system this year, replacing an outdated and inefficient air conditioning unit with a much more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly system, consisting of three new units and a compressor. Amongst other benefits, the system distributes air so that heat generated by theatre lighting is dissipated. The new air conditioning is a great improvement: enhancing the viability of the theatre as a venue, benefitting both audiences and performers, as well as helping to reduce overheads and improving the operation of the theatre for years to come.

We are committed to becoming greener in line with Thame's Green Living Plan, which enables Thame to progress towards a cleaner, greener, more sustainable future. The environmentally friendly measures we are taking, including the proposed solar panels, form part of our mission to ensure the theatre is sustainable for future generations.

Please tell us about the environmental impact this project may have.

As custodians of one of Thame's assets, we want to maintain the building in line with current environmental recommendations for future generations. We have taken professional advice (Low Carbon Hub) on sustainable projects we can undertake to help us reduce our energy use and environmental impact for years into the future. This relates to virtually all aspects of the building, including wall and loft insulation, energy-efficient air conditioning, draught-proofing, energy-efficient lighting and solar panels. Solar panels are the next project on our list, as their environmental impact is clear: unlike fossil fuels, solar energy doesn't produce harmful carbon emissions while creating electricity.

We will be reducing our carbon footprint: solar energy is one of the cleanest sources of energy, and it's efficient, sustainable, abundant and free. Using solar energy instead of the grid means we reduce the need for carbon-dioxide-emitting energy to be produced, and we will contribute to government targets for solar energy production. The level of carbon emissions produced to create solar panels is nowhere near that of traditional energy facilities: coal generates a footprint 18 times greater, and natural gas creates an emissions footprint 13 times greater than the carbon footprint of solar energy.

Solar energy uses far less water, a precious resource, compared to traditional electricity production which uses thousands of litres. Water cools generators, processes and refines fuel and transports it through pipes. Generating power through solar panels uses no water at all.

Going solar means less air pollution: electricity generated from fossil fuels can produce harmful carbon dioxide and methane gases that lower air quality. Breathing poor quality air can have adverse consequences for health and is linked to asthma and allergies, bronchitis, pneumonia, headaches, anxiety, even heart attacks. Generating electricity from solar panels produces no harmful emissions, and will mean increasingly lower toxic emissions from fossil fuels.

Generating electricity from solar panels produces no greenhouse gases at all, helping to reduce the effects of climate change. Solar energy doesn't involve burning fuel and produces no emissions. Although the 'greenhouse effect' is a natural process, warming the earth's surface to a liveable temperature, the burning of fossil fuels has increased the level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This means earth is warming faster than ever before and has been linked to extreme weather events, such as flooding, cyclones, storms, extreme heat and drought.

Going solar means less reliance on fossil fuels, which are finite resources. Taking advantage of sunlight, an abundant, free source of energy, could mean lower energy prices, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and a stronger, more stable energy future.

On the minus side, although solar panels are an environmentally friendly energy solution, the materials and manufacturing process used to create them do have a sizeable carbon footprint, as they involve mining, melting and cooling. However, the downsides are small compared to the many advantages of solar.

Project outcomes

Tell us more about the key outcomes you want to achieve through your project, and how you will know if it was a success.

The introduction of solar panels will produce a sizeable reduction in electricity costs over the next few years. Electricity is a major cost for all theatres, due to the ongoing need for show lighting. With the introduction of solar panels, we will not be at the mercy of external suppliers and escalating costs in an uncertain world. Obtaining our energy from the sun, a plentiful source of free energy, means we can expect a more stable energy future without price fluctuations. As an evening venue, the ability to store energy collected by day in batteries for later consumption is a major benefit.

We will monitor energy usage following the introduction of the panels and will know we have been successful when we see the reduction in energy costs.

Having solar panels will also mean we have a reduced carbon footprint due to the greener production of energy, enhancing sustainability for future generations. Electricity generated from solar panels does not produce greenhouse gases and, as a public venue, we will be helping to reduce the effects of climate change. We will also publicise what we have done in installing solar panels, which in turn will show our audiences and the wider community that we are an environmentally responsible organisation that cares about our community's future and that of the planet.

Having established links with Thame Green Living, we will build on these connections, and possible future collaborations with organisations such as the Phoenix Energy Community which champions locally generated energy. Installing solar panels is one of the projects identified in the Carbon Reduction Recommendations Report we commissioned from Energy Solutions Oxfordshire and, using the Low Carbon Hub's recommendations, we will carry on upgrading our theatre with new technologies and improvements to help make our building and our world cleaner and greener.

Thame Town Council	Ref	SREPF\100082
Project Name: Installation of secondary glazing in upstairs office and toilet facilities		
<p>Project Description: Thame Town Council is seeking to both reduce energy usage within Thame Town Hall, and re-establish a lower floor meeting room that members of the community and local businesses can use to support their own aims and objectives. This town centre venue will provide a meeting room for up to 12 people and will eventually be established as a hybrid meeting space to allow meetings to take place with people in the room, and those joining remotely. The room will be hired out to local businesses and organisations, with a charity rate/potential of free use, for those who are delivering free support and events for the residents of Thame.</p> <p>In order to re-establish this meeting room, we will have to undertake a reorganisation of our staff offices, moving some staff members to a top floor office that is currently not always adequate. The space has single glazing and is therefore very hot in summer and very cold in winter. This project will allow us to install secondary glazing that will make it more habitable all year round and therefore enable us to establish permanent office space in this area, freeing up the meeting room to be used as outlined above.</p> <p>The project also seeks to install secondary glazing in the toilets and kitchen used by those who hire our Upper Chamber facility. The secondary glazing will make these more comfortable to use in winter, and will make it more attractive to hire, and lead to a saving in energy costs. By saving costs on our energy usage, we will increase our capacity to better support the community of Thame by using these saved funds in a different way to meet the needs of our residents.</p>		
Application Theme: Capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society		
Location of Project:		
Potential number of beneficiaries: 400		

Total project cost	£11,326
Organisation's contribution	£0
Other secured funding	£0
REPF Grant Requested	£11,326
Organisation's latest bank balance	1028494.02

Scoring

<p>Need for Project They have stated in their application that they intend to use the spaces to hire out smaller meeting rooms. However they have not included any evidence to support the need for the project.</p>	Score	0/4
<p>Action on Climate Emergency Installation of double glazing will have a positive impact by reducing the overall</p>	Score	2/3

heating demand. They have provided copies of their climate policy and evidence of working with Thame Green Living		
Social Action The project will provide meeting spaces for both staff and community groups in Thame	Score	2/2
Project Outputs "26-50% expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities 50% + expected increase in user numbers"	Score	3/3
Financial and project management plans No project plan. Requesting 100% of project costs, but over 10K so outside policy. If awarded recommend award is capped at 10K or 75% of project costs.		
Demand for services and other similar facilities No evidence for demand for project provided and no information about other similar meeting rooms available in the area.		
Project completion within timeframe 3 month project		
DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS Requesting 100% funding which is outside the policy for projects over £10k so award could be amended accordingly.	Total score	7/12

Applicant responses

Need for Project

How do you know there is a need for your project?

By opening up a meeting room space on the lower ground floor of the Town Hall, we will re-establish a space in the town centre that is accessible to community groups that currently does not exist. Whilst Thame town centre does have larger halls available to community groups, it has no smaller meeting spaces that accommodate up to 12 people and are set up to enable hybrid meetings. The other spaces available are smaller and either restrictive in price, or only available 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday. We will set up the meeting room to allow this space to be available throughout the week, and offer a community rate, and the option of possible free use, to groups that are supporting our towns residents. We have previously offered this space as a meeting room and it was well used by those wanting to have a town centre presence to connect with other residents. However due to an expanding staff team we had to remove it as a meeting space. This project will allow us to re-establish this resource.

Social Action

Please provide an estimate of the number of people who will benefit from your project
400

Who will benefit from your project?

The number given here is an estimate for year 1 of the project. However this project will allow the meeting room to become available for future years, so these numbers will repeat and grow in each future year, as the community become more aware of the resource and its availability.

Initially those who will benefit are:

- 16 employees
- Councillors from Thame Town Council, District and County Councils,
- any Thame community groups,
- any local businesses who need additional meeting space,
- any residents requiring use of a meeting room,
- organisations who want to carry out consultations with Thame residents.

Action on Climate Emergency

Please tell us about any steps your organisation has taken to improve it's own environmental sustainability?

1. We have adopted a Green Living Plan which seeks to make Thame a greener, cleaner town. Included in this, is work to improve our own sustainability.
2. We are setting up an energy audit with Low Carbon Hub to develop an action plan for further action we can take internally to reduce our carbon footprint.
3. We have started to scope the possibility of putting in solar panels on our buildings.
4. We are working to also support the rest of Thame - business and community groups - to take steps on their own sustainability journey, working in partnership with several community and voluntary organisations.

Please tell us about the environmental impact this project may have.

This project will significantly reduce energy usage in the spaces impacted. This will reduce the carbon footprint of Thame Town Hall by reducing the amount of energy used to heat the spaces. A central meeting space will also allow other users to limit their needs to travel further afield. The ability to have hybrid meetings will also result in some users not having to travel at all. These will all reduce the impact of travel on our local environment.

Project outcomes

Tell us more about the key outcomes you want to achieve through your project, and how you will know if it was a success.

1. we want to increase the use of the space to the benefit of the community of Thame, and will be able to determine success by monitoring how much the meeting room is used.
2. we want to reduce the energy usage required to heat these spaces and will be able to determine this by comparing our energy usage from one year to the next.
3. we want to increase the sustainability of a grade 2 listed building to future proof it as our climate changes. This building is a significant landmark in Thame, and one that the community orients around, both physically - being positioned right in the centre of the town, but also as a community - with the Town Council playing an increasingly important role in supporting the community to become sustainable itself. This work will fulfil this outcome by being completed successfully.
4. we want to lead our community towards sustainability by example. This project will be the first of many changes we will seek to make to our assets on a journey towards sustainability - and if achievable, net zero. The audit we will carry out with Low Carbon Hub (LCH) will help us identify further actions we need to take, but this initial project will provide a real life example through which we can share learning and best practice with other community groups and businesses in Thame. We are working with LCH to develop opportunities to do this. The evidence for success will be in the number of businesses who engage with these opportunities.

Earth Trust	Ref	SREPF\100089
Project Name: Re-surface badly pot-holed visitor car park and short entrance track		
<p>Project Description: The project will completely resurface the whole car park and short entrance track. It is currently in a very poor state and is costing us time and money to patch every year. The potholes, particularly in the entrance are so bad that it discourages some visitors from using the green space - for fear of damaging their car getting in/out of the car park. The car park gives access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Neptune Wood which was opened by Princess Anne and created as part of a nation-wide project to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar and death of Nelson. All of the oak trees were planted by local people, including 750 school children. The site also includes ponds which are a healthy habitat for amphibians and an arboretum containing every species of tree that was used in a ship of Nelson's time and willow sculptures maintained for many years by young people aged 13-19 participating in our Countryside Skills course. - an adjacent meadow, managed for wildflowers by cycles of topping and periodic grazing by sheep. This meadow is a particularly beautiful in spring with carpets of cowslips. It is very well used by local people for exercise and dog-walking. - Paradise Wood our nationally significant research woodland. This wood is cared for with the help of our 200-strong community of local volunteers who between them (in supporting all of Earth Trust's activities) gave 15,797 hours of their time and skills in 2022/23. <p>The entrance to the car park has a sharp bend in it and so very car passing turns its wheels in the same spot and this has the effect of grinding the loose surface away and quickly generating a pot-hole. Our proposal is to create a sealed surface which will have much better wearing characteristics.</p>		
Application Theme: Capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society		
Location of Project:		
Potential number of beneficiaries: 1000		

Total project cost	£7,335
Organisation's contribution	£0
Other secured funding	£0
REPF Grant Requested	£7,335
Organisation's latest bank balance	140226.41

Scoring

<p>Need for Project Limited evidence of need for the project has been provided, with a selection of emails from car park users advising Earth Trust of the poor state of the car park and damage being done to visitors cars.</p>	Score	1/4
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<p>Action on Climate Emergency Overall the Earth Trusts activities are carbon negative, they are sequestering more carbon than they emit - however they recognise that a new car park is encouraging people to drive to them. They believe that by giving people access to green spaces it encourages them to care and want to protect them. They have provided a copy of their net zero strategy.</p>	Score	1/3
<p>Social Action The site is visited by over 28 vehicles a day (counting was carried out June - Oct 2020) along with many other local visitors and educational groups.</p>	Score	2/2
<p>Project Outputs 26-50% expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities</p>	Score	2/3
<p>Financial and project management plans Basic project plan provided for a small scale project. 100% funding requested, in line with grant policy for projects under 10K</p> <p>Demand for services and other similar facilities Some evidence of the need for the project has been provided in the form of emails from car park users.</p> <p>Project completion within timeframe 2 month project</p>		
<p>DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS Not met the minimum scoring requirement.</p>	Total score	6/12

Applicant responses

Need for Project

How do you know there is a need for your project?

We have received comments from the public complaining about the pot-holes - or requesting that we take action to improve the amenity - one person even reported damage to their car. Copies of some of these were given in the document attached above. For example:

"the entrance is very uneven with potholes. It caused a small amount of damage to my car when driving out."

"the car park is becoming dangerous to enter and leave now, because of the very large potholes that have occurred due to all the heavy rain. A small car could very easily get stuck, or worse still slide into the ditch."

"Neptune woods is a brilliant facility thank you, however the car park [has] got a few potholes! Which some are rather deep, Is there any chance they could be filled in a bit please?"

"the car park at Neptune has rather deep holes. This morning we scraped the bottom of our car due to the depth of the holes which are filled with water"

There is no other parking available for this site.

Social Action

Please provide an estimate of the number of people who will benefit from your project
1000

Who will benefit from your project?

The car park is used by visitors to Neptune Wood, Paradise Wood and the adjacent long meadow. The amenities provide well-kept green spaces for exercise, social interaction and contact with nature. Neptune Wood and the meadow are mostly used by walkers and dog walkers. Paradise Wood is visited by research scientists and by Earth Trust volunteers who enjoy working for Earth Trust, benefiting from social contact, exercise, learning skills and a sense of purpose. Whether you arrive on foot or by car, the state of the car park is relevant; if it is in poor condition then there is potentially less civic pride. For those arriving by car the condition of the car park is important as they do not wish to damage their car or get stuck. This would include those unable to walk the distance from the village or those who travel from further afield.

People who would benefit:

- Residents of Long Wittenham - 875 (South Oxon website, data from 2019) - some may have taken part in planting Neptune Wood; current children at the school and their families.
- People travelling from further afield - (difficult to estimate the number) - data from car counters used at the site from June-October 2020 shows average of 28 cars/day.
- Earth Trust volunteers - when work is planned at the site by Earth Trust's staff team - eg hedging, removing tree guards, maintaining deer fence around Paradise Wood, litter picking, ditch maintenance, collecting donations. In the past 2 years this has included several groups of 10-30 corporate volunteers.
- Earth Trust educational groups, including CYP with Special Educational Needs(c25/year)
- Grazier - Earth Trust tenant, Emma's Ewesful Ewes. Sheep grazing promotes wildflower growth by removing vegetation which would otherwise enrich the soil.
- Researchers - visiting Paradise Wood

Action on Climate Emergency

Please tell us about any steps your organisation has taken to improve it's own environmental sustainability?

Earth Trust has set out an ambition to be a net zero organisation and to be well on the way to delivering this by

2027. In order to develop our action plan, we are carefully monitoring our carbon impact, creating a baseline from which to improve. In September 2022 we completed a carbon audit of our farm, funded by the North Wessex Downs AONB Farming in Protected Landscapes programme and conducted by Farm Carbon Toolkit. This revealed that Earth Trust Farm operations are overall carbon negative - ie our farm business is sequestering more carbon than we are emitting. See <https://earthtrust.org.uk/earth-trust-farm-is-carbon-negative/>

Our award-winning new building, Earth Lab, was built to a high environmental spec with a 'Glulam' wooden frame (which embodies carbon), straw insulated external walls, a rammed earth interior wall to maintain temperature and humidity, a green roof and rain garden to gather water and demonstrate local ecology. See <https://earthtrust.org.uk/award-for-pioneering-earth-lab/> and <https://earthtrust.org.uk/visit-us/explore-earth-trust/gateway/gateway-earth-lab/>

At River of Life a team from Bangor University is monitoring the carbon sequestration of the new wetlands we created in 2021. See https://earthtrust.org.uk/what_we_do/wetlands-soil-carbon-research/

We are monitoring and baselining other areas of our work - eg calculating the carbon footprint of school visits. We use and recommend to our hire clients local food suppliers as far as possible. We encourage cycling to our site and have provided cycle racks and a cycle maintenance station for use by our visitors.

Please tell us about the environmental impact this project may have.

The greatest impact will probably be due to engagement of the visitors to the site. Visiting green spaces enables people to connect with nature, this in turn leads to more affection and respect for the environment which then leads to more environment-conscious actions.

Project outcomes

Tell us more about the key outcomes you want to achieve through your project, and how you will know if it was a success.

Improved perception of facilities or amenities: We have shown the negative comments from users of the car park in the attachment above. Seeing that a fit-for-purpose car park has been provided will improve the perception of the amenity. We will continue to monitor comments about the car park.

Increased users of facilities or amenities: We hope that a better car park will encourage more people to use the site. We will use car counters to track numbers of vehicles using the car park. We also gather donations at the car park and will track these over time starting before the work and continuing after; this may show a change indicating more people visiting or people feeling warmer about their visit.

Improved perceived or experienced accessibility: An improved car park surface can only improve accessibility. For those with mobility issues stumbling on an uneven car park with loose stones could be a hazard - removing this risk will definitely improve accessibility. In its current state, when the car park is wet with big puddles in potholes people could well be put off from visiting the site. We hope that this reluctance would be removed by having a fit-for-purpose car park.

Little Milton Parish Council	Ref	SREPF\100063
Project Name: Procuring and siting two Speed Indicator Devices on A329 in Little Milton		
Project Description: The project is to provide two Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) along the A329 as recommended by OCC (Jon Beale) to bring more control to the large volume of traffic using this A route through our small village (including large numbers of HGVs). Because the road narrows at two points in the village, there is always the danger of collision and injury to pedestrians and the control we can bring to traffic management, including SIDS.		
Application Theme: Capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society		
Location of Project:		
Potential number of beneficiaries: 500		

Total project cost	£4,500
Organisation's contribution	£1,000
Other secured funding	
REPF Grant Requested	£3,500
Organisation's latest bank balance	37248.28

Scoring

Need for Project No evidence of need for the project has been provided as results from the questionnaires about traffic in the village have not been included. The application states the village has already adopted a 20mph speed limit.	Score	0/4
Action on Climate Emergency The application has not provided any evidence of how the project would impact the environment.	Score	0/3
Social Action The project could potentially benefit everyone in the village	Score	2/2
Project Outputs 50%+ expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities But is the purchase of speed indicator devices really a facility or amenity?	Score	3/3
Financial and project management plans no project plan provided		
Demand for services and other similar facilities No evidence submitted to show need/demand for project. No accident/speeding figures provided for the village.		
Project completion within timeframe		

01/04/24 - 30/06/24 3 month project

DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS
Not met minimum scoring requirement.

Total score

5/12

Applicant responses

Need for Project

How do you know there is a need for your project?

The Council has circulated questionnaires for Traffic in the village, including the need of a 20mph speed limit which has now been adopted. The village has encouraged the council to find a way to acquire Speed Indicator Devices.

Social Action

Please provide an estimate of the number of people who will benefit from your project
500

Who will benefit from your project?

Village motorists can use the A329 with a greater degree of safety. Pedestrians will be safer on vulnerable parts of the pavements. School children will be able access the school more safely.

Action on Climate Emergency

Please tell us about any steps your organisation has taken to improve it's own environmental sustainability?

Little Parish Council tries to reduce the number of verge cutting during the year. Including delaying cutting until the wild flowers in the verges have flowered and preserving one area of verge without mechanical cutting to preserve the wild orchids that flower in the area.
The village hall uses low energy lighting for public events.

Please tell us about the environmental impact this project may have.

The use of Speed Indicator Devices will reinforce the speed limit and help regulate emissions and reduce tyre wear.

Project outcomes

Tell us more about the key outcomes you want to achieve through your project, and how you will know if it was a success.

Assuming we are granted financial support for our project of installing two Speed Indicator Devices we hope for the following results:

- * A reduction in the number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit of 20mph
- * A reduction in vehicle emissions due to low speed smooth flow.
- * A reduction in tyre wear and the release of harmful particles released with tyre wear.
- * Making the pavements safer from injury, particularly from HGV vehicle that often have their mirrors protruding over the pavement.
- * A reduction in vehicle collisions with the reinforced speed limit.
- * Making the two constricted bends safer because of reduced speed

We will commission appropriate surveys a year after installation (air quality, traffic) to measure improvements over the period after installation.

South Moreton Community Benefit Society	Ref	SREPF\100086
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Project Name: Window replacement

Project Description: We are looking to replace a number of windows in the property to improve the thermal envelope and reduce energy wastage from the property. This will also create a warmer, more welcoming environment, particularly for elderly members of the community. We are requesting the grant to purchase the windows, which will be installed with the support of local volunteers.

Application Theme: Capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society

Location of Project:

Potential number of beneficiaries: 500

Total project cost	£8,200
Organisation's contribution	£0
Other secured funding	
REPF Grant Requested	£8,200
Organisation's latest bank balance	19657

Scoring

Need for Project The windows are currently single glazed. They have not provided any evidence of customer support for project.	Score	0/4
Action on Climate Emergency Replacement of 7 single glazed windows to improve energy usage. Expected to reduce energy usage by 15% or more	Score	1/3
Social Action The project could potentially benefit a large number of residents who use the pub, and a number of local community groups who use the pub for meetings	Score	2/2
Project Outputs "26-50% expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities 1-25% expected increase in user numbers"	Score	2/3
Financial and project management plans no project plan provided. Requesting full grant		
Demand for services and other similar facilities No evidence submitted to show need/demand for project		
Project completion within timeframe 4 month project		

DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Little evidence to show community support/benefit.

Total score

5/12

Applicant responses

Need for Project

How do you know there is a need for your project?

Current windows are single glazed and in need of repair.

Social Action

Please provide an estimate of the number of people who will benefit from your project
500

Who will benefit from your project?

Users of the pub, including numerous community groups (Parish Council, PTA, PCC, sports clubs), polling station users and better working conditions for the tenant and staff.

Action on Climate Emergency

Please tell us about any steps your organisation has taken to improve it's own environmental sustainability?

Thus project will directly impact on the shift to carbon neutrality by reducing energy usage in a relatively large public building. We have already increased insulation, and replaced some external doors to reduce heat loss. We use local suppliers where possible to reduce delivery mileage.

Please tell us about the environmental impact this project may have.

It will reduce energy usage, likely by 15% or more.

Project outcomes

Tell us more about the key outcomes you want to achieve through your project, and how you will know if it was a success.

The project will be a success by reducing energy consumption, reducing maintenance costs and improving the ambience in the building, leading to increased community usage.