

South Capital 2022/23 - officer evaluation report

Scoring summary

Ref no.	Organisation	Scheme	Scheme cost	Amount requested	% of cost requested	Suggested score	Amended Score
SCAP22-23\100012	Wheatley Parochial Church Council (Page 17)	Revival at St Mary's	£549,532	£75,000	13.65%	22	22
SCAP22-23\100022	Holton Parish Council (Page 23)	Holton Orchard Play Equipment (HOPE)	£46,864	£23,263	49.64%	21	25
SCAP22-23\100028	Thomley Hall Centre Ltd (Page 28)	An Interactive Water Feature with Disabled Access	£102,000	£51,000	50.00%	20	27
SCAP22-23\100050	South Moreton Parish Council (Page 34)	South Moreton Recreation Ground Path	£15,115	£7,557	50.00%	20	22
SCAP22-23\100044	Dorchester on Thames Parish Council (Page 38)	Improvement and upgrade of village playground and playing field to make it more inclusive and to improve outcomes for all local children and adults.	£45,000	£22,500	50.00%	19	21
SCAP22-23\100040	Wallingford Sports Trust (Page 43)	Installation of solar panels and battery	£80,500	£40,250	50.00%	19	24
SCAP22-23\100054	SOFEA (Page 48)	Upgrading IT infrastructure	£41,738	£20,000	47.92%	17	No change
SCAP22-23\100055	Berinsfield Parish Council (Page 54)	Installation of Solar Panels on the Sports Pavilion, Berinsfield	£31,589	£15,794	50.00%	17	17
SCAP22-23\100061	Beckley and Stowood Village Hall CIO (Page 58)	Electric Car Charging Point	£9,263	£4,631	49.99%	17	No change
SCAP22-23\100065	Didcot TRAIN - Inspiring Young People (Page 61)	Premises Improvement	£12,717	£6,359	50.00%	16	17

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SCAP22-23\100047	Stanton St John Parish Council (Page 64)	Installation of 2 EV chargers	£6,545	£2,618	40.00%	16	18
SCAP22-23\100062	Clifton Hampden and Burcot Sea Scout Group (Page 67)	New roof for scout hut	£23,470	£11,735	50.00%	13	19
SCAP22-23\100051	Warborough Parish Council (Page 70)	Warborough Sports Pavilion Refurbishment Project	£160,290	£75,000	46.79%	12	16
SCAP22-23\100042	Henley-on-Thames Bowling Club (Page 76)	Replace Storage Heaters with Air Conditioning	£4,316	£2,158	50.00%	7	9
				Total Requested £357,865		Budget £320,000	

Scoring and award matrix for Capital Grant applications

Suggested Scores	Priority Level	Awards: (all awards are subject to sufficient budget. Medium priorities will only receive funding if there is budget left after all the high priority projects are awarded). 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.
21-30 points	High priority	We will award full amount requested - budget permitting - Capped at 50 per cent of the cost unless we allow a request for more and they meet the criteria for an exception.
15-20 points	Medium priority	Award between 50 and 75 per cent of the amount requested, depending on the score - budget permitting
0-14 points	Low priority	No funding awarded

Cross-Cutting Criteria – all projects to be scored against these

Community need, inclusion, and consultation

Scoring guidance – the council wishes to support projects aimed at improving community well-being and resilience to recover from the pandemic as well as providing new activities or facilities. We also wish to prioritise those projects which encourage access for all and help meet the council’s equality objectives. **To achieve the highest point within each section**, we would like to see evidence that stakeholder consultation and/or an accessibility audit has been carried out to establish the level of need for the project.

Should there be other similar facilities available in the local area, emphasis should be placed on providing evidence that there is sufficient demand within the community to support this work. We expect that all applications comply with the Equality Act 2010 and can offer support to

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help ensure your project is accessible for all. For projects that aim to improve parks, play equipment and public spaces (such as Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and outdoor sports facilities), please consider how to encourage usage from more girls and young women in your designs <https://makespaceforgirls.co.uk/>.

Points	Criteria to score	Project examples
0	The project did not involve consultation with stakeholders, and no evidence of need, new activities or improvement to existing activities has been provided	A decorative village sign that will be mainly used for people outside of the community or doesn't allow any community activities to take place nor give the community a facility to use.
1-2	(1 point) Little additional use/improvement will be gained as a result of the project e.g the project replaces existing facilities or allows existing activities to continue. Or The project moderately improves a minor community facility or activity. (2 points) as above and Some consultation has taken place.	It replaces furniture in the village hall with like-for-like replacements. No consideration has been given to providing more accessible furniture (higher chairs with backs and arm rests) Replacing like-for-like playground equipment without consultation for how the space could be improved to enable more users or provide more inclusive play equipment. A decision to undertake the project has been taken at committee level with little detail of how existing users or wider community have been consulted.
3-4	(3 points) the project moderately improves or extends a substantial community facility or activity. or the project significantly improves or extends a minor community facility or activity. or the project provides a new minor facility or activity for the community.	Replacing existing park benches with longer-lasting accessible ones, replacing the chairs in the village hall with more comfortable accessible ones or improve a play area to cater for more ages. Refurbishment of changing rooms to increase capacity and accessibility for disabled and mobility impaired people (e.g. disabled toilets, handrails, accessible changing rooms) Increase club participation by purchasing boats for a small canoeing club or increasing the size of a playing area providing some new

	<p>(4 points) as above and consultation has been carried out with existing users but no evidence to suggest this has been done with the wider community.</p>	<p>equipment.</p> <p>Feedback has been formally invited from members via a survey or AGM. Some evidence of informal feedback from users of the facility would score less points.</p>
<p>5-6</p>	<p>(5 points) the project will provide substantial new facilities or activities to the community. or the project significantly improves the capacity of a significant community facility.</p> <p>(6 points) as above and substantial consultation has been carried out with the community/other stakeholders, including minority groups if project impacts on them.</p>	<p>Creating a brand-new play area where there wasn't one already which takes into consideration all users and provides inclusive equipment. (e.g. equipment for disabled children, sensory equipment, wheelchair accessible paths, accessible seating and picnic benches)</p> <p>Adding a large extension to a village hall that is accessible to all. If not already part of the building also considers disabled and mobility impaired users, people of small stature (e.g. disabled parking, accessible kitchen space, disabled toilet, wheelchair accessible doorways/ramps/entrance and egress)</p> <p>The significant reorganisation of a facility to increase capacity where full consideration has been given to all users including those that are disabled or mobility impaired.</p> <p>Creation of a new sporting facility such as Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), pavilion or playing pitch that meets the needs of all members of the community including disabled and mobility impaired people.</p> <p>An accessibility audit has been completed and changes to the project have been adopted to improve access to all.</p> <p>Every effort has been made to invite all members of the community and stakeholders to provide feedback through a formal survey, AGM or open days. The organisation has identified minority groups in the community and delivered targeted communication to encourage</p>

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		participation. Improvement of facility is included in the local plan or leisure facility strategy (or similar).
Deductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deduct one point if the project reduces the activities/facilities on offer - Deduct two points if the project removes a community facility or stops existing activities taking place. <p>In addition, the panel can recommend not funding a project if they have serious concerns around the management of the project now or in the future, or serious concerns about the appropriateness of the project e.g. should it become apparent that the community don't support the project or would prefer a different solution</p>	<p>A project to overhaul and landscape a car park that reduces the number of parking spaces or disabled parking spaces.</p> <p>Demolishing an old skatepark without replacing it with anything.</p>

Community benefit

Scoring guidance – This scoring criteria focusses on the groups or communities who will directly use the facility/take part in the project. **To achieve the highest point in each section**, projects should demonstrate that they are either benefiting a greater number of residents when compared to other projects in the same category, or specifically improving access for vulnerable people and priority groups, which may include – note this is not an exhaustive or a definitive list- the elderly, isolated young families, migrants, homeless, economically or educationally disadvantaged, individuals with disabilities, and those with impairments.

Points	Criteria to score	Project examples
0	The project offers little or no direct benefit to the community.	A decorative sign or boundary wall with no other purpose

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<p>1-2</p>	<p>(1 point) A single sport or special interest group, like an art group, will benefit.</p> <p>Please note, if a sport club wanted to upgrade their pavilion and other groups frequently use it as well, it can score more.</p> <p>(2 points) as above and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • projects benefiting a greater number of residents when compared to other projects in the same category 	<p>A project to buy cricket pitch covers, IT equipment for a photography club or landscaping a nursery's garden is only benefiting their members/users.</p>
<p>3-4</p>	<p>(3 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two or more specific groups will benefit. <p>(4 points) as above and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • projects benefiting a greater number of residents when compared to other projects in the same category, or • where the project will have a significant impact on the health or wellbeing of one priority group 	<p>A football club is upgrading its changing room, which a hockey club also use</p> <p>Specialist equipment for a centre working with severely disabled people.</p> <p>A property/building that promotes social cohesion to help reduce social and rural isolation.</p>
<p>5-6</p>	<p>(5 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will provide a facility that's open/available to anyone to access, (not just members) <p>(6 points) as above and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • projects benefiting a greater number of residents when compared to other projects in the same category, or • where the project will have a significant impact on the health or wellbeing of more than one priority group and/or has demonstrated that they have considered how the facility will be inclusive and accessible to all users. 	<p>Play areas, community building or recreation ground that are accessible to all.</p> <p>The project improves accessibility of a community facility for vulnerable people or priority groups, which can include – note this is not an exhaustive or a definitive list - the elderly, isolated young families, migrants, homeless, economically or educationally disadvantaged, individuals with disabilities, and those with impairments</p>

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Deductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deduct at least one point if the project will reduce - Deduct two points if it totally removes an existing benefit to the community without replacing it. 	Replacing a recreation ground with tennis courts for a members' club (open community benefit is reduced as only tennis members will benefit going forward).
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Action on Climate Emergency

Scoring guidance – these criteria is not intended to be used to score against the climate actions taken within the project itself, but to recognise the applicant's commitment to climate action in general, and how they may make positive contributions to the climate emergency in other areas of their work/organisation.

Points	Climate Action overview	Example
0	The organisation has given limited consideration to the climate emergency.	
1-2	<p>(1 point) The organisation has given some consideration into possible actions that address the Climate Emergency, with limited evidence of any actions undertaken.</p> <p>(2 points) The organisation has delivered one-off or minor events or activities that contribute to the Climate Emergency</p>	<p>Such as research into improving the energy efficiency of building/organisation operations, or research into promotion of waste minimisation</p> <p>Such as replacing some lightbulbs with energy efficient ones, installing bike racks, implementing an energy smart meter, hosting a climate themed coffee morning.</p>
3-4	(3 points) The organisation has implemented multiple or regular minor events, activities or services that contribute to the Climate Emergency	Such as replacing all lightbulbs with energy efficient ones, use of local suppliers/plant-based foods for events and activities, providing a cycle to work scheme, regularly hosting climate themed coffee mornings or talks, moving regular supporter communications online instead of

	(4 points) as above and Adoption of a simple sustainability/ climate action policy/statement for the organisation	print, planting and/or management of a public space to improve its biodiversity.
5-6	(5 points) The organisation has implemented multiple Climate Emergency related events, activities or services as routine part of the organisation's workplan, and have a sustainability/ climate policy showing a high-level commitment by the organisation to addressing the climate emergency (6 points) as above and have a sustainability / climate action forward plan or strategy for the organisation	Such as energy audit of premise(s) commissioned and investment in recommendations, staff/volunteer training on climate literacy, engagement with partners on sustainability programmes in the community

Finance Sustainability

Scoring guidance – Officers will be looking for a sound fundraising plan with contingencies should any of their grant applications (to the council and others) be unsuccessful or receive less than requested.

Competition for funds mean that organisations which still have a large fundraising liability and will have to provide substantial evidence to give confidence that the project will be seen through to completion within the accepted project timeframe. Therefore, organisations are strongly encouraged to seek additional funding from elsewhere before applying to the council. **To achieve the highest point in each section**, we would expect to see evidence that the applicant has included ongoing maintenance costs and eventual replacement.

Points	Financial overview
0	They don't have a plan of how they'll fund the rest of the project and haven't secured any other funding yet. They haven't given details of how they'll fund the ongoing maintenance and eventual replacements.
1-2	(1 point) They've got a funding plan but haven't applied for all of it yet. or They've applied for all the other funding needed but have secured less than 50 per cent so far.

	(2 points) as above and They've also budgeted for the ongoing maintenance but don't say how they'll fund eventual replacements in the future (if applicable).
3-4	(3 points) They've applied for all the funding needed and have already secured 50 per cent or more of the balance, including contingency funding should some of their applications be unsuccessful or partially successful. (4 points) as above and They've also budgeted for the ongoing costs and have a general idea how they'll fund replacements eventually (if applicable)
5-6	(5 points) They've secured all the other funding needed for the project already (including if they're funding the rest themselves) and have a contingency plan should they only receive a partial grant from the council. or The organisation has requested 100 per cent of the cost and have provided evidence that they've lost a funder, can't raise money themselves (e.g via precept) and can't apply for other grants/funding. (6 points) as above and They've also budgeted for the ongoing costs and have a fund/account/pot saving for the replacements in due course.
Deductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deduct one point if the organisation's finances suggest they could contribute towards the cost - Deduct two points if they can afford the whole project without any funding. <p>Even if an application scores enough points, the panel can recommend not funding the project if has serious concerns about its financial viability, such as if the organisation has not demonstrated having a sound fundraising plan with contingencies should any of their grant applications (to the council and others) be unsuccessful or award less than requested.</p>

Themed criteria – projects scored against one of the following

Scoring guidelines – **The application will be marked against ONE of the following sections**, depending on which of the four outward facing corporate plan priorities the applicant categorises the project under:

1. **Protect and restore our natural world** – e.g tree planting and/or habitat creation with the aim to improve biodiversity.

2. **Improved economic and community wellbeing** – e.g refurbishment of a village hall, improvements/creation of a new social enterprise, updates to an existing playground, creation of a community facility that reduces social isolation or an extended sports facility that improves physical wellbeing.
3. **Homes and infrastructure that meet local need** – e.g creating a brand-new community building or playground, projects in new housing developments, such as Didcot Garden Town, as well as Berinsfield Garden Village, or bringing back empty properties into use.
4. **Action on the Climate Emergency** - e.g projects that take action on the climate emergency by reducing carbon emissions with the aim to become carbon neutral, such as energy saving technologies and sustainable transport projects.

This section scores each project against the same set of criteria, which recognises improved outcomes for the community through specific, measurable targets. We are also looking for evidence of relevant partnership working and collaboration in project delivery.

Points	Criteria to score
0	<p>Response is not relevant to the priority theme and/or is not a key outcome of the presented project.</p> <p>The information given does not provide the officer with confidence that the project will result in better outcomes for the community.</p> <p>No information regarding partnership working or community engagement has been offered.</p>
1-2	<p>(1 point) Relevant response that addresses how a capital grant will provide better outcomes to the community at an acceptable standard.</p> <p>The theme has been considered in a minor way, but the information provided lacks some detail. Outputs have been identified, rather than outcomes considered, with more detail needed for how this will be measured.</p> <p>(2 points) <u>as above and</u></p> <p>Some information regarding minor partnership working or community engagement has been provided.</p>

<p>3-4</p>	<p>(3 points) Clear and relevant response that addresses how a capital grant will provide better outcomes to the community at a good standard under the specific theme.</p> <p>The theme has been considered in a major way with some key measurable outcomes identified.</p> <p>(4 points) <u>as above and</u></p> <p>Good examples of partnership working regarding project delivery, including examples of collaborations with other organisations and/or the community.</p>
<p>5-6</p>	<p>(5 points) Clear, relevant, and well detailed responses that addresses how a capital grant will provide better, measurable outcomes to the community at an excellent standard under the specific theme.</p> <p>Goes above expectations and fully integrates the project theme into the project plan and outcomes.</p> <p>(6 points) <u>as above and</u></p> <p>Clearly sets out how they will work in partnership at all levels of project delivery to meet the corporate plan priority and how partner organisations and/or the community have been involved in project planning and implementation.</p>

Project examples under each theme

Points	Protect and restore our natural world	Improved economic and community wellbeing	Homes and infrastructure that meet local need	Action on the Climate Emergency
0	Tree planting projects without evidence of landowner	Projects that fall under another thematic area and/or	Projects that fall under another thematic area and/or meet the	A project to upgrade toilet facilities does not include

Responses from applicants have been copied directly from application form

	<p>permission or commitment to long-term maintenance of the planting.</p> <p>Tree planting or habitat creation projects on unsuitable sites – all projects should involve some form of initial ecological survey to ensure the right trees (or other habitats) are being planted in the right place (i.e. not planting trees on existing wildflower meadows)</p> <p>Projects which have involved no consultation and have not obtained baseline information from the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre.</p>	<p>meet the unsatisfactory criteria.</p>	<p>unsatisfactory criteria.</p>	<p>energy saving features such as light sensors</p> <p>A boiler is replaced with a more efficient one but only meeting building regulations</p>
<p>1-2</p>	<p>Projects involving only small areas with only minimal biodiversity and community benefit. No community or volunteer involvement.</p> <p>Small scale tree or hedgerow planting with little wider benefit and not following relevant local or national priorities.</p>	<p>New office equipment related to community transport schemes that reduces rural isolation.</p> <p>New furniture for advice services that help to improve mental health.</p> <p>The installation of a Defibrillator to improve a community's physical wellbeing.</p> <p>Improvements to an existing</p>	<p>Projects to encourage sustainable transport and reduce car dependency in a new housing development but are replacing an existing facility with a like-for-like design (e.g. replacing cycle storage, no additional capacity)</p>	<p>Minor investment in energy efficiency leading to reduced energy bills. Lighting or insulation in one area e.g kitchen. Draught proofing installed in a building. A timer or smart metre is added to heating controls</p> <p>Minor projects to help adapt to climate change e.g. water saving taps and urinals measured by reduced water consumption</p>

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		social enterprise which promotes economic recovery such as community shop or community pub, but the project does not result in any new activities taking place (e.g. replacement of windows from single to double glazing)		Minor sustainable transport projects e.g. cycle racks resulting in some evidence of behaviour change Equipment for projects that promote the circular economy (reuse and repair of goods and materials) e.g. IT equipment, storage, kitchen fixtures and fittings.
3-4	<p>Medium scale projects evidencing good community involvement and a commitment to partnership working.</p> <p>Projects or proposals fitting in with relevant local and national priorities. This might for example include planting a small woodland or creating wetlands in an appropriate location working with local volunteers and not-for-profit organisations.</p> <p>Projects well designed with evidence of consultation with relevant bodies.</p>	<p>Facilities that encourage culture, leisure and art to promote social wellbeing (e.g. expansion of sports facilities, creation of public arts, purchasing of village hall staging, theatre refurbishment)</p> <p>Building refurbishment costs for organisations that support vulnerable people (e.g. those with disabilities or to improve mental health)</p> <p>Refurbishment of a facility that improves social isolation and deprivation (e.g. Buildings that hold advice and debt services. befriending services, good neighbour schemes, volunteer driver schemes, food banks).</p>	<p>Refurbishing empty community properties for the benefit of the community/not residential (e.g. refurbishing a community hub for young families, refurbishing a building that houses charitable organisations supporting vulnerable people)</p> <p>Improving green space facilities that are accessible for all in a new housing development. (e.g. signage, creating private footpaths, fencing, planting, benches accessible for mobility impaired people)</p> <p>Projects to encourage sustainable transport and reduce car dependency by working with the community to upgrade already existing cycle storage in a new housing</p>	<p>Investment in building energy efficiency using more than one technology eg LED lighting with lighting controls, insulation, a building management system measured by a good reduction in energy bills</p> <p>Projects to help adapt to climate change eg solar shading and water saving measures</p>

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		Improvements to an existing social enterprise that will allow for the expansion of services or for new services to take place. (e.g. a community shop expanding to carry more stock which meets local demand or a community pub adding café facilities to enable longer opening hours for the community to meet and reduce social isolation)	development to allow more bikes and better protection.	
5-6	<p>Large scale habitat creation/restoration projects or tree planting projects forming a key part of meeting relevant local and national priorities.</p> <p>Projects that evidence widespread consultation/partnership working and careful planning to ensure the project is creating the right habitats in the right place.</p> <p>Projects that have thoroughly considered the long-term sustainability of the proposals and evidence how ongoing management and maintenance will be provided for.</p>	<p>Projects that promote economic recovery and quality employment through the creation of a new social enterprise such as a community shop or pub that will result in new job creation and/or create volunteer training opportunities that could provide future employment opportunities for local residents</p> <p>Projects that help create new long term, sustainable funding opportunities for the organisation (e.g. refurbishment of a community centre that includes a</p>	<p>Projects that create new and improved infrastructure for communities in a new developments to promote cohesion and that are accessible to all (e.g. village halls, playgrounds, outdoor gyms, sports facilities)</p> <p>Creating new accessible green spaces in partnership with local organisations to ensure that all members of the community can access the space to improve physical and mental wellbeing (e.g. purchase of land with accessible pathways, extensive planting and facilities such as benches)</p> <p>Projects that actively promote</p>	<p>Projects to help achieve significant carbon emission savings for organisations/facilities e.g. investment in renewable technologies such as solar energy and heat pumps</p> <p>Substantial investment in building energy efficiency such as full lighting retrofit, upgraded loft and wall insulation measured by a significant reduction in energy bills</p> <p>A project ensures energy saving measures are a high-profile feature of the facility, with energy monitors in public areas and information about</p>

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	<p>High quality proposals which are fully costed demonstrating value for money alongside an appropriate specification.</p>	<p>volunteer run café)</p> <p>Creation of a new facility that improves social isolation and deprivation (e.g. A new building that will house advice and debt services, food banks, befriending services.)</p>	<p>sustainable transport and reduce car dependency by creating a new substantial cycle storage facility that meets the needs of the community and promotes sustainable methods of transport to the wider community.</p>	<p>the savings clearly visible and attractive manner to users</p> <p>Substantial project for a community facility to help adapt to climate change e.g rainwater harvesting system or substantial sustainable transport projects e.g electric car charging points</p> <p>Creation of a permanent community run facility that promotes the circular economy (reuse and repair of goods and materials) e.g Repair cafe, refill centre</p>
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Wheatley Parochial Church Council	Ref	SCAP22-23\100012
Project Name: Revival at St Mary's		
<p>Project Description: This project is about adapting to changing needs. St Mary's Church is a beautiful building located at the heart of the village. Despite a growing demand for a large flexible space that would be suitable for a variety of secular activities, this valuable facility is underused. We have been determined, since our project was first mooted in 2016, to throw open wide the doors of our building so that it might become a centre for village activity as well as a place of worship. We have had to overcome what sometimes seemed like overwhelming obstacles due to listed building constraints, church regulations, conservation and heritage, not to mention the usual problems of fund raising. We have, however, made huge progress. Since the faculty was finally granted in November 2021, we have been able to remove the long, heavy pews that caused the interior to be such an inflexible space. We now have stackable chairs and a limited number of short pews and two people can achieve a change of use in less than half an hour. The result has been a surge of recent activity which is described below.</p> <p>We have now obtained sufficient funds to install a new heating system, and this is not included in this grant application. The proposed building modifications for which we seek funding are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The installation of a new floor (to comply with building regulations regarding likely future use) • An upgrade of the lighting. • A new kitchen and additional toilet facilities. • A new small meetings room. <p>Community benefit has been addressed from an early stage in the planning with a commissioned survey of community needs, followed by wide consultation with interested parties in the village. Our website provides a convenient overview of the project: https://www.revivalatstmarys.org</p>		
Application Theme: Improved economic and community wellbeing		
Location of Project: Wheatley (S)		
Potential number of beneficiaries: 2,000		

Project Finances

Total Project Cost	£549,532
Organisation's contributions	£340,382
Other Secured funding	£87,000
Amount still required for project	£122,150
Amount requested from this grant scheme	£75,000
Other funding applied for but not yet secured	£0
Other funding identified but not yet applied for	£50,000
Funding plan short fall	-£2,850

Organisations latest bank balance: £436,563.44

Previous community grants:

- SCAP19-21/13 Application rejected as full faculty permissions were not in place
- SCAP21-22/64 Application rejected due to significant gap in project funding

Scoring

Community Need, Inclusion and Consultation Questions from application form

Will your project be providing new facilities or activities?

Yes

What new activities will take place because of this project?

This project aims to create a space that is easily and quickly adapted for a wide range of activities in addition to Christian worship. Our current experience and wide consultation have clearly demonstrated the need for such a local facility (see below). St Mary's Church potentially can provide a flexible 14 by 13 metre area positioned at the heart of the village, which can be created without compromising the architectural heritage qualities of the building. The renovation includes the following new features: • A

well-equipped kitchen with cooker, fridge, washing machine, washing, serving and storage facilities. • Toilet facilities for male, female, baby changing and the disabled. • A private meetings room for small gatherings. • New lighting • An improved Sound System with loop, Film/ Video Projection and internet connection. In the near future, Wheatley can expect a significant increase in new homes (500 in the recent Oxford Brookes development Plan) and the availability of a public space to help communities to knit together will be even more important. Currently, St Mary's Church is by far the biggest venue in the village, so for gatherings of 200 or more there is no conflict or overlap with any other existing facility. At present St Mary's Church is under-used for much of the week, although, since the launch of our revival project, it is now always open during daylight hours and there has been a recent surge in secular usage (see below).

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

In 2018, we commissioned a major survey by Leap Discover (Discover Consulting Ltd). Leap Discover describe themselves as a market research tool to help identify the often-hidden needs of the residents within the church's sphere of influence and to explore the church's desire to respond to these needs. We were presented with a forty-page report in November of that year, based on a survey of the target population in the area surrounding the church, which in the view of our consultants was more than adequately sampled. The results of the survey are predictably wide ranging but do highlight loneliness and disability as major issues that need to be addressed. It is encouraging that this was then reflected in the letters of intent that we subsequently obtained. These were elicited simply by exhaustive networking around the village. They are listed and described in an entry below.

This year there has been a dramatic increase in secular events within the church, stimulated by the recent change of church furniture and layout (mentioned above) which has enabled events to be speedily set up and dismantled. With strong Parish Council backing, we now have a COMMUNITY LARDER attracting up to eighty people every week. Free food that would otherwise go to landfill is obtained from the OXFORD HUB. We obtain donations (averaging £140.00 per week) which go to support local youth and other charities - e.g. The Primary School, Wheatley Park Reading Project, the Scouts, Pulse Youth Club, the Windmill. These Larder days are also major meeting points for the community (see photos).

We have hosted regular Ukrainian Refugee meetings and get togethers (including a lunch for 60 on Ukrainian Independence Day). Other events this year including a concert, two plays and an art exhibition have raised £6110 for the project.

Officer Comment

The project significantly improves the capacity/functionality of a significant community facility. The organisation has undertaken substantial consultation over several years with the local community and have based their project around the feedback received.

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Community Benefit Questions from application form

Who will benefit from your project?

21 letters of intent from groups or individuals were elicited simply by exhaustive networking around the village. They fall naturally into three groups:

A. Mental and Physical Wellbeing and Disability

Mindfulness, Palliative care, Endeavour Academy, John Watson Community Special School, Disability cricket, Dementia care, Hypnotherapy, Yoga

B. Social Community Activity

Table tennis, Dance, Art Exhibitions, Amateur Dramatics, Wheatley Singers, Wheatley Scouts, Wheatley Society, Music therapy.

Church Activity include church social events, Christian mission events. Strong emphasis on collaboration with Churches of other denominations.

C. Schools

Wheatley Primary School have well-developed links for Christian education but have also expressed a strong interest in using the church for other educational purposes. The Church is a key stopping point on the recently launched Wheatley Heritage Trail and a warm, well-appointed church is the ideal venue for pre- or post-trail discussions.

Endeavour Academy, an educational, residential and respite provision for children and young people with Autism and Learning Disabilities, is keen to make use of the building and benefit from other activities, including exploring the Heritage Trail.

John Watson Community Special School has also expressed a strong interest in enhanced community engagement it has been suggested that their students might work alongside other groups such the elderly.

The WHEATLEY LARDER is now a well-established weekly event both social and gastronomic and

should continue to thrive within a well-appointed building.

Regrettably, the need for comfort and support for the Ukrainian community is likely to continue for some time, possibly years and St Mary's will be happy to continue to provide that.

Have you considered how your project will benefit vulnerable & disadvantaged residents?

The survey of local needs indicated that loneliness, disability and an aging population were key local social issues.

Dr Margaret Guy (see attached letter) has commented that the demographic of Wheatley with a large number of people who are retired or approaching retirement age means that end of life issues are especially pertinent. She would like to hold a series of workshops, "Caring for Life, Preparing for Death". She adds that the new space at St Mary's would be ideal, large enough for a big group but with room for smaller groups to talk in greater privacy. Mental wellbeing can be improved by Mindfulness. Professor Mark Williams, Emeritus Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Oxford and Director of the Oxford Mindfulness Centre, has proposed plans to develop St Mary's into a hub of mindfulness

Recently in a unique partnership, Oxfordshire Cricket and St Mary's Church Wheatley have collaborated to host the Lords Taverners sponsored Oxfordshire Disability Table Cricket Final on the 23rd of January 2020. Table cricket is an adapted version of cricket, designed to give young people with a disability the chance to compete. Over 100 children and young adults with physical and learning difficulties took part in this event. There is a strong desire by both parties to develop this use of our facilities further and it will be vastly easier to organise in a renovated building

The Wheatley Good Neighbour Scheme is another new initiative in which St Mary's plays a major role which will greatly benefit from a renovated building (see below for details).

The proposed design takes full account of issues of physical access to the building for the disabled. (see Access Audit).

Mention has already been made of our Food Larder initiative and outreach to the Ukrainian community.

Officer Comment

The project will provide a facility that is open /available for all to access not just members. They have provided evidence of working with several different priority groups to hold events.

Score

6/6

Action on Climate Emergency questions from application form

Has your organisation taken any steps to improve its own environmental sustainability?

In 2004, the Church of England published an environmental statement which included the following two commitments:

- As individuals we need an enhanced sense of wonder and gratitude at creation's fragile beauty, leading to changes in our lifestyles.
- The Church at national, diocesan and parish level should give public support to the need for environmental vigilance. It should back this by auditing its ecological "footprint" and promoting a responsible use of energy and other resources within its own activities.

St Mary's church is totally committed and obliged to following this guidance. Church members are regularly reminded of their individual responsibilities. All actions taken by the church as a whole are routinely considered with regard to the climate emergency. Recent examples of such actions include: Establishment of the Wheatley Food Larder with the aim of reducing food waste, disposal of food in landfill and the resulting production of methane gas.

100% use of carbon free electricity (Ecotricity)

100% use of LED bulbs with planned new lighting to be sensor controlled

Proposed new flooring will be better insulated than current building regulations require with an estimated 12% energy saving.

Large parts of the church yard perimeter have been rewilded in consultation with local bee experts, who are planning to introduce a hive of wild bees in the trees.

Officer Comment

The organisation has implemented multiple initiatives that contribute to the climate emergency including a food larder, rewilding and energy saving lighting.

Score

3/6

Financial sustainability questions from application form

What are the ongoing financial requirements for this project once the delivery is complete?

Currently, St Mary's Church is solvent. Our outgoings include a major annual contribution to the Oxford Diocese, general running costs and a long-term obligation to maintain the structure of the building. Income includes regular donations from church members and donations from our "Friends of St Mary's" that is specifically used for the preservation of the fabric of the church. We operate a generous policy of allowing village organisations the use of the building for a nominal donation which only covers the extra cost of their usage. Part of the motivation for this project, however, was the awareness that we were

trustees of this precious building and must plan for the long-term. It is not realistic to assume that donations from congregations would forever be sufficient to maintain the fabric of the church. Improvement in the facilities within the building and much increased usage was seen as a means of obtaining a steady source of funds specifically reserved for building maintenance. Charges for bookings of the renovated building would need to be carefully judged to avoid discouraging local usage. A major expense, which we hope to avoid in the medium term, is the necessity to employ a part-time or even full-time administrator or online booking manager to oversee bookings. This is usually necessary if a hall is to be used for parties, wedding receptions etc. It is the common experience of village hall managers we have consulted that such booking applications need to be carefully filtered and activities monitored, and this takes more time than can be expected from a volunteer church helper. We are assuming that our bookings will come from the thirty or more interested local organisations with whom we can develop a long-term, trusting relationship and for whom any form of vetting would not be appropriate or necessary.

Please give us detail of any existing financial commitments that affect how much you can contribute to this project?

Fund Raising activities on behalf of the Project operate separately from day-to-day running of the Parish and operate in separate Bank accounts.

The Following accounts hold funds on behalf of the Project.

1. Wheatley Parochial Church Council Project 2020 [REDACTED] - £116444.72
2. [REDACTED] - £88041.67
3. [REDACTED] - £80026.92
4. [REDACTED] - £80000

Total balance on these accounts is £364513.31

Additionally, with pledges and expected Gift Aid, the project Funding is £40868.75. Grants will increase that figure to £492382.

Costs to date: £73728 (architects, consultants and planning applications). Drawn from the Project Account (1 - above). Most future costs will result from building work.

The Following Accounts are not of interest to this application:

1. [REDACTED] - £25667.52. This covers the daily running costs of the Church – salaries, cleaning, IT, electricity etc. The major cost is the Parish Share (£5018 pcm) paid monthly to the Diocese. The Account is serviced by monthly donations from parishioners, paid by Direct Debit to the 'Parish Giving Scheme', which ensures swift repayment of Gift Aid. Additionally, there are fund raising activities and charges for some services.
2. [REDACTED] - £42047.95. The Friends operate as a sub-committee of the PCC. Donations are specifically for the upkeep of the exterior fabric of the Church. e.g. the cost of work of the lightning conductor earlier this year.
3. [REDACTED] - £4334.66. This account covers costs 1) for the Wheatley Larder and donations which are distributed to local Charities.
2) An account for the Ukrainian Refugees in the village, which covers food, travel and English lessons. Grants have been made to both these activities.

Officer Comment

Please see project finance table above. The organisation still needs to raise £122,150 for this project. They have identified a further £50,000 of grants that they are eligible to apply for, which along with their request to this scheme covers the costs for the project. They have also indicated that they are prepared to take out a short-term loan from the Diocese of Oxford should they need to cover any shortfall in funding. It is likely that project costs will increase as the costs shown on the application come from a quantity surveyors cost plan dated October 2022 rather than a quote.

The applicant has provided updated figures showing that the organisation is now in a position to contribute £352,110 towards the project and have applied for £25,000 in funding since submitting this application, however officers are unable to increase the score for this section due to the amount of funding still unsecured for the project.

Score

3/6

Project theme – outcomes questions from application form

What difference will your project make in your community?

The need for venues where communities can meet and interact was amply demonstrated during the pandemic. The joy when people could meet again as restrictions were lifted was palpable. Michelle Legg, Clerk to Wheatley Parish Council, has written (attachment) "Wheatley Parish Council wholeheartedly supports the development of St Mary's Church as a community and social space for the use by the many organisations active in our village and wider community. These organisations actively

engage with and encourage participation across all age ranges and interests, but some activities are seriously limited by the lack of large flexible space that would be offered by this project.”
By addressing the genuine needs of groups, whether elderly or disabled and by providing much needed space for community activities, St Mary’s can become a centre for social care at the heart of the village. One example of how this can happen is the Wheatley Good Neighbour Scheme which is described below.

In September 2021, we held a clubs and society fair in the Church, to give the village a taste of how useful the space might be in the future. Thirty organisations had stalls exhibiting their various attractions and enthusiasms, and many reported a more than usual interest in volunteering. Over 300 people attended. Along with the twenty existing expressions of specific local interest, this event provided evidence of the huge demand for space for community activities. With the success of the weekly WHEATLEY LARDER, we now have further evidence of what our building can do for the village.

This project is not just about a building. It is about what a church building ought to be and be doing in the midst of a community. Our aim is to use the building as a focus for the development of networks.

Tell us about any collaborations with other organisations/partners in the community to help support the delivery of this project.

Creating networks:

In January 2021, St Mary’s Church instigated a meeting with representatives from the Parish Council, the Community Emergency Foodbank, other local Churches, the Primary and Senior Schools, Age UK, the Surgery, Wheatley Support Group and the Howe Trust. The aim was to determine whether the efforts of these various bodies could be better coordinated. The meeting resulted in the formation of a committee of members of the Parish Council, St Mary’s Church, the Community Church and the Wheatley Support Group which is affiliated to the Good Neighbour Scheme and Volunteer Linkup Oxfordshire, who have organised our DBS checks, insurance and have provided a small start-up grant. A Wellbeing sector was established within the Parish Council. Organisations that input information and advice to the committee include:

- Wheatley Good Neighbour Scheme - dedicated to encouraging the lonely - and in many cases elderly - to get out and about by providing events, coffee mornings and transport. Our two Church Wardens are members of the Parish Council Wellbeing Committee.
- Morland House NHS Surgery – regular contact regarding loneliness and those in need.
- Food Bank and Wheatley Food Larder
- Primary School – has formal links with St Mary’s and is developing work with Full Circle Charity to enable old and young people to work together.
- Wheatley Area Churches – There are strong links between the different religious denominations within the village, jointly organising events in the village and regularly informing each other of their community work, so that effort is not duplicated.
- Wheatley Care (Drivers to the Surgery and Hospitals) - mutual sharing of information regarding vulnerable parishioners and potential drivers.

The renovated building would become a hub for the scheme with the space to enable aid organisations to perform their activities, to meet and plan.

Officer Comment

The project has clearly identified how a grant will be used to provide better outcomes to the wider community and has provided good examples of partnership working with other organisations, such as the food larder and disabled table cricket.

Score

4/6

Financial and project management plans

The organisation has raised a significant amount of fund towards this large project and have £47,150 yet to raise for the project. They have identified a further £50,000 in grants that they intend to apply for when the rounds open. They have also submitted information in relation to a short term loan from the Diocese of Oxford that they could take out should their grant applications not be successful or should costs rise once they have received full quotes for the works.

Demand for services and other similar facilities

The application states that approximately 2,000 residents will benefit from the project which is roughly half of the parish. The village currently has the Merry Bells Building which offers two rooms to hire, with the largest room having a capacity of 100 and the smaller room holding around 15 people. Given the size of the village and the expected growth of the parish with the development of the Oxford Brookes site, it is not unreasonable that additional community spaces such those proposed by this project would be needed.

Internal consultation

Climate: We support this project to make the church more accessible for community use. The

specification includes floor insulation above building regulations levels, low energy lighting with sensors and efficient kitchen appliances.

S106: I can confirm that Wheatley Parochial Church Council have not applied for s106 funding. There are no secured/available s106 contributions within Wheatley for use towards this specific project. I am not aware of any similar projects within the area.

Equalities: To have all the work done on this building would make it more of a useable building for so many more purposes, benefiting the whole community and possibly bringing in people from local areas. Good to see there will be a disabled toilet with baby changing facilities plus a further two toilets. If they can put handrails in the other toilets, it will enable users with slight mobility issues to use these toilets with confidence as they will have handrails, should they require it, this would also leave the disabled toilet free for wheelchair users. Also contrasting pans and seat so someone with visual impairment can identify the difference should be included. With meeting rooms sometimes it's good to think about the acoustics for users with hearing impairments. A room or space that is echo-y and/or has high levels of noise makes for a difficult, and potentially very uncomfortable, environment for people with hearing loss. Reducing echo and noise is perfectly possible but will require investment by the venue manager/owner. Soft furnishings can offer some level of improvement by helping to reduce the way sound reverberates or bounces around the room. For example, carpets, curtains, and soft chairs. Much more effective, however, are noise absorbent panels that are specifically designed to absorb sound. Noise absorption panels come in all sorts of shapes, sizes and colours and can be a great looking design feature as well as having a functional purpose. They can be portable or fixed. Portable ones can be brought out and moved into place during meetings or discussion as and when required. They can be clustered to create quiet zones or located as appropriate within the room. Fixed panels are permanently installed to the walls or ceilings in the room. Ceiling panels can often control noise better than wall panels but a mix of both might be required. As I'm not sure of the exact numbers or the users I'm just mentioning the above, it's not a requirement. Also page 85 mentions screen with central lockable door – if people in wheelchairs or with dexterity issues have a need to open this – if so, will it be easy for them? They mention handrails on stairs, I'm sure the planners know but handrails should extend 300mm past the top and bottom stair and should be continued with no rough parts that a sleeve could catch on. How will a disabled person access the first floor? The floor should not be reflective and preferably nonslip. I have quite a bit of information on recommendations on internal finishes for toilets, halls, etc should anyone be interested.

Project completion within timeframe

Given that most of the funding for this project is in place, and the applicants have a funding plan which also includes the option of taking out short term loan officers feel the project is likely to start within 12 months of any award being made. The works are expected to take nine months to complete so even allowing for a delay in the start date for the project, it should be able to complete well within the 24 month window for projects of this size.

DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

No points have been deducted from this application.

Suggested Conditions –

- subject to approval of an award, discussion with the equalities officer to take account of feedback provided, before releasing the funds

Total score

22/30

Holton Parish Council	Ref	SCAP22-23\100022
Project Name: Holton Orchard Play Equipment (HOPE)		
<p>Project Description: Holton is a small rural village of approximately 350 people. It has a village hall which acts as a focal point for community life in a village with no other amenities. In 2002 the Parish Council purchased an adjacent piece of land, a former orchard. Volunteers have pruned, cleared scrub, planted new trees and laid hedges. Benches and picnic tables have been installed and a wildflower area established. The 'Orchard' is the only public space available to the community at all times and plays a vital role for village events (e.g. summer party, apple pressing), group meetings (e.g. WI, Book Club) and a place where villagers can meet informally to socialise. The Parish Council was approached in 2018 by a number of young families who asked if some children's play equipment could be installed in the 'Orchard'. They wanted a local, inclusive facility that would be a place to meet other children, parents and villagers. Since then, the Parish Council has embarked on a project to deliver this through a series of consultations and by allocating monies to a fund specifically for this purpose. We plan to install play equipment for children from 2 up to approximately 13 years of age, something that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can accommodate their differing and changing needs • Be different to what they experience in their own garden, providing challenge and enabling them to take the risks needed for healthy development as well as encouraging social and imaginative play • Acts as a focus for families that can otherwise feel isolated • Be a meeting place for the growing number of older adults in the village who provide part time childcare support for their grandchildren <p>We have no play facilities. HOPE will develop our only open space for the benefit of the village community.</p>		
Application Theme: Homes and infrastructure that meet local need		
Location of Project: Holton (S)		
Potential number of beneficiaries: 350		

Project Finances

Total Project Cost	£46,864
Organisation's contributions	£22,401
Other Secured funding	£0
Amount still required for project	£24,463
Amount requested from SCAP	£23,263
Other funding applied for but not yet secured	£0
Other funding identified but not yet applied for	£3,800
Funding plan short fall	-£2,600

Organisation's latest bank balance: £37,040.06

Previous community grants awarded:

- CGS20-21/97 Holton Orchard - Project to enhance the Orchard with more fruit trees, wildflowers and informal seating £360 – grant completed
- CGS21-22/199 Orchard Fencing £500 – grant ongoing

Scoring

Community Need, Inclusion and Consultation Questions from application form

Will your project be providing new facilities or activities?

Yes

What new activities will take place because of this project?

(Villagers responses from emails) There are no play facilities in the village. This is a brand-new facility. The equipment will be sited in the Orchard which is open at all times for anyone to access. I think the play equipment idea for the orchard is a brilliant idea, a great place for parents to take their young children to meet up with friends in the fresh air, with the picnic tables already there. The inclusive design meets the needs of all users and provides accessibility to all. The play area will provide a focal

point, particularly for those families with young children who have no informal meeting place and the growing number of elderly residents who provide childcare for their grandchildren during the week. As a parent of 3 and a relatively new addition to Holton, I would say that this proposal is very welcome. One of the things lacking is a play area for children, which would also allow us to meet other parents who live locally. I think it's a brilliant idea! As a public space, sadly, it is underused. As grandparents we would definitely use the playground with our three grandchildren. The closest play facility is over a mile away. This necessitates negotiating roads without pavements and a very steep hill. We have to drive to surrounding villages. Having a play area in the village would also facilitate meeting other families with children and provide a central hub to the village for those with children.

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

The Parish Council was approached in 2018 by a number of young families who asked if some children's play equipment could be installed in the 'Orchard'. They wanted a local, inclusive facility that would be a place to meet other children, parents and villagers. Since then, the Parish Council has embarked on a project to deliver this through a series of consultations on the type of play equipment wanted, the design specification and their preferences to obtained quotes. This has been through Parish magazine articles, a parent/child group (email based), two Parish Annual meetings and many informal discussions.

1. Early 2018 Local families with young children approach the PC
2. May 2018 Annual Parish Meeting - proposal for play area and outline ideas were explored with village residents who were very supportive of the outline plan (Appendix 1)
3. Late summer 2018 PC conducted survey of residents with young children via email correspondence and face to face discussions
4. October 2018 Letter asking for views placed in Parish magazine circulated to all residents (Appendix 2)
5. Autumn 2019 Consultation with parents and children group on the type of play equipment/design wanted. Specification drawn up
6. Dec 21 Magazine article asks parishioners for their views and to establish continued support for the project (Appendix 3). Results show very positive response (Appendix 4)
7. Parent and children group contacted for views
8. Presentation at Annual Parish Meeting of three proposals and feedback obtained (Appendix 5)
9. May/June 2022 Consultation with parent group on design proposals via email

Officer Comment

This project creates a brand new play area where there currently isn't one. Substantial consultation has taken place with the local community and the project has been based around the feedback they have received.

Score

6/6

Community Benefit Questions from application form

Who will benefit from your project?

Holton is a relatively small community. The Orchard plays a key role as the sole outdoor communal facility in the village. Presently it has an open area planted with trees, a wildflower area and a piece of 'scrubland' deliberately kept as a place for children to use for imaginative play. It has benches and picnic tables in situ. It is used for village events, meetings of village groups and on a casual basis by residents. However, there is nothing to attract children and young families on a casual basis.

This project will benefit the whole village community and help in the development of the Orchard as a communal space that offers something for everyone.

The Parish of Holton is also set to grow substantially in the next few years. Brookes University has been granted planning permission to build up to 500 residential units on the Brookes Campus which is located in the village. It will be hugely important that the village is able to maintain its identity as a whole. The HPC wants to ensure that the Village Hall (the largest venue of its type in the neighbourhood) and Orchard remain a key focus of village life as the new buildings take shape. This project will play its part in establishing this.

Have you considered how your project will benefit vulnerable & disadvantaged residents?

In particular it will benefit:

those children aged 2 to 12/13 who will have a nearby facility that will encourage physical development and exploration as well as provide a communal place for social interaction and group play;

the families of the village who are often isolated by the rural nature of the village, lack of bus service

and an outdoor area with no play provision. Currently families need to travel either by car or by navigating a road without a footpath in order to reach the next village;

the growing number of elderly people in the village who provide childcare to their extended family and have nowhere to take their grandchildren or to meet others;

any children with disabilities or impairments as the equipment has been designed to cater for all by a firm with specialists in SEND.

Officer Comment

The project will create a facility that is open/available to anyone to access. It aims to particularly benefit young families and the elderly, isolated by the rural nature of the village, lack of bus service and outdoor play provision.

Score

5/6

Action on Climate Emergency questions from application form

Has your organisation taken any steps to improve its own environmental sustainability?

As a small parish council Holton has embarked on a series of initiatives to help tackle the climate emergency. Although we do not have a statement of intent, we continually examine our ways of working to ensure our decisions are informed by the need to reduce emissions, have regard to improving energy efficiency and the need to reduce waste, these include:

An energy audit, and completion of recommendations, of the only building owned by the PC - the village hall. This has taken time and significant investment. Examples include the complete replacement of the windows with double glazed units, installing loft insulation, replacing high energy light bulbs and using remote controls to manage the heating and lighting. Solar panels were investigated but are not feasible due to the hall's position, but the use of a ground source heat pump is currently under review.

The Parish Council also:

has a commitment to shop local whenever possible. For instance all tradespeople used by the PC on a regular basis are local to the area

provides opportunity for community recycling (using a redundant bus shelter) through regular bring and take sessions

fostering the planting of trees by residents (including sponsored tree planting in the Orchard)

promoting a planting project with villagers creating a wildflower area in the Orchard

reducing the mowing regime on the verges to once a year - this has significantly increased the level of biodiversity

introducing a 20mph speed limit in the village promoting safer walking and cycling

supporting local groups to organise traffic reduction events

doubling events in the village hall to maximise energy efficiency (e.g. HPC meets in the committee room on an evening the hall is being used

promoting informed choices of residents by raising awareness of energy efficiency and grants and schemes through the village newsletter.

Officer Comment

The organisation has implemented multiple Climate Emergency related activities such as an energy audit of the village hall and investment in its recommendations. They have provided examples of tree planting schemes and wildflower meadow planting, promoted reuse and recycle events, and resident communication about energy efficiency. The project can score 4 as although they don't have a policy, their activities are more than minor.

Score

4/6

Financial sustainability questions from application form

What are the ongoing financial requirements for this project once the delivery is complete?

Ongoing costs/Maintenance

Future costs include insurance and annual inspection, maintenance of the equipment and funding for repair/replacement.

Insurance/inspection will be budgeted in the Parish Council accounts for future years. Current estimate

is this will be in the region of £800 (current costs of inspection £247 per annum). Upkeep of the equipment will be incorporated into the annual ground maintenance costs for the Orchard. This is financed via income through the joint hire of the hall and orchard for events.

The estimated timescale for replacement is in the timeframe of 10 to 15 years. The Parish Council intends to set up a replacement fund which will be added to annually from council funds and future known CIL monies (£4,000 per annum).

Please give us detail of any existing financial commitments that affect how much you can contribute to this project?

There are no known additional costs to the Parish Council that have not been budgeted for either this year or the forthcoming financial year.

Officer Comment

Please see project finance table above. The organisation still needs to raise £24,463 for this project, of which they are requesting £23,263 from this panel. They have identified a further £3,800 of grants that they intend to apply for when the funding rounds open. The Parish Council has also agreed, should it be necessary, to take out a public works loan. They have budgeted for ongoing costs and the Parish Council intends to set up a replacement fund which will be added to annually from council funds and future known CIL monies (£4,000 per annum).

Score

2/6
6/6

Additional evidence has been submitted stating that Holton Parish Council will increase their contribution by £1,200 to total £23,601 (50% of total balance).

The officer recommends that the score is adjusted to 6 as they have now secured all the other funding needed for the project.

Project theme – outcomes questions from application form

What difference will your project make in your community?

Improve physical and mental health wellbeing:

Create activity based area for the benefit of children

Provide a place to reduce social isolation for the young families in the village

To support the inclusion of elderly residents who have look after younger members of their extended family

Social cohesion:

Develop an outside area that acts as a community hub for all villagers

Improve the environment:

Reduce car usage

We have a wealth of information from residents about their need for this project, what type of play equipment they want and how it will benefit them. We intend to continue with the communication with village residents and specific family groups to determine how often they use the play area, what difference it makes to them and how we can continue to develop the Orchard as a community facility.

Tell us about any collaborations with other organisations/partners in the community to help support the delivery of this project.

HPC has consulted and worked with:

Holton Orchard Committee and Holton Village Hall Committee involved with development, location, design and future fundraising (see previous consultation document)

Holton WI and Holton Book Club asked for views as users of Orchard.

A group of Holton families and their children involved with initial ideas, development, design and delivery. Key part of future fundraising.

Local residents on an individual basis - views and opinions on project and design, those in neighbouring properties for any concerns or wishes to be considered in design and development.

Officer Comment

This is the creation of a new facility that encourages leisure to combat social isolation. Better outcomes for the community have been addressed and good examples of partnership working with the community have been provided.

Score

4/6

Financial and project management plans

The budget breakdown looks reasonable and plans to bridge the funding gap/contingency seem achievable. The project plan appears to be deliverable within the time frame. Insurance/inspection fees will be budgeted in the Parish Council accounts for future years. Upkeep of the equipment will be

incorporated into the annual ground maintenance costs for the Orchard.

Demand for services and other similar facilities

They have estimated that 350 local residents will benefit. This matches the population of Holton - a small, rural village. Brookes University has been granted planning permission to build up to 500 residential units on the Brookes Campus which is located in the village. There is currently no outdoor play provision.

Internal Consultation

S106: I can confirm that Holton Parish Council have not applied for s106 funding. The community infrastructure funding (CIL) amount of £12,151 ring fenced towards this project is correct and agrees with the CIL annual monitoring report submitted for 2020/21 by the parish council. There are no secured/available s106 contributions within the parish of Holton for use towards this specific project. I am not aware of any similar projects within the vicinity/area. It definitely sounds like a good Village community project!

Equalities: From the drawings I'm not 100% sure on this one, I'm struggling to see how accessible the equipment is going to be for disabled children from the pictures/drawings they have sent with the application. I appreciate it's a small village, but we still need to consider the needs of everyone to be inclusive. Could they have a couple of bucket seat swings but that would still mean the carer has to lift the child into the swing. Could they consider a sensory tunnel? What about a roundabout that has capacity for a wheelchair? If I have made a mistake and the equipment intended is accessible, then I would support this.

Project completion within timeframe

Given that most of the funding for this project is in place, and the applicants have a comprehensive funding plan officers feel the project is likely to start and complete within 12 months of any award being made.

DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

No points have been deducted from this application.

Suggested Conditions –

- Applicants should provide evidence of the equipment provided for disabled users prior to funding being released for the project

Total score

21/30
24/30

Thomley Hall Centre Ltd	Ref	SCAP22-23\100028
Project Name: An Interactive Water Feature with Disabled Access		
<p>Project Description: Our project is to install an interactive water feature as an additional activity within our outdoor playground, which will be fully accessible for wheelchair users. The Interactive Water Feature will initially comprise of a rubber splash pad area with a combination of flush and mounted play items, such as jets, which are designed to spray, splash and soak people of all ages, abilities and disabilities in a safe, stimulating and fun environment.</p> <p>The water feature is intended to be predominantly user led, whereby the participant can interact with the splash pad by pressing activation points which then starts an interactive display of water jets, whilst others will be automatically programmed to deliver an interactive display sequence.</p> <p>In accordance with our Environmental Policy we intend to install a recycled water system, with filtration, chemical treatment. As well as an underground water storage tank.</p> <p>We are in talks with Thames Water, who have worked in partnership with us on a previous project to see if they can provide some 'in-kind' installation pipe work.</p> <p>The water feature we are proposing is a cost-effective and innovative way to provide a safe and enjoyable water experience for children with disabilities and their families. The splash mat also has durability and to ensure it remains in good working order throughout its expected life span. Our maintenance team will undergo specific day-to-day maintenance training from the installers. Ongoing, it will be included in our Planned Preventative Maintenance Programme. The installation is a modular design and can be added to as required.</p>		
Application Theme: Improved economic and community wellbeing		
Location of Project: Waterperry with Thomley (S)		
Potential number of beneficiaries: 30,000		

Project Finances

Total Project Cost	£102,000
Organisation's contributions	£0
Other Secured funding	£0
Amount still required for project	£102,000
Amount requested from this grant scheme	£51,000
Other funding applied for but not yet secured	£0
Other funding identified but not yet applied for	£112,000
Funding plan short fall	-£61,000

Organisation's latest bank balance: £303,436.00

Previous community grants awarded:

- SRev22-24/ 40 2-year revenue cost support grant £70,000 – grant ongoing
- SRev\34 2016 – 2021 5-year revenue grant £120,500 – grant completed
- CO15k\661 Teenage provision £100,000 – grant completed

Scoring

Community Need, Inclusion and Consultation Questions from application form

Will your project be providing new facilities or activities?

Yes

What extra facilities, equipment or activities will this project provide?

The last few years has seen a rise in the popularity for Interactive Water Features in public spaces. There are splash pads at Abbey Meadows, Hinksey Park, The Leys in Witney and Cutteslowe Park. We provide many facilities at Thomley for children and young people with disabilities, an Interactive Water Features is the most requested service in our 2022 visitor survey and has been a high priority for a

number of years. We will install a fully accessible splash mat and interactive accessories for people with disabilities, including those in wheelchairs. In contrast mainstream recreational areas are frequently inaccessible to wheelchair users and are also age-restricted in ways that don't take people with disabilities developmental needs into account. Water holds a fascination for most people, but people with autism are particularly drawn to water for its calming and sensory experience. Safe water play will create a shared activity with siblings, parents and other caregivers to take part in and enjoy. We envisage Interactive Water Features will have the following benefits for our visitors: For Pre School, building confidence, learning social and life skills, developing friendships, and improving physical, emotional and mental health. For Pre-Teens, we will build on those learnt as at Pre School with the addition of developing basic life and self-care skills, learning soft and practical skills, and consolidating existing friendships. For Teen's (13-19), we focus on building on the those learnt as Pre Teens but with more focus on, building purposeful life skills and introducing group activities.

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

Thomley was founded by a small group of families who had children with autism and complex needs felt excluded from mainstream play facilities and wanted to create a safe, fun and inclusive place to spend time together; and also, because they saw their children were missing out on one of the most essential activities of childhood: play. It is through play that children build social skills, communication skills, form their first friendships, develop physical capacity and build confidence that transfers into the wider world. Many disabled children today still do not have access to the same developmental opportunities as their non-disabled peers.

The demand for Thomley's services is still very much in demand today as it was in 1997. Thomley has seen the highest number of visits this year to date, since our records begun. In terms of visits, 70% of the people with disabilities who visit Thomley have moderate or severe Autism, 20% have Down's Syndrome and 10% have other disabilities. 5% of our visitors are in a wheelchair.

Over a number of years, in our annual Summer Survey, an interactive Water Feature was selected as one of the top priorities by our visitors. This has been echoed by members of our Visitors Council. The council was established to create regular opportunities for parents and visitors to meet with our Senior Management Team and Services Team staff and suggest enhancements to our service.

Officer Comment

The project will provide a substantial new facility for the community. The organisation has carried out regular and substantial consultation with users, and this project has been identified as the most requested by users and their families.

Score

6/6

Community Benefit Questions from application form

Who will benefit from your project?

The groups and clubs in the community who will benefit from the project are:

1. People with disabilities who miss out on developmental opportunities because mainstream provision is often not equipped to address their complex needs.

This project will help people with disabilities realise their full potential through developmentally meaningful play, leisure, learning and training opportunities.

2. Parents and carers are often overwhelmed in their caring roles and do not know where to get support.

This project will provide respite for parents and carers, helping them to become more resilient and to be better equipped in their caring roles

3. Non-disabled people often have little or no experiences with disability and are not prepared to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

This project will help break down barriers and help our community gain a fuller understanding of the needs of people with disabilities

4. Organisations who are trying to deliver joined-up approaches to addressing the lifelong needs of people with disabilities in Oxfordshire.

This provision will help in the creation of and encourage joined-up solutions to improve lifelong provision for people with disabilities, their families and carers.

Have you considered how your project will benefit vulnerable & disadvantaged residents?

This project will improve access predominantly for the following groups of people: isolated young families, economically or educationally disadvantaged, individuals with disabilities, and those with impairments.

The Interactive Water Feature is the most requested service in our 2022 visitor survey and has been a high priority for a number of years.

The Interactive Water Feature will be a new and innovative experience for visitors to Thomley and will

enhance the experience of our outdoor provision, much as the introduction of a “jumping pillow” did in 2022.

As a fully-accessible out-door activity it will lead to an enhanced experience for our existing visitors and attract a new audience of people with disabilities and non-disabled visitors, which will help us deliver our Vision of enhancing the lives and experiences of people with a disability, their families, carers and the wider community.

Our visitors with disabilities will be able to enjoy the activity in an accessible, safe, secure, stimulating and non-judgmental environment and develop social and soft skills.

The project will provide a shared activity for parents, carers and sibling of visitors with disabilities to participate in and enjoy, whilst providing a short break from their caregiving role. The calming property of water will create a sense of wellbeing.

The project will enhance our community engagement events e.g. Our Open For All Days, bringing people with disabilities and non-disabled members of our community together to share experiences and have fun and leave with a greater understanding appreciation of with people with disabilities abilities and needs.

Unlike other Interactive Water Features in the area Thomley's will have full wheelchair access and fully disabled enabled toilet and changing facilities on site.

Officer Comment

This project is a significant improvement to Thomley's facilities for individuals with disabilities, and those with impairments. The new feature will benefit their existing visitors and attract new beneficiaries. The water feature will have full wheelchair access and there will be accessible toilets and changing facilities on site. Through this project, they aim to enhance their community engagement events, bringing people with disabilities and non-disabled people together to share experiences and have fun.

Score

6/6

Action on Climate Emergency questions from application form

Has your organisation taken any steps to improve its own environmental sustainability?

Thomley has a board approved Environmental Policy, which is reviewed annually, and is committed to minimising the impact of our activities on the environment.

Where possible Thomley will:

- Implement a training program for our staff to raise awareness of minimizing the impact of our activities on the environment and enlist their support in improving our performance.
- Use non-toxic products
- Reduce our consumption of resources and minimise waster by evaluating operations and ensuring they are as efficient as possible.
- Minimise toxic and greenhouse gas emissions generated by our activities.
- Actively promote recycling both internally and amongst our visitors and suppliers.
- Source products and services which minimise the environmental impact of both production and distribution.
- Meet or exceed all relevant English environmental legislation.
- Use an accredited program to offset the greenhouse emissions generated by our activities.

Our preferred Interactive Water Feature is designed to be environmentally friendly and has been selected by a number of installations (Cutteslowe and Hinksey Parks) in Oxfordshire where environmental criteria were key to selection.

Officer Comment

The organisation has adopted an Environmental Policy but unfortunately no information was supplied regarding actions that have already been implemented.

The Centre has provided comprehensive evidence of multiple climate initiatives delivered as part of its routine activities including installing a heat pump, using recycled building materials and growing vegetables. The officer recommends increasing this score to 5.

Score

2/6

5/6

Financial sustainability questions from application form

What are the ongoing financial requirements for this project once the delivery is complete?

As advised to Kathy Deacon in our email of 12/10/22:

We have approached two suppliers:

1. Fountaineers have provided us with a guide price (attached), which is what we have based our application on, including a contingency sum (20% of the guide price).
2. Ustigate will not provide a guide price or quote until they have made a site visit, which they did today

20/10/22.

The reason neither supplier will provide a quote without a site visit is because:

- The civil engineering/ground works can vary greatly between different sites depending on ground type and any existing infrastructure.
- The works required to supply water, drainage and electricity is unknown to them.

We are making strenuous efforts to get both suppliers on site.

The Interactive Water Feature we will install has a recycled water system that meets and exceeds the Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group (PWTAG) water quality standards for aquatic play environments. Thereby, providing an environmentally friendly installation which ensures the safest water for children to play in. A number of installations in Oxfordshire have used our preferred supplier Ustigate.

The Interactive Water Feature and accessories will be maintained on a daily basis by our in-house maintenance team who will receive the requisite training from the installer.

The Interactive Water Feature will be included in our fully funded Planned Preventative Maintenance (PPM) programme for ongoing maintenance which has its own dedicated budget.

Any modular developments to the Interactive Water Feature will be funded through fundraising appeals or our capital development budget.

Please give us detail of any existing financial commitments that affect how much you can contribute to this project?

Below we have provided details of our 2022 budget, which we are on track to achieve, and give an indication of our financial commitments for 2023.

We are currently developing our 2023 budget (our budget year is Jan-Dec), which will look very similar to 2022 with the exception of the staffing and Heat/Light/Water budgets.

These figures do not include VAT.

Loan repayments are shown below the EBITDA figure.

After loan repayments are taken into account, we anticipate generating a surplus of £86,484 in 2022

Officer Comment

Please see project finance table above. The applicant still needs to raise £102,000 for this project, of which they are requesting £51,000 from this panel. They have submitted a detailed fundraising plan detailing sources of funding from trusts/ foundations, community fundraising events, appeals and a possible corporate funder however, they haven't applied for any of it yet. They have a fully funded Planned Preventative Maintenance (PPM) programme for ongoing maintenance with a dedicated budget.

Score

2/6
5/6

The applicant has supplied additional evidence explaining that they can finance the project using their own funds (via an existing loan facility with Charity Bank that is already in place). The officer recommends increasing this score to 5.

Project theme – outcomes questions from application form

What difference will your project make in your community?

1. Helping children and young people with disabilities realise their full potential.

This project will help children and young people with disabilities to build confidence, learn social and practical skills, and create new friendships or consolidated existing ones.

2. Helping parents/carers become more resilient and better equipped in their caring roles

This project will allow parents/ carers to participate in a shared activity and offer them a short break from the caring roles. This improves their mental and emotional wellbeing.

3. Helping our community gain a fuller understanding of the needs of people with disabilities.

This project will allow non-disabled children to participate alongside their disabled peers and will develop a more positive understanding of the needs of people with disabilities.

We will track how many people use the Interactive Water Feature and what effect adding this experience to Thomley has on our overall visitor numbers. Our expectation is that the Interactive Water Feature will become one of our most popular outdoor activities and this will increase annual attendance to Thomley as a result.

We will gather face-to-face feedback from visitors during and after their visits to Thomley and ask about their experience of the interactive water feature. Specifically, we will ask parents and carers how and why this opportunity was valuable for their children.

We will add questions to our 2023 Summer Survey to ask parents/carers about how often their children used the interactive water feature, and how much that opportunity helped them build confidence, make new friends, learn how to take turns, if they as parents/carers enjoyed better quality rest after their visit,

and if they enjoyed overall improved wellbeing.

Visitors Council: The members of the council will be asked to give feedback about the project to ensure it is being used to its maximum possible benefit.

Tell us about any collaborations with other organisations/partners in the community to help support the delivery of this project.

The installation of a Interactive Water Feature will involve the support of many community organisations and benefit their beneficiaries.

We collaborate with Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Councils and a growing number of local Charities and Organisations with the aim of effective joint working to provide services for people with disabilities.

We collaborate with Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Councils to deliver their HAF schemes (for which we receive excellent reviews), the beneficiaries of which will benefit from Interactive Water Feature.

Our Chief Executive is working with the Buckinghamshire Council to develop the Buckinghamshire SEND and Inclusion Strategy and SEND Improvement Plan 2021-2023, and the BOB VCSE Health Alliance Learning Disability and Autism Subgroup working across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West to provide services to people with Autism. We will promote Interactive Water Feature to beneficiaries of these organisations.

We continue to offer a range of special events throughout the year. These events are open to visitors with or without disabilities and encourage families to visit us. They are collaborations to help non-disabled members of the community to better understand and meet the needs of their disabled peers and enable them to participate more fully in society. The Interactive Water Feature will draw both existing and new beneficiaries to some of these events such as: Open for All days, Children's and Adult Parties, Water Days, Summer Open Days, Camping Weekends in addition to our Camping Pod "Stay and Play" holiday breaks.

We collaborate with groups such as KIDS. They are a national charity that supports disabled children. KIDS bring their Oxfordshire-based beneficiaries to Thomley (from local schools) three days per week as part of their after-school programming.

In the installation of Interactive Water Feature we hope to involve the 'pro-bono' support and services of corporates such Thames Water who have supported us previously.

Officer Comment

This is a creation of a leisure facility to promote social wellbeing. The applicant provides a clear and relevant response that addresses how a capital grant will provide better outcomes to the community under the specific theme. Good examples of partnership working have been provided.

Additional evidence has been submitted to explain that this project will help create new long term funding opportunities for the organisation. This will be used to fund the charity's core services and programmes and further reduce its reliance on grants from trusts and foundations. The officer recommends increasing the score to 5.

Score

4/6
5/6

Financial and project management plans

A financially stable organisation showing a significant growth in income since 2020. They continue to diversify their income streams and in turn, decrease their dependency on grants and trusts. Total project cost includes 20 per cent contingency. They have a £700,000 loan agreement with Charity Bank over a period of 25 years from November 2021. This loan was to finance long term investment plans and fulfil the requirements of their Planned Preventative Maintenance Programme (PPM). The ongoing maintenance arrangements of this Capital project will be covered by the PPM which has its own dedicated budget. Maintenance of the water feature will be carried out by their in-house maintenance team who will receive the requisite training from the installer.

Demand for services and other similar facilities

They have estimated that 30,000 residents will benefit from the project, although this figure includes visitors from outside the district due to the location of Thomley on the border of South Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. The applicant states that there are splash pads at Abbey Meadows, Hinksey Park, The Leys in Witney and Cutteslowe Park however, this mainstream provision is often not equipped to address the complex needs of people with disabilities. Officers, therefore, note that this is a unique

facility.

Consultation

S106: I can confirm that Thomley Hall Centre have not applied for s106 funding. There are no s106 contributions available within the parish of Waterperry with Thomley. I am not aware of any similar projects within the area. This sounds like another really good project!

Equalities: What an exciting project and one that will enable disabled children to feel fully included. They seem to have thought of everything from the rubber mats to the interactive additional equipment for the children to use. I would fully support their request. I'm sure once its completed and is advertised it will become a very popular place to visit.

Climate: The proposed water feature incorporates a water recycling system. No information has been provided as to whether the water feature can reduce initial demand for water. As the south-east region is water stressed, evidence that any options to reduce water demand have been considered would be welcomed.

Project completion within timeframe

The project is expected to take one to two months to complete. The organisation has a funding plan in place, and the grants they hope to apply for will make funding decisions within the first six months of 2023. This will allow the organisation to start works within the 12 months of any award this panel makes, and complete works within the 24-month period of this grant.

DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS	Total score	20/30
No points have been deducted from this application.		27/30

South Moreton Parish Council	Ref	SCAP22-23\100050
Project Name: South Moreton Recreation Ground Path		
<p>Project Description: The project aims to construct a permanent path around the perimeter of South Moreton Recreation Ground to both enhance access around the village but also to support leisure and health activities for local residents (e.g. running and cycling). This builds on a small section of path that exists. This new path will provide improved access to the High Street and village amenities for elderly and disabled residents in both South and North Moreton villages (given limited footpaths) as well as providing safer and more direct pedestrian routes to the primary school for young families (inc. those with push chairs) who live in the northeast of the village and North Moreton.</p> <p>The Recreation ground is one of the key facilities available to residents and one of the few areas that provide a safe and clean space away from traffic. As a result, it has also become popular with other local residents from neighbouring villages and Didcot. It currently has a small number of picnic benches, a playground and a sports pitch but the only access to these is over grass which means that those with mobility issues find it difficult to benefit from the facilities.</p> <p>Going forward, the path will then provide the foundations to enable planting of trees along the path to provide shade and improve the ecological diversity of the Recreation Ground. This is part of a wider plan to improve the Recreation Ground, which was voted as the number 1 priority for the Parish at a recent Parish meeting.</p>		
Application Theme: Improved economic and community wellbeing		
Location of Project: South Moreton (S)		
Potential number of beneficiaries: 450		

Project Finances

Total Project Cost	£15,115
Organisation's contributions	£7,558
Other Secured funding	£0
Amount still required for project	£7,557
Amount requested from this grant scheme	£7,557
Other funding applied for but not yet secured	£0
Other funding identified but not yet applied for	£0
Funding plan short fall	£0

Organisation's latest bank balance: £18,914

Previous community grants awarded:

- CGS19-20/223 - Playground Refurbishment £925 – grant ongoing
- CGS22\100102 - Recreation Ground Improvement project £4,750 – grant ongoing

Scoring

<p>Community Need, Inclusion and Consultation Questions from application form</p> <p>Will your project be providing new facilities or activities?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>What new activities will take place because of this project? The proposed project will create a new 500m circular path around the Recreation Ground. This will improve access across the village for all residents including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enabling local school children (from North and South Moreton) to safely walk to the village primary school, some of whom are currently being driven by their parents/ carers given there is no safe access at the moment. In addition to benefits to these children from increased walking, it also reduces the number of vehicles in the village during school drop off and pick up times. - Enabling, and giving confidence to, residents with mobility challenges to spend more time outside which will improve their health and well-being - Providing a facility for parents/ carers with prams to safely walk and get exercise to improve their
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health and well-being

- Providing a safe facility for runners and young children learning to ride bikes, especially during the winter months.

There are no other similar facilities within 3 miles of South Moreton and local pavements and footpaths are only in small sections and various states of repair which makes them unsuitable for wheelchairs, prams, running and cycling.

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

South Moreton held a village meeting at the start of 2022, attended by over 100 residents (more than a third of the village) to discuss the feedback from a recent Village Survey. During the meeting, priorities for the village and parish were discussed and voted on with the result that improvements to the village recreation ground was the top priority for effort/ support/ funding.

Since then, a Recreation sub-committee has been created (comprised of local residents) to develop ideas and proposals for options to improve the Recreation Ground. The output from this committee was again shared at the March 2022 village meeting (agenda attached) to allow residents to provide feedback on the plans. We also visited a number of community members who live near the Recreation Ground but who were not able to attend the meeting due to mobility issues. This resulted in a number of small changes to the plans and the updated plan (including the ambition to submit this application) was approved by the Parish Council in October 2022 (minutes attached).

Given the expected level of benefit that this path will create for all residents, creation of the new path and related Recreation Ground improvements are supported across the Parish.

Officer Comment

This project will moderately improve a substantial community facility. Consultation has taken place with the village which identified improvements were required.

Score

4/6

Community Benefit Questions from application form

Who will benefit from your project?

Key beneficiaries include:

- Residents of South Moreton Parish (c. 300 individuals)
- Some residents from North Moreton (travelling to South Moreton) and residents from both North Moreton and the Astons looking for space to exercise (c.100 individuals)
- Children, staff and parents/ carers of South Moreton Primary School (c. 150 individuals - some overlap with groups above)

Benefit is related to improved and safer access to village facilities and the provision of new exercise facilities, with the impact of improving community health and well-being (in alignment with the Council's Corporate 2020-2024 Plan priorities).

Have you considered how your project will benefit vulnerable & disadvantaged residents?

The proposed project will create a new 500m circular path around the Recreation Ground that is away from traffic. This will improve access across the village for all residents. This includes:

- Elderly and those with mobility issues and/ or impairments: Enabling, and giving confidence to individuals to spend more time outside which will improve their health and well-being
- Children: Enables local school children (from North and South Moreton) to safely walk to the village primary school and provides facilities to enable them to learn to ride bikes in a safe environment
- Isolated young families: Provides a facility to enable parents with young children in prams to meet others and walk as well as providing pram access to the village playground that will help them meet other families
- Migrants: Facilitates access to South Moreton from North Moreton, where there are a number of Ukrainian families without cars, including one who teaches at South Moreton School

Officer Comment

This project will provide better access to a facility and other amenities within the village that are available and accessible for all. It could have a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of priority groups.

Score

6/6

Action on Climate Emergency questions from application form

Has your organisation taken any steps to improve its own environmental sustainability?

As a Parish Council and village, we are deeply committed to reducing our environmental footprint in the local area and therefore focusing effort to contribute to mitigating future climate challenges.

Actions include:

- Leaving wild areas to grow during spring/ summer to benefit wildlife and enhance biodiversity

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreed not to cut road-side verges to save fuel and increase biodiversity - Investing in an ambitious tree planting scheme, majority funded by local residents - Proactive management of local footpaths to encourage walking and reduce use of vehicles 		
<p>Officer Comment</p> <p>The organisation has implemented multiple, regular activities and services that contribute to the Climate Emergency, with evidence mainly around tree planting and management of its public space to improve biodiversity. We would encourage the parish council to consider additional climate activities in the future that are broader than nature based.</p>	Score	3/6
<p>Financial sustainability questions from application form</p> <p>What are the ongoing financial requirements for this project once the delivery is complete?</p> <p>Nil/ Minimal.</p> <p>Given the nature of the project and selected option, the path is expected to last for more than 10 years without the need for maintenance. This has been a deliberate decision to minimise any future costs associated with the project. Grass cutting around the path, is managed by South Moreton Parish and will continue to be so.</p> <p>Please give us detail of any existing financial commitments that affect how much you can contribute to this project?</p> <p>N/A - Match funding is coming from Parish Council savings (inc community infrastructure levy) which is separate from the funding required to run/ manage the Parish</p>		
<p>Officer Comment</p> <p>Please see project finance table above. The organisation still needs to raise £7,557 for this project, which they are requesting from this panel. They will fund the remaining 50 per cent of the project. Maintenance has not been budgeted for and based on the below recommendation; it is likely there will be ongoing costs not accounted for.</p> <p style="color: red;">The applicant has provided additional information since submitting this application, and as ongoing costs should be minimal and five per cent contingency has been included, officers recommend increasing the score to 5.</p>	Score	3/6 5/6
<p>Project theme – outcomes questions from application form</p> <p>What difference will your project make in your community?</p> <p>The key intended outcomes of this project for the local community, along with expected measures/ evidence, are captured below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved access and community integration for local residents as a result of a new safe and weather-proof path to the South Moreton village High Street (and associated facilities), primary school and to the village playground. Measures/ Evidence: Feedback in village surveys, comments at village/ parish meetings, increase in number of residents on the High Street and in the local community-owned pub (where village and events meetings are held as there is no village hall). - Improved health and both physical and mental well-being of local residents as a result of a new facility to better enable walking, running and cycling. Measures/ Evidence: Increased visible use of the Recreation Ground and playground (by all local residents), reduced sickness/ absence in village primary school, feedback in village surveys and comments at village/ parish meetings. <p>Tell us about any collaborations with other organisations/partners in the community to help support the delivery of this project.</p> <p>Design of the project has been done through a collaboration between the Parish Council and local residents as well as through engagement with Governors from the local primary school.</p> <p>The delivery of the project will require the efforts of local residents to support construction, which has already been secured and will be provided for free. This includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A local farmer to drive some construction machinery - A local resident to project management the construction activity <p>Our preferred supplier is based in Didcot, within 3 miles of South Moreton, and they have agreed provided a reduced price given the project seeks to benefit the local community.</p>		
<p>Officer Comment</p> <p>The applicant has provided a clear and relevant response that addresses how the path will encourage social cohesion to provide better outcomes to the community at a good standard. Measurable outcomes have been identified and they have collaborated with the community to deliver the project.</p>	Score	4/6

Financial and project management plans

The bank balance of the parish council is £18,914 and they are contributing 50 per cent towards the project cost of £15,000, so officers are satisfied that parish councils contribution is all they can afford this year. Officers are concerned that the materials suggested to construct the path are not consistent with the council's environmental ambitions, so new quotes may need to be sought. This could increase the overall project costs, which could put the project in jeopardy as only five per cent contingency has been included. Ongoing maintenance has not been budgeted for as they anticipate that the selected option for the path would not require maintenance for at least 10 years, however if different material is chosen it could increase maintenance costs.

The organisation has submitted further evidence showing that they have sourced a new quote from an alternative supplier, who can provide comparable materials from a local quarry minimising the environmental impact associated with transportation at a similar cost. Officers are satisfied that the type of material being suggested, may only require minimal ongoing costs during the term of the grant.

Demand for services and other similar facilities

The applicant states approximately 450 residents will benefit from the project including some residents from North Moreton. There is not another recreation ground in South Moreton.

Internal Consultation

Section 106: I can confirm that South Moreton Parish Council has not made an application for Section 106 (S106) developer funds towards the attached project. There has been no S106 funds secured relating to developments in South Moreton. I have checked our systems and there has been no applications from South Moreton Parish Council in the past either. South Moreton Parish Council have received a total of £7,023.76 CIL funding. In their annual monitoring returns submitted by the end of each calendar year they have not reported any expenditure of this.

Equalities: I would support the request for a permanent path as this will make access to the other amenities accessible to all. A clear width of 2000mm allows 2 wheelchairs to pass one another comfortably. A standard wheelchair with an ambulant person by their side needs 1500mm width, however there are many different types of options for people from wheelchairs to motorised scooters, which can vary in size. I read that there are plans for planting trees by the side of the new path. My only reservation on this is some tree roots after time may grow under the path and start to lift it causing trip hazards. Maybe some thought on what type of tree and what its roots are like needs to be concerned before planting.

Climate: We support the project to improve access to and use of the village's recreation ground. We would particularly encourage further tree planting and other biodiversity enhancements of the site as a whole, which is something that is mentioned outside of the scope of this budget, therefore no plans submitted. A positive climate outcome from the project could also be reduced vehicle use during school pick-up/drop-off. This could be further supported by a communication campaign to encourage walking to school as families from North Moreton may still drive depending on the available footpaths.

Leisure: Active Communities have no objections to the application as looks to support more walking and cycling within the community.

Project completion within timeframe

The estimated start date is May 2023 for approximately three months so, officers are confident that that project would be completed within the 12 month timeframe.

DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

No points have been deducted from this application.

Suggested Conditions -

- The path be constructed using sustainable or recycled materials for the paving and using a local source to minimise the carbon emissions from transportation. **Officers feel this has now been met, outside of the suggested conditions.**
- Evidence of revised project costs be provided, along with evidence of all funding being in place prior to any grant payments being released. **Officers feel this has now been met, outside of the suggested conditions.**
- The layout of the path be considered so as not to remove more green space than necessary.
- Agree the width of the path with the equalities officer to ensure accessibility needs are met

Total score

**20/30
22/30**

Dorchester on Thames Parish Council	Ref	SCAP22-23\100044
Project Name: Improvement and upgrade of village playground and playing field to make it more inclusive and to improve outcomes for all local children and adults.		
Project Description: The project aims to improve and upgrade our local Recreation Ground and its Playground.		
<p>The existing Dorchester playground has been there a long time and is looking rather tired. We are looking to improve and update it, so that it better meets the needs of all of our local children, including those with special needs. The present playground is not inclusive - it has no equipment suitable for all children including those with disabilities. As well as benefiting the village children, this will benefit attenders at the Footsteps Centre located in the village, which provides physiotherapy programmes for children and young adults with neurological disorders.</p> <p>As part of the project, and to benefit the whole community, we want to cater for teenagers, adults and older people who want to enhance their health and wellbeing. The aim is to install green gym equipment round the playing field to form an extended health trail. There is currently no access to such resources in the village</p> <p>Local residents are involved via the local Facebook group and articles in the Dorchester News and discussion at the Parish Meeting. Children from the local school and the preschool have been asked for their views and gave a range of interesting responses! Comments have included that there is:</p> <p>No 'inclusive' equipment. The local school children were particularly strong on this – "It's not fair". Strong support for the Green Gym."My Father-in-law is in his 70's and regularly uses the gym apparatus. So development of the park could benefit all!"</p> <p>Key project objectives include to provide: A roundabout suitable for wheelchair users as well as able-bodied children. Swing suitable for less able children Inclusive picnic table Enhanced opportunities for younger children Green gym equipment to cater for older children and adults</p>		
Application Theme: Improved economic and community wellbeing		
Location of Project: Dorchester (S)		
Potential number of beneficiaries: 170		

Project Finances

Total Project Cost	£45,000
Organisation's contributions	£10,000
Other Secured funding	£0
Amount still required for project	£35,000
Amount requested from this grant scheme	£22,500
Other funding applied for but not yet secured	£2,500
Other funding identified but not yet applied for	£70,500
Funding plan short fall	-£60,500

Organisation's latest bank balance: £75,421.80

Previous community grants awarded:

- CGS19-20/96 Telephone box defibrillator project £926 – grant ongoing
- CGS20-21/113 Bus stop path lighting £1,250 – grant complete
- CGS22\100069 Dorchester Playground Improvements contribution towards an accessible roundabout £2,487 – grant ongoing

Scoring

Community Need, Inclusion and Consultation Questions from application form

Will your project be providing new facilities or activities?

Yes

What new activities will take place because of this project? The first intention is to improve and update the existing playground, in particular by making it more inclusive of children with disabilities. We have been influenced by the SCOPE campaign 'Let's Play Fair'.

[<https://www.scope.org.uk/campaigns/lets-play-fair/>] Their research showed that many disabled children cannot enjoy their local playgrounds, and that there are a number of barriers including lack of inclusive and accessible playground equipment. Those comments apply to our playground. The project aims to install a fully accessible roundabout which can be used by wheelchair users as well as able-bodied children, and a swing suitable for very young children with disabilities. We would also upgrade/replace some of the existing equipment to make it more challenging and attractive to children of different ages. The second intention is to provide some outdoor gym equipment around the Minchin Recreation Ground to provide a health trail around the field. This will be a new resource; the village does not currently have any existing facility. Such equipment is a promising approach to increasing physical activity that can reduce some of the complex barriers to taking part in exercise. There is considerable enthusiasm for this aspect of the project - see the comments in the 'Consultation Comments' paper attached.

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

The lack of accessible and inclusive play equipment was originally highlighted by parents with a child who is confined to a wheelchair.

This project has involved many discussions and ideas, starting with a thread on the local village Facebook page, followed up with articles in the local Dorchester News and discussions at the Parish Meeting.

The local village school has been very involved, and the children put forward their ideas for the playground in a school project. A report on their input is attached and was published in the Dorchester News. Children at the pre-school have also been involved and have given their thoughts on playgrounds, and what they like about them.

The Footsteps Foundation is located in the village, and are very supportive, and parents/carers are being consulted on this project. Footsteps provides therapy that helps children with neurological conditions gain in strength, confidence and independence to achieve their unique potential. Families sometimes stay in the village while their children have courses of therapy, and there isn't really suitable outdoor places to go when they are not in therapy.

The idea of green gym equipment has been strongly supported as providing resources for older children and adults - see the consultation comments report.

Officer Comment

The project significantly improves a significant community facility, and substantial consultation has taken place across the village via the newsletter, and across the school with children being asked to provide feedback on what they would want to see in an inclusive playground.

Score

6/6

Community Benefit Questions from application form

Who will benefit from your project?

The project will benefit all of the children in the village, (estimated at around 170 aged 0-14) and also some children from Berinsfield who attend the local Dorchester school.

The project will particularly benefit less able children, including those in wheelchairs

It will benefit those children and young adults with neurological disorders and their carers who use the treatments available at the Footsteps Centre. Some users stay in the village for a number of days, and currently don't have anywhere suitable to go when not at the centre

It will benefit the teenage and adult population by providing opportunities for outdoor fitness and wellbeing. It will give opportunities for incorporating exercise into everyday life, helping people to meet the officially recommended 150 minutes of exercise a week.

Beneficiaries include young people and adults, and also members of the sports clubs (football, cricket, tennis) who use the recreation ground.

<p>Have you considered how your project will benefit vulnerable & disadvantaged residents? This project is specifically aimed at improving access to play for children with disabilities. This is beneficial both to them and to their families as it enables everyone to participate in activities together rather than the child with a disability being left out on the sidelines. Good playgrounds are also a valuable resource for young families, more so if they are isolated or recent arrivals. We intend that the outdoor gym equipment will be usable by all ages, including elderly people for whom maintaining mobility is very important. It will provide fitness resources for those who are economically disadvantaged, for whom gym membership is not affordable.</p>		
<p>Officer Comment The playground will provide a facility that is open and available to all. It will significantly improve the wellbeing of one priority group.</p>	<p>Score</p>	<p>5/6</p>
<p>Action on Climate Emergency questions from application form Has your organisation taken any steps to improve its own environmental sustainability? The Council has taken a number of steps to improve its environmental sustainability. The only substantial building that the Council owns is the Village Hall, historically the old girl's school. There are ambitious plans to refurbish it to dramatically improve its environmental performance, by a combination of better insulation and better heating controls. This project has received planning permission. It has already been fitted with more efficient heating, low energy LED lights light timers, kitchen energy saving measures, and water use water reduction measures The Council has installed a solar powered light at the by-pass bus stop, to make it safer for people to use the bus after dark, particularly in the winter. The Council is looking to install EV charging points, to serve visitors and enable people in the village who don't have a drive to go electric. We financially support a local bus service provided by Going Forward Buses CIC to enable particularly older people to get to Wallingford Market. This is a well-used social service that also reduces car travel on the local roads. We have provided bike racks in the centre of the village to support active travel. We support the OX10 tree initiative and the Queens Green Canopy. The Parish Council supports the GreenDoTs volunteers, a local group which has planted hundreds of trees and hedges, developed wildflower verges etc. They are doing an amazing job! Policy DoT10 in our Neighbourhood Development Plan aims to achieve excellent environmental performance in new builds, covering energy efficiency and sustainable energy, sustainable drainage, and protecting trees, hedges and other ecological features.</p>		
<p>Officer Comment The organisation has implemented multiple activities or services that contribute to the Climate Emergency, including LED lights and timers, and water reduction measures in the village hall, plus a solar powered streetlight and bike racks. They have also undertaken multiple tree planting activities and incorporated environmental policies within their neighbourhood plan. [If further evidence is provided of the environmental policies included within the neighbourhood plan, the scoring may increase to a 4].</p> <p>Climate team have advised they are happy to increase the score to 4 based on the additional information provided about the Parish Councils tree planting, supporting the Hurst Water meadow Trust, working with the local farm, bike racks, electric charging and supporting a local bus service.</p>	<p>Score</p>	<p>3/6 4/6</p>
<p>Financial sustainability questions from application form What are the ongoing financial requirements for this project once the delivery is complete? The project is primarily a proposed improvement and update to an existing playground and recreation ground. The playground is already maintained by the Parish Council, and regularly inspected by RoSPA. It is covered by the council's insurance policies. Any increase in maintenance costs will be covered by the Parish Council. Please give us detail of any existing financial commitments that affect how much you can contribute to this project? As with all Parish Councils, we have a number of ongoing commitments. We have reserves, but they have been declining in recent years. As well as the playground we have an historic Village Hall which needs a major overhaul, not least to make it more energy efficient and to meet the needs of the 21st century village. And we have a sports pavilion that also needs significant upgrade to make it more inclusive. The Parish would like to improve all of these facilities. There is a long-term plan for the Village Hall. In the immediate term, the Parish Council has decided to devote £10000 to the playground project, comprising £5000 from reserves and £5000 Community Infrastructure Levy</p>		

<p>receipts. The latter exceeds the totality of our CIL receipts this year. As the village is fully within the green belt, we receive relatively little CIL money.</p>		
<p>Officer Comment Please see project finance table above. The organisation still needs to raise £35,000 for this project. They are requesting £22,500 from this grant panel and applied to the Councillor Grant scheme for £2,500 towards the accessible roundabout (awarded £2,487). They have identified a further £70,500 of grants that they are eligible to apply for, which along with their request to this scheme could cover the costs for the project and any contingency. They have not budgeted for ongoing maintenance costs.</p> <p>Details of how ongoing maintenance costs will be met have now been provided allowing the project to score an additional point.</p>	<p>Score</p>	<p>1/6 2/6</p>
<p>Project theme – outcomes questions from application form What difference will your project make in your community? A better and more inclusive playground will benefit all of the local children, no matter what their level of ability. Good playgrounds develop gross and fine motor skills and improve physical and social confidence. Play is fundamental to a child's development and wellbeing, and playgrounds facilitate this. (There are over 1 million disabled children in the UK.) Through play a child can: learn explore stay active make friends and socialise Playgrounds bring parents, other carers and children together. We would also hope that all the kids will have fun! Success would be more and a wider range of people using the playground.</p> <p>Green Gym equipment. We would hope to see more people taking exercise outdoors and keeping fitter longer. Research evaluating the provision of outdoor gym equipment shows that those who are not meeting the recommended physical activity levels and who want to increase the amount of exercise they undertake may benefit the most from having access to free outdoor gym equipment. We are working with the SODC 'Active Communities Team' on helping people to access access and use such equipment. [Evaluating the provision of outdoor gym equipment' Liverpool John Moores University https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/~media/phi-reports/pdf/2013_10_evaluating_the_provision_of_outdoor_gym_equipment_uptake_and_impact_in_sefton_mers.pdf] Free access to fitness equipment can remove the barriers of cost and accessibility that may stop some people from using an indoor gym. They have the benefit of being in the fresh air, and use of the equipment can be incorporated into activities such as a walk with the dog, or a visit to the park with children. Outdoor fitness equipment provides those residents who do not wish to participate in organised team sports with an opportunity to get fit and do some exercise.</p> <p>Tell us about any collaborations with other organisations/partners in the community to help support the delivery of this project. The local school and the preschool have been very involved with this project. The Footsteps Foundation is very helpful and supportive. We have spoken to the SODC 'Active Communities Team' who hope to be able to support people in familiarising themselves with the green gym equipment and how to use it.</p>		
<p>Officer Comment Theme has been considered with measurable outcomes (wider range of facilities users) there are good examples of collaborations with Footsteps and local school children have provided extensive feedback on the project.</p>	<p>Score</p>	<p>4/6</p>
<p>Financial and project management plans The parish council are contributing £10,000 towards the project from their own funds and have identified a further £73,000 worth of grants that they intend to apply for towards the project. Given the competitive nature of grant funding this is a reasonable contingency precaution. The project plan submitted with the application is in proportion to the size of the project and has a named official responsible for delivering the project.</p> <p>Demand for services and other similar facilities The application states that approximately 170 people will benefit from the project, mainly children from the local primary school and those visiting from nearby villages such as Berinsfield. It should be noted that Dorchester is home to Footsteps Centre, which is a clinical setting specialising in providing</p>		

physical therapy for the children with disabilities. Having accessible play equipment in the village will likely benefit significantly more disabled children than in other locations as it is highly likely that children attending sessions at Footsteps Centre may go on to use the playground.

Internal Consultation

Climate: We would support the use of contractors with the highest environmental standards, including ethically sourced or recycled timber, recycled materials, zero waste and chemical free processes. There is no evidence that the chosen supplier for this project uses sustainable materials or methods, and therefore would recommend including sustainability criteria in their procurement process. We would also encourage further tree planting and other biodiversity enhancements of the site as a whole to ensure any development is making a positive contribution to nature.

S106: To confirm, there is currently no money from any 'S106' contributions suitable for this project."

Equalities: I've looked at this application to improve the village playground with a lot of interest. I certainly support their request as such a wide range of the community will benefit.

It's a breath of fresh air to see they are wanting to include children of all abilities to feel they belong and can enjoy the equipment.

Project completion within timeframe

The project duration is shown as a year from start of equipment negotiations to completion. Given current project lead times this seems a reasonable timeframe for the project.

DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS No points have been deducted from this application.	Total score	19/30 21/30
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Wallingford Sports Trust	Ref	SCAP22-23\100040
Project Name: Installation of solar panels and battery		
<p>Project Description: A major concern for the future of the Sports Trust is the recent hike in energy prices from 14p in July, when our fixed price contract ended, to what we are told by our broker will be a discounted figure of 56p from the 1st October, but for 6 months only, under the Government's support scheme - about 20p higher than was promised. Based on last year's usage figures of about 150,000 kWh, even if this rate were to continue, our annual costs would rise by an unsustainable over £60k. This still uncertain situation at the time of writing may allow us to survive the coming winter but leaves the Sports Park financially very vulnerable beyond that unless energy consumption can be significantly reduced - an objective also very much in line with the environmental responsibilities as set out in our Business Plan. Anticipating this situation, we commissioned an energy survey and savings report carried out by Brookes University on behalf of the Oxford Low Carbon Hub (free for qualifying community buildings) which, unsurprisingly, recommended 3 key areas to address:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A number of relatively low-cost insulation and control measures to the main pavilion - as and when finances allow. 2. The replacement of our main floodlighting system on the AWP with LEDs - anticipated to save 20% of total usage and programmed for installation in early December 2022, funded by a S106 grant 3. A solar/battery installation on the south, east and west facing sloping roofs of the Pavilion with accompanying batteries to maximise storage in the daytime for use after dark both in the building itself and the outside floodlighting systems of which the AWP is the most used. <p>This application is in respect of item 3.</p>		
Application Theme: Improved economic and community wellbeing		
Location of Project: Wallingford (S)		
Potential number of beneficiaries: 3000		

Project Finances

Total Project Cost	£80,500
Organisation's contributions	£5,000
Other Secured funding	£10,000
Amount still required for project	£65,500
Amount requested from this grant scheme	£40,250
Other funding applied for but not yet secured	£30,250
Other funding identified but not yet applied for	£25,250
Funding plan short fall	-£30,250

Organisation's latest bank balance: £189,811

Previous community grants awarded:

- CGS22\100059 – Energy Saving Measures - £4,000 – grant ongoing
- CGS21-22/257 – Pavilion Entrance Hall Improvements - £250 – grant ongoing
- SARG3\100223 - SODC Winter Support Grant - £5,932 – business support grant complete
- CGS20-21/65 – Pavilion Internal Lights - £3,740 – grant complete
- Councillor Grant Scheme 2018/19 (SCCG/45) - Installation of new lights to main bar, security system and operating mechanism for main doors - £2,000 – grant complete
- SCap18-19\34 – Multi Sport Project - £46,053 – grant complete
- CGSW2\2 – Overflow Car Parking - £3,000 – grant complete
- Capital 15/16 R2 (SCap\22) – Replacement Changing Rooms - £187,074 – grant complete
- CO25k£\229 - Replacement and Upgrading of Multi Sport All Weather Pitch - £80,000 – grant complete

Scoring

Community Need, Inclusion and Consultation Questions from application form
Will your project be providing new facilities or activities?

Yes

What new activities will take place because of this project? The Sports Park is now into the third successive year when survival is our highest single priority, first because of the pandemic and then the energy crisis. Against this background and an increasing demand for wellbeing from a growing and more diverse population, our strategy is: 1. To navigate the next 18 months until energy prices return to nearer normal, so the Sports Park can remain affordable and fully open to all ages, genders and backgrounds during difficult times. 2. Then, to return to our pre-pandemic business model which was to provide affordable sport and community activities for all whilst generating a financial surplus big enough to pump prime the external funding necessary for the improvement of our facilities. Cutting energy usage by 50% will enable the Trust to achieve this such that we can then deliver the capital projects in our Business Plan: • Improvements to main hall, entrance hall and clubrooms to the pavilion, to meet accessibility and other requirements and encourage return and growth of pre-pandemic levels of activity • Boreholes/storage tanks to improve the quality of grass pitches and minimise water usage from the mains • Resurfacing the existing and subsequent second AWP, to accommodate increasingly diverse and growing hockey and social football needs • Installation of 3G pitch and upgrading of surrounding facilities, recommended by the Football Foundation for the benefit of the wider community • Installation of indoor archery facilities, a growing sport that accommodates different skills and attributes from traditional ball games

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

Need for the project

The need for the project has been identified from:

1. The Sports Trust's own financial projections resulting from the recent and probable ongoing hike in electricity costs (4 times the rates in the summer, even with the Government's support package) which are completely unaffordable and threaten the very future of the Sports Park itself.
2. SODC's own corporate strategy regarding climate change and community buildings for which this would act as an exemplar project.
3. The energy survey and savings report recently carried out by Brookes University for the Sports Park
4. The environmental benefit arising from a reduction in consumption of electricity by some 40,000/50,000 kWh per year
5. The consequent saving in costs of up to some £25,000 per year (£50,000 without current Government subsidy) which will partially offset the current hike in energy process.

Community consultation

Evidence of community support has been obtained from:

1. The results of an online survey of the local community
2. Support of Wallingford Town Council
3. Emails of support from the two local SODC members for Wallingford, Sue Roberts and George Levy.
4. Strategy approved at Trust AGM on 26th September to reduce energy consumption

Officer Comment

The project moderately improves a substantial community facility. Evidence has been provided of consultation with the community via an online survey with users and wider community (via Facebook). Support for the project has been provided by the ward councillors and Wallingford Town Council. Strategy approved at Trust AGM to reduce energy consumption.

Score

4/6

Community Benefit Questions from application form

Who will benefit from your project?

Uncontainable energy prices threaten the very existence of all our clubs and community hirers in their present state, let alone their expectations of growth and diversification with the rapid increase in local house building:

Clubs

Wallingford Castle Archers (120 seniors, 100 juniors), mixed club grown rapidly over the last 5 years, largest junior membership in country, but no permanent indoor building for winter use.

Wallingford Hockey Club (177 seniors, 380 juniors), 5 men's and 5 ladies' teams, designated 'Large Club' in England Hockey, constrained pitch space, pushing for second AWP.

Wallingford & Crowmarsh Football Club (125 seniors, 460 juniors), ages from 6 upwards, girls and boys, pathways to senior level, would benefit hugely from 3G pitch.

Petanque Wallingford (80 seniors), mixed club, mostly elderly, now recruiting younger members. Like archery and skittles, provides alternative to more traditional sports.

Wallingford Rugby Club (120 seniors, 380 juniors), founder member of Trust, 2 men's and 1 ladies teams, well-established thriving junior section.

Hithercroft Squash Club (100 seniors), restricted during pandemic, now recovering with the capacity and expectation of growing membership with possible closure of other Wallingford club.
 ABM Skittles (110 total), mixed club with juniors and seniors playing together, closed during Covid,, now recovering, offering social sport for less active people of all ages and abilities
 Portcullis Tennis Club (112 seniors, 68 juniors), record growth since lockdown, good mix of club and match days for all ages, just started walking tennis for less mobile
 Community groups
 Oxford NHS
 Baby Sensory Club
 Wallingford NCT
 Style Acre
 Rugby tots
 Bounce
 Kangoo Ju
 Karate
 Centrica
 Pop up Soft Play
 Time2Bounce
 NCS (National Citizen Service Oxford)
 D&D Club
 SODC Training Days
 Weight Watcher
 Bingo
 Jive Club
 Serious for Sport
 MIND Group
 Mobile Toddler Role Play
 OIG Meetings
 Full Circle Sports
 Woodcote WI
 Sporty Minis
 Vision XS

Have you considered how your project will benefit vulnerable & disadvantaged residents?

The project will enable the Sports Trust to remain open and to grow and diversify into the future. It will therefore improve accessibility for:

- The whole community, in that it will continue to be affordable for all, either through the clubs the various community groups, by direct booking of the facilities or simply utilising the coffee, bar and kitchen on a casual basis
- Those people introduced through Sport England's Together Fund
- Our charity partners, StyleAcre, Abingdon Mind and Wallingford Wolves
- Our mother and toddler pushchair users such as Baby Sensory Club
- Wheelchair tennis

Officer Comment

The project will improve a facility that is open, available, affordable for anyone to access. The organisation has eight constituent sports clubs (rugby, hockey, football, tennis, squash, skittles, petanque and archery) but it is available for direct bookings by local residents or via other sports clubs and community groups.

Score

5/6

Action on Climate Emergency questions from application form

Has your organisation taken any steps to improve its own environmental sustainability?

Environmental initiatives over the last 12 years, include:

- First independent energy survey in 2010 leading to implementing programme of measures including loft and wall insulation, double glazing, new efficient central heating gas boiler, centrally operated zonal heating controls and partition to close off main hall when not in use.
- Introduction of Travel Plan in 2013, aimed at reducing car travel to the Sports Park and to away fixtures as well as minimising overspill parking on the public highway, following which car sharing scheme introduced by the clubs and cycle shelter installed to encourage more sustainable travel.
- Adoption of Environmental Policy and, since 2013/14, statement in the annual Business Plan that one of the three objectives of the Sports Trust is environmental responsibility
- Consequent improvements have included upgrading external floodlighting to AWP and football stadium pitch to most efficient pre-LED lights, replacing virtually all internal light fittings with LEDs and automatic closing system to front doors, as finance allowed so that virtually all completed by 2020

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All rebuilding work such as new changing room block in 2016 and kitchen in 2017 built to modern standards of insulation, heating and accessibility Various small measures such as introduction of cardboard in lieu of styrofoam cups, with a discount on the next cup if returned to the Pavilion, and a regular waste oil collection Second independent energy survey in 2022 leading to upgrading of insulation, completion of conversion to LEDs and some new windows/doors plus replacing inefficient electrical equipment within the pavilion, which will be carried out as funds permit, and awarding contract in October 2022 for conversion of AWP floodlighting to LEDs - plus this solar/battery scheme. Minimising use of coolers/fridges etc and monitoring of daily electricity consumption already showing reductions against last year. 		
Officer Comment The Trust has a longstanding commitment to environmental initiatives and has demonstrated a wide range of relevant projects.	Score	5/6
Financial sustainability questions from application form What are the ongoing financial requirements for this project once the delivery is complete? Ongoing financial requirements consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar panels replacement after 20 years Batteries replacement after 10 years Inverter replacement after 10 years Annual maintenance All as shown in the financial forecast attached to the Project Plan Please give us detail of any existing financial commitments that affect how much you can contribute to this project? The Trust's current account was holding just over £56k at the end of September with running expenses and maintenance costs for October anticipated as follows: Football maintenance charge for September - £2,000 Electricity charges for September - £7,680 Insurance costs - £16,500 Estimated October overheads (including salaries) - £6,809 Website costs - £1,000 Repairs to AWP fence - £1,000 Insurance survey requirements for asbestos, flat roofs and fixed wiring - £3,900 Insurance requirements of kitchen duct cleaning and replacement fire extinguishers - £1,000 Sports and Social Club current account (£22k at the end of September) loss (including wages, overheads and £9k on electricity) - £5,489 In terms of capital, as explained in the Fundraising Plan, the AWP sinking fund account was set up, specifically for building up capital to resurface the pitch, an operation that was last carried out in 2008. Given that the pitch will be 16 years old by 2024, the planned date, and noting that the fibre tips are already beginning to disintegrate, this is a non-negotiable commitment which is well under-funded largely because of the last 3 years (Covid and then energy crisis).		
Officer Comment They have a robust funding plan. They have applied for all the other funding needed but have secured less than 50 per cent so far (£20,000). They have budgeted for ongoing maintenance and eventual replacements. Additional evidence has been submitted stating that the applicant is committing to match our level of grant. They have secured all the funding needed for the project and therefore officers recommend increasing the score to 5.	Score	2/6 5/6
Project theme – outcomes questions from application form What difference will your project make in your community? Key outcomes will be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Financial survival of the Trust by trading at better than break even for 2023/24 A overall reduction in electricity consumption from the grid of some 50% and a major contribution towards carbon neutrality Consequent survival of our 8 sporting clubs in 2023/24 Installation of accessibility and other improvements to the Pavilion to ensure attractiveness and affordability of facilities to all members of the community as set out in access audit. Growing the number of daytime bookings from community activity groups Growing the number of weekend evening social bookings from local members of the community Resurfacing the existing AWP in 2024 Installation of Business Plan capital projects to meet growth requirements of the community 		

Tell us about any collaborations with other organisations/partners in the community to help support the delivery of this project.

In terms of the financial survival during the energy crisis the Trust and its 8 constituent clubs are indebted to:

- The Government's energy support scheme for, at least, the winter period for 2022/23, albeit not to the extent announced
- SODC for allocating £45k of S106 monies to finance LED lights on the AWP, thus reducing overall electricity consumption by 20% with a consequent reduction in what would otherwise be exorbitant hire fees
- An additional payment of £10k from Cranford House School towards financing the solar panels, as part of an ongoing agreement for the hire of the AWP and grass pitches
- The ongoing revenue support of our many hirers of indoor and outdoor facilities including the AWP, particularly those who are directly funding the excess electricity charges

In terms of delivering an increasing commitment to the wellbeing of the community, in addition to the opportunity for participation during and after the energy crisis offered by our 8 constituent clubs covering all ages and many types of involvement, our partners include:

- An ongoing arrangement with Full Circle Sports who hire inside and outside facilities during school holidays and half term for sports and activity camps for children
- Active Oxfordshire with whom we are already delivering a programme to address the most critical levels of inactivity amongst disadvantaged people
- StyeAcre who use our hall and skittle alley, regularly, as part of their service to people with learning difficulties and autism
- An ongoing arrangement with Ocean Sports Therapy which is run by our women's football coach and hires a physio room for support to the clubs and other local people
- Bunkfest for which we act as the campsite and with whom we share camping fees

Officer Comment

The theme has been considered and outputs have been identified, rather than outcomes considered. Good examples of partnership working and collaboration with other organisations and the community.

The project clearly helps to achieve significant carbon emission savings through investment in renewable technologies.

The Trust has demonstrated collaboration with the Low Carbon Hub in the preparation of this project. Officers recommend increasing the score to 5.

Score

3/6
5/6

Financial and project management plans

Although accounts are balanced, they show a significant drop in income since 2019-20. Due to the negative impact of the pandemic and rising energy costs, the trustees are concerned for the trust's future financial sustainability. Project management plans look robust and ongoing maintenance will be carried out in accordance with the suppliers' recommendations as part of the overall annual maintenance operations undertaken by the Trust.

Demand for services and other similar facilities

They have estimated that 3,000 local residents will benefit. An impressive number and variety of clubs currently use the sports park due to its affordability.

Internal Consultation

S106: To confirm, there is currently no money from any 'S106' contributions suitable for this project. The application also refers to £25,250 of CIL funding, my assumption is this will be requested from Wallingford Town Council.

Equalities: I don't have any equality questions regarding this one. It's something that the council encourage as part of the corporate plan and greener energy.

Climate: We fully support this project to install solar panels. The project is proposed, following the recommendations of an energy audit. Other recommended actions in the audit have already been delivered. The inclusion of a battery will allow energy to be stored for night-time use.

Project completion within timeframe

The project is expected to complete within a two month time frame. Once all funding is secured, the project should have no issues completing within the 24 month timeframe of this grant scheme.

DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

No points have been deducted from this application.

Total score

19/30
24/30

Suggested Conditions –

- Should the project be awarded, no funding is to be released until formal consent for the project is granted by SODC properties team as freeholder

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SOFEA	Ref	SCAP22-23\100054
Project Name: Upgrading IT infrastructure		
Project Description: As an education and employability training charity, we are required to meet increasingly stringent data protection and security obligations for our staff, learners and trainees.		
Similarly, the increasing processing demands of modern software and the file sizes of multi-media programmes require laptops with adequate RAM and storage capacity to enable us to run efficient classes and training programmes, without the need to wait for a function to process or screens to render.		
Whilst we currently have 56 staff at our Didcot site, supporting an estimated 103 learners and 164 trainees during 2022-23, we will soon roll out our digital training programme to reach almost 478 members of the 4 Community Larders in South Oxfordshire.		
We are now planning to upgrade our internet capacity and improve the capability of our computers. Not only will this ensure that our staff and young people benefit from current technology and its greater speed and capabilities, but we will also ensure that the charity meets the current and stringent data security and compliance regulations.		
Having expanded into an adjacent warehouse in 2021, we have managed our growth over the last few years with outdated routers. Whilst such legacy infrastructure lacks the capacity for our increasing demands, we will also buy and install new routers for both buildings to ensure full coverage and fast connectivity across the entire site.		
Application Theme: Improved economic and community wellbeing		
Location of Project: Didcot (S)		
Potential number of beneficiaries: 710		

Project Finances

Total Project Cost	£41,738
Organisation's contributions	£0
Other Secured funding	£0
Amount still required for project	£41,738
Amount requested from this grant scheme	£20,000
Other funding applied for but not yet secured	£50,000
Other funding identified but not yet applied for	£225,000
Funding plan short fall	-£253,262

Organisation's latest bank balance: £359,409.16

Previous community grants awarded:

- NHBA\10 – Get to Work' training programme £4,000 – grant complete
- VC1R\62- New refrigeration unit £5,000 – grant complete
- VNHB\23 – Futures Placed £8,000 – grant completed
- CGS19-20/108- SOFEA education and training electives £5,400 – grant ongoing
- CGS20-21/117 – SOFEA Community Larder £5,215 – grant ongoing
- CGS20-21/246 – Second Didcot Community Larder £4,700 – grant ongoing
- SEAG\37 – South Oxfordshire Community Larders – powered by SOFEA £4,850 – grant ongoing
- TGS\100043 – Transporting increased quantities of food for vulnerable communities across South Oxfordshire £15,000 – grant ongoing
- TGS\100058 – Minibus to transport vulnerable children and young people £5,478 – grant ongoing
- VTGS\100013 – Transporting increased quantities of food for vulnerable communities across the Vale of White Horse £15,000 – grant ongoing
- Srev\41 – 2017-2022 Revenue funding £105,000 – grant complete
- CGS21-22/100 – SOFEA – expanding Community Larders £9,620 – grant complete

Scoring

Community Need, Inclusion and Consultation Questions from application form

Will your project be providing new facilities or activities?

Yes

What new activities will take place because of this project? The capital grant will help SOFEA to improve its existing facilities. Whilst SOFEA's learners and trainees are referred by schools and colleges, pupil referral units, social services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and the police, we are assured by such statutory partners that our facilities and level of support are like nothing else available in the district or county. The capital project will enable us to install upgraded IT across both buildings in Didcot and ensure that we are fully compliant with increasingly stringent data protection and security obligations. Furthermore, the education and training experience for our young people will be equal to other formal providers that benefit from frequently upgraded computers and software. This will help our learners and trainees to be more confident, capable and work ready.

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

Oxfordshire's JSNA (March 2021) notes:

- 1 in 5 young people in Oxfordshire lives in poverty
- The number of pupils with SEN has increased at double the England rate
- The gap in early years development between lower income children and others has increased for the second year running.
- Persistent truancy in Oxfordshire's secondary schools was above the national average.
- Care leavers represent a higher proportion of NEETs than the national average.

Without preventative and early support, positive encouragement and guidance, these cohorts will decline into a spiral of inactivity, low aspirations, poor health and wellbeing which risks perpetuating from generation to generation.

Following its 2020 review, Oxfordshire's Growth Board aims to coordinate local economic and infrastructure development that is inclusive and maximises local social and environmental benefits.

Whilst Oxfordshire's Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) does not specifically name VCS organisations within the representative partnership, SOFEA's plans embrace the 5 Foundations of Productivity – ideas; people; infrastructure; business environment; places. Our use of commercial models to deliver superior outcomes is central to our growth plans.

Oxfordshire's Economic Recovery Plan cites SOFEA's work in tackling social mobility and economic hardship through its digital inclusion programme and growing network of Community Larders.

Digital skills are in high demand and increasing alongside home working. SOFEA's digital training will help young people to develop employable skills.

Similar to the LIS, the ERP highlights the need for "reskilling people", "resilient businesses", "reviving places" and "rebuilding connectivity". SOFEA's education, employability training and wellbeing programmes as well as our breadth of partnerships embrace these themes. Our young people are supported with a "Head; Hand; Heart" approach that recalibrates historic low levels of self-belief, confidence and capabilities to become committed, productive and responsible individuals, working effectively to deliver social and financial benefits for many stakeholders

Officer Comment

The project will moderately improve a substantial community facility. There is not any evidence of direct consultation with the local community for this specific capital project.

Score

3/6

Community Benefit Questions from application form

Who will benefit from your project?

56 staff members (80% are SODC residents – 45)

103 learners (70% are SODC residents – 72)

164 trainees (70% are SODC residents – 115)

478 community larder members in South Oxfordshire (100% are SODC residents – 478).

801 – The total number of people benefitting from the improved facilities at our Didcot site.

710 – The proportion of the all beneficiaries who live in South Oxfordshire.

Covid-19 disproportionately impacted younger people and those from poorer and more disadvantaged backgrounds, those with fewer qualifications and lower skills (disproportionately affected by greater numbers of redundancies and increased competition as the economy reopens). Without a holistic approach to their wellbeing and future opportunities, these young people face a bleak future with worse job prospects, low earning potential, risk of substance abuse and criminality as well as a life of poor health and mental wellbeing.

SOFEA's education, employment and training programmes are aligned with the Government's Levelling Up white paper and acknowledge the same issues that we have addressed for many years.

The interests and capabilities of people living in disadvantaged communities, but without social advantages, are too easily squashed by systems that favour wealth, education and social standing. Accepting that opportunities are not equally and equitably distributed across the county, SOFEA has successfully supported learners and trainees of all ages and from different ethnic backgrounds through its range of academic, training, wellbeing and social programmes. Our ongoing work with partners helps progress young people into further education and employment, improving physical health and mental wellbeing whilst developing and strengthening social cohesion.

Have you considered how your project will benefit vulnerable & disadvantaged residents?

SOFEA's Values Statement reads:

"We are committed to supporting people to make a deep connection with themselves and their community. We do this by treating all members of our community with equal compassion and respect, accepting them as they are and refusing to accept any limitation on what they might achieve.

We believe in the restorative benefits of education, work and social justice to support people's innate resilience to achieve growth and their potential as human beings."

Our values are exemplified by our Equality and Diversity Policy which reinforces our support for people with protected characteristics.

Notably, whilst over 25% of our learners have Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP), all of our learners and trainees have varying levels of anxiety and depression with some living with diagnosed additional learning needs including autism, dyslexia and ADHD.

Whilst our community larder membership is not means-tested, each larder is located in a community identified in the lower deciles of the indices of multiple deprivation (IMD). These communities are typified by higher rates of poverty, unemployment, children on free school meals. Our experience also shows that people living in poverty and social disadvantage also experience social isolation and loneliness, often leading to worsening physical health and mental wellbeing.

SOFEA works closely with various community organisations including Syrcox and Asylum Welcome that support refugees and asylum seekers. Recently, these links have helped us to support Afghan refugees that have been located to hotels in Didcot.

Officer Comment

The project will have a significant impact on the wellbeing of disadvantaged young people by developing employable skills through digital training. Training the community larder members with digital skills will allow the community larder to operate more efficiently.

Score

4/6

Action on Climate Emergency questions from application form

Has your organisation taken any steps to improve its own environmental sustainability?

As part of our recent site redevelopment, SOFEA installed air-source heat pumps to regulate the temperature in the new community space as well as LED lighting to replace the old halogen sets. We also installed thermally efficient insulation to ensure that the generated heat remains inside the buildings and avoids unnecessary production of carbon-sourced heat.

Furthermore, our landlord has agreed in principle to the installation of photovoltaic arrays on the warehouse roofs in order to reduce the need to draw electricity from the national grid. Having installed 3 walk-in chillers and freezers in our adjacent food warehouse, we are keen to reduce our energy bills, especially in light of the current energy price hikes. Our desire to embrace renewable energy sources meets our commitment to the One Planet Living agenda as well as the wider focus of FareShare UK to reduce the impacts of food waste.

Our increased capacity to redistribute greater volumes of food, which would otherwise go to waste and landfill, combined with innovative heating and cooling systems as well as low energy lighting all combine to significantly reduce our overall carbon footprint.

In line with our collective commitment to climate action, our Sustainable Policy has been published to engage all staff in SOFEA's wider commitment and aspirations.

Officer Comment

SOFEA has implemented multiple Climate Emergency related activities as routine activities within the organisation's workplan, including environmentally friendly adaptations as part of their current site redevelopment, such as air source heat pumps, LED lighting and insulation, in addition to their wider work of reducing and redistributing food waste through community larders and foodbanks. They plan to introduce photovoltaic arrays onto their warehouse roof. They have a sustainability policy for the organisation and do not appear to have a forward plan.

Score

5/6

Financial sustainability questions from application form

What are the ongoing financial requirements for this project once the delivery is complete?

There are no ongoing financial requirements for this project.

All hardware will be covered by manufacturers' warranties.

Technical infrastructure support will be provided by Bluespires (as outlined and quoted on the attached proposal).

Please give us detail of any existing financial commitments that affect how much you can contribute to this project?

Reserve Policy

SOFEA recognises the need for a Reserve Policy to ensure the stability of the mission, programmes, employment, and ongoing operations of the organisation. The Reserve is intended to provide an internal source of funds for situations such as one-time unbudgeted expenses, unanticipated loss or delays in funding or uninsured losses. The Reserve may also be used for one-time, non-recurring expenses that will build long term capacity, such as investment in infrastructure or staff development. The Reserve Policy will be implemented in conjunction with the other governance and financial policies of SOFEA and is intended to support the strategies and goals contained these related policies

Definitions and Goals:

The Reserve Fund is defined as a designated fund set aside by action of the Board of Trustees.

SOFEA aims to hold a designated amount as Reserve, sufficient to maintain ongoing operations and programmes such that should the need arise the organisation can survive the most likely 'shocks' to its operations and in the worst case scenario close solvently. The amount designated for this purpose is set at £225,000.

Our monthly operating costs are £236,000 (salaries, pension, PAYE/NI, contract staff, property, office, transport, insurance).

Officer Comment

The organisation has a funding plan to deliver the IT infrastructure but haven't applied for all of it yet. They are applying for £295,000 for grants from different sources which includes this project, but not specific to just this project. They have confirmed they have reserves of £225,000 but they have not confirmed that they would use it to fund the project. The organisation has not explained how they will budget for the ongoing costs or how they will fund eventual replacements.

Score

1/6

Project theme – outcomes questions from application form

What difference will your project make in your community?

The following cohorts will have access to digital skills training as part of their education, training or community larder services.

103 learners (70% are SODC residents – 72)

164 trainees (70% are SODC residents – 115)

478 community larder members in South Oxfordshire (100% are SODC residents – 478).

Whilst a primary requirement for SOFEA is to be fully compliant with industry regulations for data protection and security, the up-to-date computers will allow our learners, trainees and larder members to be more confident and competent with IT, different software packages (including the Microsoft suite

and various multimedia programmes) as well as coding.

Whilst many people have limited access to IT beyond a mobile phone, they are unable to access education, training and employment opportunities as well as social platforms which, for many, are not worthy of comment. Too often, people without suitable skills and confidence are unable to access and complete online forms or undertake searches. For these people, the digital divide is real and entirely disabling.

Key positive outcomes include:

Learners and trainees

- Increasingly confident using computers and the Microsoft Office suite.
- Creating CVs and personal statements for further education and employment applications.
- Apply for roles that include IT skills.
- A proportion engage in coding classes and become involved in SOFEA's Getting Oxfordshire Online programme.
- A proportion become involved with SOFEA's social media team and help to create content.

Larder members

- Engage with and regularly attend the digital skills training courses.
- Confirm greater use of technology for personal use – including social meeting platforms, email, online chat.
- Increased use of IT for job searches and applications.
- Securing employment that includes use of IT skills.

Tell us about any collaborations with other organisations/partners in the community to help support the delivery of this project.

SOFEA works with the following organisations and will continue to work with them to access learners, trainees and local residents who will benefit from the digital skills development and improved opportunities for further education and employment.

Local community partners of:

- Berinsfield Community Larder
- Didcot Community Larder
- Thame Community Larder
- The Hendreds Community Larder

Syrcox

Asylum Welcome

Didcot Primary Care Network

SOHA Housing

Sovereign Housing

Officer Comment

The applicant has provided a clear and relevant response that addresses how the project will provide better outcomes for the community at a good standard. The theme has been considered in a major way with key measurable outcomes and examples provided of collaboration with other organisations.

Score

4/6

Financial and project management plans

The project management plan is sufficient for this type of project and size. The organisation has applied for 48 per cent of the project costs and provided a funding plan, but they have not secured any funding which means the project could be in jeopardy unless funds are secured. An application for £50,000 has been submitted to an external source and a decision is expected to be made in February 2023. The organisation intends to submit applications totalling £245,000 but a decision for £200,000 of this will not be made until April 23. The bank balance of the organisation is £359,409 and they have a reserves policy set at £225,000.

Demand for services and other similar facilities

The applicant states it will benefit approximately 710 people and that their statutory partners stated their facilities and level of support are like nothing else available in the district or county. There is no evidence to suggest however, this relates directly to this project for IT infrastructure.

Internal Consultation

Section 106: I can confirm that SOFEA has not made an application for Section 106 (S106) developer funds towards the attached project. I have checked our systems and there has been no applications from SOFEA in the past either.

Equalities: I would support their request as they help the vulnerable and those with little technology skills/equipment which can only be seen as a positive.

Climate: No climate implications of the project itself but would encourage the organisation to recycle or repurpose its existing IT equipment to reduce waste.

Project completion within timeframe

The anticipated start date is May 2023 for two months, so officers are slightly concerned that £21,738 still needs to be raised to meet the project timeline if we grant fund the project ensure it is completed within 12 months. The type of project may allow the start date to be flexible.

DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

No points have been deducted from this application.

- As the requirements for infrastructure could change dependant on the outcome of the cloud configuration audit, officers recommend funding the actual purchase of computers / laptops.

Total score

17/30

Berinsfield Parish Council	Ref	SCAP22-23\100055
Project Name: Installation of Solar Panels on the Sports Pavilion, Berinsfield		
Project Description: The Parish Council is conscious of the ideals of South Oxfordshire becoming carbon neutral and, in this respect, would like to install solar panels on the roof of the sports pavilion, located on the recreation ground, Berinsfield. The proposal for solar panels on the roof of the pavilion should ensure that all electricity used in the pavilion will be supplied by them and additional electricity generated will be sold to the grid. The solar panels would be supplied and installed by a specialist company and would be maintained by them at the request of the Parish Council. One of the quotations is attached below as it contains the technical details relating to the proposed scheme.		
Application Theme: Action on the climate emergency		
Location of Project: Berinsfield (S)		
Potential number of beneficiaries: 3000		

Project Finances

Total Project Cost	£31,589
Organisation's contributions	£15,794
Other Secured funding	£0
Amount still required for project	£15,795
Amount requested from this grant scheme	£15,794
Other funding applied for but not yet secured	£0
Other funding identified but not yet applied for	£0
Funding plan short fall	£1

Organisation's latest bank balance: £330,142.02

Previous community grants awarded:

- BGV22-23\25 Improvements in Berinsfield Burial Ground £34,518 – grant ongoing
- BGV22-23\30 Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan £7,000 – grant ongoing
- CGS22\100052 Provision of flagpole and Union Jack flag in Berinsfield £1,263 – grant ongoing
- Sactive22\105 Rugby in Berinsfield £1,000 – grant ongoing
- CGS20-21\112 New defibrillator to be installed outside the Pavilion £1,390 – grant complete
- CGS21-22\58 New piece of play equipment for Lay Avenue Play Area £3,238 – grant ongoing
- CGSB\2 Defibrillator £856 – grant complete
- SC17-18\33 Lodden Avenue Play Area, Berinsfield £33,922 – grant complete
- SCAP19-21\53 Provision of outdoor gymnastics equipment £10,000 – grant complete
- SCCG/66 Purchase two new Marquees £1,225 – grant complete

Scoring

Community Need, Inclusion and Consultation Questions from application form

Will your project be providing new facilities or activities?

Yes

What new activities will take place because of this project? The Parish Council wishes to install the solar panels on the pavilion to help with running costs for the pavilion and to help with the climate emergency. It is a large roof and should generate enough electricity to run the pavilion as well as selling some to the grid. The provision of solar panels on the roof of the pavilion will help to show residents that the Parish Council is committed to making the building carbon neutral and in the long term to save them money on their council tax. Council tax paid by residents provides the precept that the Parish Council has to request each year to enable it to provide its services in the village.

<p>How do you know there is a need for your project?</p> <p>There is a worldwide need for more sustainable ways of generating electricity and the Parish Council considers that it has the opportunity to assist with this by installing the solar panels on the only building that it owns.</p> <p>It complies with South Oxfordshire District Council's policy to become carbon neutral and is only a start of Berinsfield assisting with this. It is hoped that the owners of other premises in Berinsfield will see the need to protect the world and the young people. When possible, the Parish Council would also like to stop using gas in the building, but at the present time this is the only possible way of heating enough water to serve the 18 showers and kitchen that are in the pavilion.</p>		
<p>Officer Comment</p> <p>No evidence of additional activities due to the project has been given, the project does however allow existing activities to continue.</p>	<p>Score</p>	<p>1/6</p>
<p>Community Benefit Questions from application form</p> <p>Who will benefit from your project?</p> <p>All of the residents of Berinsfield will benefit from the installation of solar panels on the roof of the pavilion. It will reduce the amount of money the Parish Council will have to include in its budget each year to pay for electricity and hopefully some funding will be generated from selling the excess electricity to the grid. This in turn will reduce the amount that the residents of each property will have to contribute towards the Parish Council's running costs each year.</p> <p>It is not mainly about the money, it is about protecting the environment for the future generations. It is not a short term benefit, but the start of Berinsfield Parish Council showing its commitment to change.</p> <p>Have you considered how your project will benefit vulnerable & disadvantaged residents?</p> <p>The project will not necessarily improve access to the pavilion as the building was constructed in 2004 and is totally DDA compliant with flat access from the car park into the building. No obstacles to prevent wheelchair access to all parts of the building. There are two disabled toilets located in the hallway and all doors are wide enough to provide wheelchair access. The showers in the changing room are also level with the changing room floor, gently sloping away for drainage. The project will take place on the roof, but it will assist in the long term with cleaner air for everybody to breathe.</p>		
<p>Officer Comment</p> <p>Although the football pavilion is a single sport pavilion, it does have a room for general hire which is advertised online, enabling them to score five points.</p>	<p>Score</p>	<p>5/6</p>
<p>Action on Climate Emergency questions from application form</p> <p>Has your organisation taken any steps to improve its own environmental sustainability?</p> <p>The Parish Council considers that by installing solar panels on the roof of the pavilion it will be its first step in improving its own environmental sustainability.</p> <p>The Parish Council would eventually like to have electric vehicle charging points in the village and if at all possible, would like to have one in the pavilion car park and run it from the electricity generated by the solar panels.</p> <p>The Parish Council does not have an office in Berinsfield, the Clerk works from home, but it realises the need for the Council to be based in Berinsfield and hopes to have office accommodation in the community hub eventually. It is hoped that the community hub will have solar panels on the roof to assist with the climate emergency.</p>		
<p>Officer Comment</p> <p>The ideal approach to energy saving at the pavilion would be to undertake an energy audit and then work through the recommended energy saving measures in order of priority. In the energy hierarchy, reducing energy use and using more efficient technologies would normally be recommended ahead of renewable energy. However, given the current challenging circumstances with high running costs it is sensible to reduce energy use now. We strongly encourage the applicants to complete an energy audit within 12 months and prepare a medium term plan for further energy reduction measures. Energy audits are available from the Low Carbon Hub. If free audits are currently used up it is possible to go on a waiting list. We welcome the proposals to share this project with the community and encourage similar action.</p> <p>The council has planted two trees on the recreation ground to mark the Platinum Jubilee. This is considered to be 'limited action undertaken' therefore</p>	<p>Score</p>	<p>1/6</p>

