

## Community Grant to Long Sutton Cricket Club (Executive Decision)

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### Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant of £12,500 towards the purchase an All-Weather Two-Lane 'TP365' Cricket Net System at Long Sutton Cricket Club.

### Public Interest

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

Long Sutton Cricket Club has applied to the Area North community grants programme for financial assistance with the costs of an All-Weather Two Lane 'TP365' Cricket Net System. The Locality Officer who is submitting this report, to enable the Area North Committee to make an informed decision about the application, has assessed the application.

### Recommendation

That Councillors recommend to the Chief Executive that a grant of £12,500 be awarded to Long Sutton Cricket Club towards the purchase an All-Weather Two-Lane 'TP365' Cricket Net System, the grant to be allocated from the Area North capital programme and subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (appendix A).

### Application Details

Name of applicant:	Long Sutton Cricket Club
Project:	Purchase of an All-Weather Two Lane 'TP365' Cricket Net System
Total project cost:	£38,787
Amount requested from SSDC:	£12,500
% amount requested	32%
Application assessed by:	Adrian Moore

### Community Grants Assessment Score

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

Category	Max Score available	Officer assessment score
A Supports Council Plan/Area Chapter	1	1
B Supports Equalities & Diversity	1	1
C Supports Environment Strategy	3	1
D Need for Project	10	8
E Capacity of Organisation	15	13
F Financial need	7	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>29</b>

## Background

Long Sutton Cricket Club is a Community Sports Club whose principal purposes are to foster and promote participation in the amateur sport of cricket within the community, providing facilities for playing cricket, opportunities for recreation, coaching and competition, for all members of the community.

There is a strong youth membership with approximately 50 young people participating in England Cricket Board All Stars/Dynamos coaching programme. Adult male & female members pay £40 per season, there are no youth fees and the Club also runs a hardship fund to ensure that payment is no obstacle to participation.

Both League teams have achieved promotion in the last full season (2019). The Club has established a Women & Girls Section who have a fixture list for this season. During a shortened COVID affected 2020 season, the Club managed to put out regular league teams and remain sustainable as a Club.

## Parish information

Parish*	Long Sutton
Parish Population	Approximately 850
No. of dwellings	Approximately 350

## The project

The project is to install a new All-Weather Two Lane 'TP365' Cricket Net System practice facility. This will allow the Club to provide more cricket training and coaching for all ages in a safe environment, and allow Long Sutton Cricket Club to accommodate the growing number of cricketers living in and around the Long Sutton area.

The Club intends to maintain an open access policy with this facility to benefit any non-members of the club and to promote school use out of Club match and training periods.

The Club Committee will hold overall responsibility for the facility. Maintenance, in line with the supplier's maintenance policy, will lie with the Club Groundsman.

People are able to find out about and participate in the Club's activities through local press articles, social media presence across multiple platforms, distribution of the Club's handbook, coaching links with local schools and drop-in access to training sessions; Women's and Youth cricket programmes running on Friday evenings and Men's on Tuesday evenings.

The project will be promoted during its development and after its completion through engaging professional public relations support to promote the project and look to increase awareness and increase membership. The Club intends to hold a formal opening event with a Somerset County Cricket player in attendance and running a festival of cricket alongside.

### **Local support / evidence of need**

The current nets are very old. The club's focus is on improving the playing equipment and facilities. The project will enable the club to run more training events, run more teams, and promote even greater participation through having better cricket facilities. Properly installed, high quality nets will also provide safe and secure facilities for the local school to use. The new nets will also allow for ad-hoc net sessions organised by individual groups of people outside of Club sessions.

The most important consideration is one of Health & Safety, as the current old nets are orientated East /West and bowlers are bowling into the setting sun and impaired on seeing returning balls from the batsman. Current England Cricket Board policy is that nets must be orientated North/South and the new nets will comply with this stipulation. The existing batting surface is now significantly worn and creates uneven bounce to the batsman with the associated hazard that this causes.

The new nets will improve the quality of training and provide a better degree of safety, particularly when younger players are using them. Two nets will allow the club to differentiate between players of different abilities and reduce competition for net time. Increased capacity will allow adult and junior teams to practice at similar times, allowing older youth members to stay-on and practice with adults if desired, and for adults to engage with the youth training.

As the new proposed nets facility is a fully enclosed structure, this will significantly reduce the negative impact to the surrounding environment and habitats that surround the existing structure. This is because the players will no longer be impacting either the adjacent field or the large wild area at the bowler's end by continuously striking balls into and beyond these areas. This will therefore reduce the need to search through or trample the existing environment, maintaining its current form. This will allow the grounds team to more effectively manage this area in a more environmentally and aesthetic manner, rather than constantly having to strim in order to ensure that lost balls can easily be found.

### **Project costs**

<b>Project costs</b>	<b>Cost £</b>
Two Lane 'TP365' NTP System Installation	26,626
Removal of old carpets & steelwork and concrete pads	960
Initial excavations and groundworks	1,250
Remediation / 10 tonnes - imported soil contingency	395
Training lines tufted into playing carpet	570
Powder coated steelwork (green)	1,271
PVC protection skirt – fitted to outside of netting only	595
Batting curtains – double design between lanes & both flanks	264
Batting curtains wrap design – fitted on all 3nr. sides of all lanes	392
VAT	6,464
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,787</b>

## Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Parish Council	Secured	6,464
Own Funds	Secured	10,000
Tony Coles Trust	Secured	5,000
Club Crowdfunder Appeal	Secured	2,600
In-House Club Fundraising	Secured	2,223
South Somerset District Council	Pending	12,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>38,787</b>

In 2020 none of the normal Fund-Raising Activities were able to go ahead.

Ongoing Maintenance will be funded out of established Net Project sinking fund within annual accounts.

## Conclusion and Recommendation

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

## Financial implications

The balance in the Area North Capital programme is £115,625. If the recommended grant of £12,500 is awarded, £103,125 will remain.

Grants are awarded subject to all other funding being secured before the commencement of the project and are on a % basis of the full project costs. Payment of the grant cannot exceed the grant award and is proportionally reduced if full project costs are under budget.

## Council Plan Implications

Council Plan themes and Areas of focus for 2021/22:

### **Focus 3 – Environment**

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

- Continue the delivery of the Environment Strategy action plan, reducing our carbon emissions by 10% every year, to reach carbon neutrality by 2030
- Adopt and commence delivery of an Open Spaces Strategy promoting green infrastructure across the district
- Enhance the quality of the environment and its resilience and ability to adapt to climate change in partnership with our communities and businesses
- To protect South Somerset's landscape to seek to increase tree cover within our communities and the wider environment
- Support the delivery of the County wide Climate Change Emergency Strategy
- Initiate and support actions and infrastructure to encourage a shift to low carbon transport options including walking, cycling and electric mobility
- Promote and improve recycling and minimise waste through the roll out of 'Recycle More' across South Somerset from June 2021 through the Somerset Waste Partnership

- Support the development of environmental and ecological aspects within local, parish and neighbourhood plans
- Promote Nature Recovery Networks across the district, with a focus on delivery via the Ham Hill project
- Work with external partners to benefit the wider national cause in developing and generating clean energy storage to reduce renewable energy wastage in turn reducing use of fossil fuels in UK energy production.

### ***Focus 5 – Healthy, Self-reliant Communities***

To enable healthy communities which are cohesive, sustainable and enjoy a high quality of life, we will:

- Embed social value into all processes and activities to ensure we maximise the support we give to our communities
- Work with partners to keep and help our residents feel safe in their homes and communities
- Work with partners to reduce the impact of social isolation and create a feeling of community
- Work with partners to support people improving their physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Enable quality cultural, leisure and sport activities
- Proactively support residents facing hardship
- Help tackle the causes of economic and social exclusion, poverty and low social mobility
- Support older people to live and age well by increase their independence, reducing loneliness, and improving financial security.

### **Area Chapter Implications for 2021/22**

#### **Healthy, Self-reliant Communities**

- Support a range of improvements to community facilities through S106 and Community grants

#### **Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications**

None

#### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

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

#### **Background Papers**

None.

## Appendix A

### Standard conditions applying to all SSDC Community Grants

#### The applicant agrees to: -

- Notify SSDC if there is a material change to the information provided in the application.
- Start the project within six months of the grant offer and notify SSDC of any changes to the project or start date as soon as possible.
- Confirm that all other funding sources have been secured before starting the project, if these were not already in place at the time of the application.  
Acknowledge SSDC assistance towards the project in any relevant publicity about the project (e.g. leaflets, posters, websites, and promotional materials) and on any permanent acknowledgement (e.g. plaques, signs etc.).
- Work in conjunction with SSDC officers to monitor and share the success of the project and the benefits to the community resulting from SSDC's contribution to the project.
- Provide a project update and/or supply before and after photos if requested
- Supply receipted invoices or receipts which provide evidence of the **full** cost of the project so that the grant can be released.
- Complete an evaluation survey when requested after the completion of the project.
- Note that they cannot apply for another community grant for the same project within a 3 year period of this award.

#### Standard conditions applying to buildings, facilities and equipment

- Establish and maintain a "sinking fund" to support future replacement of the building / facility / equipment as grant funding is only awarded on a one-off basis.
- Use the SSDC Building Control Service when buildings regulations are required.
- Incorporate disabled access and provide an access statement where relevant.

#### Special conditions

None