

Area North Committee – 24th October 2007

11. Community Grants (Executive Decision)

Head of Service: Charlotte Jones, Head of Area Development (North)
Lead Officer: Madelaine King-Oakley, Area Support Team Leader (North)
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Purpose of the Report

For Members to consider the request for funding towards the installation of hearing loop and public address system at Stoke-sub-Hamdon Village Hall.

Recommendation

It is recommended that £1,107 is awarded from the Area North Community Grants Budget to the Village Artists Group, towards the installation of a hearing loop and public address system at Stoke-sub-Hamdon Village Hall, subject to the standard conditions for community grants.

Name of applicant: The Village Artist Group

Project: Installation of Hearing Loop and Public Address System

Project description: To allow those with hearing difficulties to take a full and active part in activities and events held in the Village Hall and improve facilities for every hall user with the installation of the Public Address System.

Total project cost: £3,257.90

Amount requested: £1,107. (34%)

Amount recommended: £1,107.

Special Conditions: The ownership and future maintenance of the Hearing Loop and the Public Address System is to become the responsibility of the Village Hall Committee.

Application assessed by: Les Collett, Community Development Officer

Community Grants Assessment score

Category	Score	Max score
A Eligibility	Yes	
B Target groups	5	6
C Project	5	5
D Capacity of organisation	15	15
E Financial need	4	5
F Innovation	1	3
TOTAL	31	34

Introduction

The Village Artist Group has identified the need to improve facilities for their members by means of a hearing loop and loudspeaker system. This will enable all their members to take full advantage of the varied program of lectures and demonstrations arranged for the group.

Following discussions with other groups who use the hall it became obvious that there are similar problems for their members.

About the project

The project addresses some of the objectives identified in the Stoke Village Plan under the theme of leisure and culture. For example, to encourage the development of new opportunities for the community, leisure and cultural activities where interest or needs exist.

Realising the pressures on the Village hall Committee to repair the hall following attacks from vandals and the ongoing need to replace equipment, the Artist Group has motivated other hall users to bring this installation to fruition. The other hall users have shown their support by assisting with the finance

Costs and match funding

The cost of the work is estimated to be £3,257.90

Funding sources are as follows:

Village Artist Funds	750
Parish council	750
The gardening Club	200
Memorial Hall	250
Bowls Club	50
Quirky Quilters	20
Sale of paintings	30
Community chest	100
	£2,150 total

Additional comments

The hearing loop and loudspeaker system will benefit all that use the hall and become the property of the hall who will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance.

Conclusion

This project will allow those with hearing difficulties to take a full and active part in activities and events held in the village hall. Installation of the hearing loop and address system would benefit all hall users. It will also support compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act, by removing a barrier to access.

If funding is agreed the project will be completed before Christmas. If this project is not funded, several Artist Group members and other hall user groups will have lost the opportunity to take a full and active role in village hall activities.

This project is strongly recommended for support judging by the range of activities and events held in the hall and levels of contributions from other user groups.

Financial Implications

The remaining allocation in the Area North Grants Budget for 2007/08 is £14,044 and if this recommendation is approved then it will leave £ 12,937.

Corporate Priorities

1. Increase to 75% by 2012 the residents who feel the council gives good value for money.
2. Maintain above 75% the people satisfied with the way the council runs the district.
9. Identify and address the particular issues affecting rural areas.
11. Work in partner others to improve the health prospects for all.
16. Maintain above 80% the people satisfied with their neighbourhoods as a place to live.

Area Priorities

5. Maintain and improve local access to services especially for health and social to living needs.
6. Support communities to maintain and develop facilities and activities.

Background Papers: *Area North Community Grants File*
