

Joint Area North Committee – 23 September 2009

9. Area North Community Grants – Refurbishment of All Saints Church Hall, Stoke-sub-Hamdon (Executive Decision) (Excepted Business)

Head of Service: Charlotte Jones Head of Area Development - North
 Lead Officer: Les Collett, Community Development Officer - North
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Purpose of the Report

For Councillors to consider the request for a grant towards the refurbishment of the All Saints Church Hall, Stoke Sub Hamdon.

Recommendation(s)

- 1) Members are asked to approve a grant of £10,000 to St Mary`s PCC (Parochial Church Council), allocated from the Area North Capital Programme – Local Priority Schemes, subject to the standard terms and conditions for South Somerset District Council (SSDC) Community and Leisure Grants, (see Appendix A)

1. Application Details

Name of Applicant	St Mary`s Parochial Church Council
Project	Refurbishment of All Saints Church Hall, Stoke-sub-Hamdon
Project description	To refurbish the hall to a modern standard to house a variety of community uses
Total project cost	£45,000
Amount requested from SSDC	£10,000 22%
Special conditions	
Application assessed by:	Leslie Collett Community Development Officer
Contact details:	leslie.collet@southsomerset.gov.uk 01458 257427

2. Community Grants Assessment Score

The table below shows the grant scoring for this application. In order to be considered, applications need to meet the minimum score of 20 required for SSDC funding under the Capital Grants Scheme.

Category	Score	Maximum
A Eligibility	Y	
B Target Groups	5	6
C Project	5	5
D Capacity of Organisation	13	15
E Financial need	4	5
F Innovation	2	3
Total	29	34

3. Background information

All Saints Hall is a Grade 2 listed Victorian building, which has been used by the community for some considerable time, and at present is home to a youth club, boys brigade and other mixed user groups. It consists of a main hall with outside toilet facilities and small kitchen area all of which need bringing up to date. This is a church hall that is run by St Mary's PCC and is available to the whole community.

4. Parish Plan

This project fits with many objectives established by the Stoke sub Hamdon parish plan published in 2005. These objectives had regard for the needs of sections of the community regardless of age or gender in being able to meet and communicate within their own groups and that of other groups to build more understanding within village life.

5. About the project

The project will include the following:

- Update and refurbish the existing Grade 2 listed Victorian building
- Replace out dated and inadequate kitchen so that it is suitable for catering, has capacity and complies with Health and Safety regulations
- Create a mezzanine storage area to free up floor space for a soft seating area.
- Remove a false ceiling to reveal roof timbers.
- Remove an internal porch so creating additional floor space.
- Internalise access to toilet area.
- Replace outdated lighting and heating.
- Access outside front area for seating.
- Create a larder area out of existing toilet space.
- Re-roof the back porches

The overall intention is to create a community coffee shop/meeting area by refurbishing the existing building. This will support the extension of the existing youth work and create a welcoming environment for all ages. The group aim to promote wider community involvement within the building, through courses and events for all members of the community and promoting local well-being. Examples of this include: financial advice, police surgeries, parenting courses, lunch clubs, breakfasts, citizen's advice, youth club, after school drop-in café, direct liaison with health visitors leading to contacts with young parents and toddlers. The project has the strong support of the local primary care team ie the GP surgery and health visitors.

The hall is currently used for about 8 hours a week. The plan is to open the centre from 9am to 5pm, five days a week. The project leader has been working closely with the

SSDC Environmental Health service over the refurbishment of the kitchen. Ten volunteers have recently completed an NVQ level 2 course in Food and Hygiene.

6. Parish Council

The project is strongly supported by Stoke-Sub-Hamdon Parish Council who will formally consider a grant at a future meeting.

7. Listed Building Consent

Granted July 2009 Application No: 09/02183/LBC,

8. Cost and match funding

Just over 50% of the funding for this project is already secure; a full breakdown of the funding secured is detailed in the table below along with other funding applied for.

The cost of the work is estimated to be £45,000, based on three estimates (this includes capital costs of building the extension, professional fees and a contingency sum of £4,700.)

Item	Estimated cost
Building work (including contingency)	£45,000

Funding sources are as follows:-

Funding	£	Status
Parish Council		Applied for
Congregation donations and pledges	5,980	Confirmed
Gift aid from donations and pledges	1,494	Confirmed
The Clothworkers Foundation	2,500	Confirmed
Boys Brigade	100	Confirmed
Parochial Church Council	5,000	Confirmed
Donations at launch and pledges	4,175	Confirmed
Anonymous foundation	3,000	Confirmed
Fleur de Lys public house patrons	1,560	Confirmed
Bath & Wells fund for church growth	10,000	Confirmed
Total	33,809	

Further applications have been submitted for the balance of the fundraising, and to date the project has been extremely well supported by a range of funders. The application to SSDC is for £10,000.

9. In Conclusion

This project was launched in May 2009 and the impetus behind it has been outstanding with the community fully behind the project. The group is ready to start building work immediately.

It is recommended that this project should be supported by a grant of £10,000.

Financial Implications

The capital grant funding of £10,000 to St Mary's PCC can be met from the future reserve scheme allocations for "Local Priorities Projects" within the Area North Capital Programme.

Corporate Priorities

The project intended services and benefits address a number of corporate priorities within the SSDC Corporate Plan 2009. Key target areas include:

- 4.17 Increase % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area
- 4.23 Increase environment for a thriving third sector

Other Implications**Area Development Plan**

Supporting local community projects help to meet the following Area North priorities of:-

- 3. Increase the number, accessibility and quality of community facilities, activities or services, in particular for children and young people, and older people.
- 4. Increase access to public and community services, including the development of local public access points and access to Internet technology.

Stoke-sub-Hamdon Village Plan 2005:

"Very high on the list of needs are improved facilities for Youth"

"Identify a location and feasibility for the "pop-in" for the over 60 age group"

Background Papers: Community Grant Application Number AN/09/08
