

Area Committee North – 23 March 2011

## 10. Area North Community Grant – Refurbishment of the Old School Room in Curry Rivel (Executive Decision)

*Portfolio Holder:* Cllr. Patrick Palmer, Area North  
*Strategic Director:* Rina Singh, Place and Performance  
*Assistant Director:* Helen Rutter, Communities  
*Service Manager:* Charlotte Jones, Area Development Manager (North)  
*Lead Officer:* Les Collett, Community Development Officer (North)  
*Contact Details:* Leslie.collett@south somerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462249

### Purpose of the Report

For members to consider an application for financial assistance to the Old School Room (OSR) Management Committee for floor refurbishment work.

### Public interest

The Curry Rivel Old School Room Committee has applied for financial assistance from SSDC. The application has been assessed by the Community Development Officer who has submitted this report for the Area North Committee to make an informed decision on the application.

### Recommendation

Approve the award of £1,500 towards refurbishment of the toilet and kitchen floor, allocated from Area North Capital Programme - local priority projects for enhancing facilities and services, subject to the SSDC standard conditions for community grants (see Appendix A) and the following special conditions:

- a) The applicant must make provision for future repair and replacement. SSDC recommends the applicant establish a sinking fund to achieve this condition.
- b) The applicant will work with the Community Development Officer to ensure that fees and charges for use of the Old School Room, are set at a suitable level for community use.

## Application Details

<b>Name of Applicant</b>	Old School Room Management Committee
<b>Project</b>	Replacement of toilet and kitchen floor.
<b>Project description</b>	To replace the existing kitchen and toilet floors with a block and beam system.
<b>Total project cost</b>	£6,500
<b>Amount requested from SSDC</b>	£1,500 (24%)
<b>Special Conditions</b>	a)The applicant must make provision for future repair and replacement. SSDC recommends the applicant set up a sinking fund to achieve this condition. b)The applicant will work with the Community Development Officer to ensure that fees and charges for use of the Old School Room, are set at a suitable level for community use.
<b>Application assessed by:</b>	Leslie Collett Community Development Officer
<b>Contact details:</b>	leslie.collet@southsomerset.gov.uk 01935 462249

## Background Information

The Curry Rivel Old School Room is a Grade 2 listed building built in 1828 by villagers as a much needed school. The construction displays materials randomly found throughout the village and has survived for almost 200 years.

Curry Rivel includes around 1000 households. There is a school, village hall, recreation ground and cricket club.

## Project development

The School Room was closed on health and safety grounds in 2005, following which a project group was formed to plan and deliver a programme, including the necessary consents and permissions.

## Project description

The overall programme is valued at around £120,000. The restoration of the roof has already taken place and remaining works have been broken down into small achievable projects of which the floors are one phase.

In this project the kitchen and toilet solid floors will be dug up and replaced with a beam and block system.

Following this the final work will be to refurbish the kitchen & toilets allowing the Old School Room to open.

## Anticipated benefits and outcome

The Old School Room is a small hall, which in the past had regular users. Refurbishing the floors will allow the final part of the refurbishment to bring back the Old School Room into use for the smaller groups in the community.

## Management and ownership

The Old School Room is sited in the corner of the church yard and will be administered by a management committee which has been established by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) under terms of reference which allows full community use.

The project has been planned with a view to being sustainable financially through hiring and fundraising. The PCC will take financial responsibility for running costs in the interim.

## Consents and permissions

Listed building consent was approved in 2008 (08/02023/LBC)

## Project Costs

The table below shows the breakdown of the project costs.

Item	Cost £
To excavate old solid floor, replace with beam and block system with insulation, screed and covering including VAT	£6,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6,500</b>

## Match funding

Funding Source	Amount £	Status
Parish Council	650	Confirmed
Own funds	1,000	Confirmed
Church Growth Funds	2,350	Confirmed
Parochial Church Council	1,000	Confirmed
SSDC	1,500	Pending
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,500</b>	

## Parish Information

Parish	Curry Rivel
Parish population	2160
No. of Households	975
Precept 11/12	£25,530
Band D Charge 11/12	£28.38

### Evidence of support for the project

Since the closure in 2005 regular enquiries about hall availability and the interest of former and potential user groups identified a need.

The work to the roof has lifted the profile of the Old School Room within the community, not just from users but also from a historical interest.

The project has the support of the Parish Council and achieved Listed Building Consent.

### 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 22, for SSDC funding under the Community Grants policies.

Category	Score (minimum eligible score 22)	Maximum
A Eligibility	Y	
B Target Groups	5	7
C Project	3	5
D Capacity of Organisation	13	15
E Financial need	4	7
F Innovation	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>37</b>

### Summary and Recommendation

The Old School Room as well as being of local historical interest will be brought back into community use and a grant to assist this stage of refurbishment will help towards the successful completion of the project.

#### Recommendation:

To support the application for the full £1,500 requested.

### Financial Implications

The 2010/11 Area North Capital Programme contains within Reserve Schemes a sum of £32,158 towards Local priority projects for enhancing facilities and services. This application of £1,500 will be accommodated from this budget.

### Corporate Priority Implications

3.14 Increase the satisfaction of people over 65 with both home and neighbourhood.

4.17 Increase % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together.

### **Other Implications:**

Area North priority – 2010-11 – Increase and improve community facilities and activities for all ages.

The project has helped ensure the preservation of a listed building.

### **Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)**

The overall refurbishment programme has included improved insulation and energy efficiency.

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

The committee manages the OSR and makes the facilities available on equal terms to all in the Curry Rivel area as a unique venue that supports the needs of the community irrespective of financial situation, race religion, gender, ability or age. The overall refurbishment project includes the provision of an accessible toilet.

**Background Papers:** *Grant application file AN 10/45*

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