

Area Committee North – 25 April 2012

9. Area North Community Grants – Barrington Village Hall Installation of Roof Mounted Solar Panels (Executive Decision)

Strategic Director Rina Singh, Place and Performance
Assistant Director Kim Close / 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 Barrington Village Hall for the installation of roof mounted solar panels.

Public Interest

Barrington Village Hall Committee has applied for financial assistance from SSDC. The application has been assessed by the Community Development Officer who has submitted this report to allow the Area North Committee to make an informed decision on the application.

Recommendation

- (1) Approve the award of £3,000 to Barrington Village Hall & Playing Fields Charity towards the installation of roof mounted solar panels , allocated from the District-Wide Village Halls budget subject to the SSDC standard conditions for Community Grants (see **Appendix A**) and the following special condition:
 - a) Applicants must make provision for the future maintenance and replacement of the facilities. SSDC recommends the applicant set up a sinking fund to achieve this condition.

Application Details

Name of Applicant	Barrington Village Hall & Playing Fields Charity
Project	Installation of solar panels
Project description	Panels to be fitted to the south facing roof of Barrington village hall to reduce the carbon footprint of the building and to benefit from available feed in tariffs
Total project cost	£10,000
Amount requested from SSDC	£3,000 (30%)
Application assessed by:	Les Collett, Community Development Officer (North)
Contact details:	leslie.collett@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462249

Background Information

Barrington village hall was built in 2006 following extensive community effort. It benefits from all the requirements of the building regulations of the time regarding insulation, double glazing and other building materials. The running cost of the building is always a concern and the trustees who continue to look at ways of reducing costs along with reducing the carbon footprint of the building in order to benefit all hall users and management now and in the future.

Although one of the newest halls to be built in Area North there is a continuing programme of improvements and maintenance to be undertaken which includes the village play area.

The local playgroup operates from an upstairs room in the village hall. Events held at the hall are wide ranging with the aim of attracting residents from within the small community boundaries. It is important to the community that they support young people and are able to maintain a balanced and vibrant community.

The village hall benefits from a number of elderly and disabled users, for many the social and community events offer the opportunity to interact with others and have a social life that they may not otherwise achieve.

Project development

The management trustees have looked at the long-term position of the village hall regarding running cost and taken into account the need to reduce costs and carbon emissions.

Project description

The project is to design, supply and installation of 16 PV solar panels with a total output of 4kw on the south-facing roof of Barrington Village Hall. Barrington village hall has a large roof area shown below with an impression of the installation.



Anticipated benefits and outcomes

Following completion of installation, the project will only have minimum maintenance costs and will be self-funding. The cost savings in reduced energy costs and feed-in tariff will fund any on-going project maintenance required by the system.

It is estimated that the CO2 emission avoided will be 3,274kg/a. The estimated annual output from the system is 3710Kwh, producing an overall annual return (as a % of installation cost) of 11.3%. The estimated life is 25 years.

By enabling the village hall to reduce its energy consumption and costs will lead to lower hire charges going forward and enable local community groups to make maximum use of the hall. At the same time the reduced dependence on fossil fuel for heating the hall and feeding solar generated electricity into the national grid will have a positive environmental impact on all local groups.

Management and ownership

The village hall is a registered charity, owned and managed by the community operating under Charity Commission's model village hall trust scheme. The committee also has Hallmark 1 standard (an accreditation scheme for the management of community buildings operated by the Community Council for Somerset.).

Since the hall was opened the day-to-day running cost are mainly covered by the rental income from hall users and additional fundraising events. As well as these costs the trustees maintain the children's play area and play area.

In keeping with good practice and the requirements of previous grant conditions the Village Hall Committee have committed to the creation of sinking funds for future repairs and maintenance.

Barrington Village Hall Allocation of monies to funds as at 31 Dec 2011	£
Village Hall General Fund	4434.99
Tarmac Road Maintenance/Repair	2200.00
Building & Grounds and play equipment Maintenance Fund required by previous grants	16000.00
Total Village Hall Funds at year end 2011	22634.99

Consents and permissions

Planning permission is not required for this project. Applicant will ensure compliance with building regulations as necessary.

Project Costs

The table below shows the breakdown of the project costs.

Item	Cost £
Design, supply and installation of 16 solar panels (4kw output), mounting system, inverter, electrical circuit.	£9,555
Scaffolding	£445
Total	£10,000

Match funding

Funding Source	Amount £	Status
Parish Council	1,000 (10%)	Confirmed
Own Funds	6,000	Confirmed
SDDC	3,000	Pending
Total	£10,000	

Parish Information

Barrington is a small conservation village with a population of around 450 and home to Barrington Court, a National Trust property. It has a small primary school, which is joined with both the villages of Barrington and Ilton, a public house, church and the village hall.

Parish	Barrington
Parish population	450
No. Of Households	211
Precept 12-13	£12,600
Band D Charge 12/13	£60.86
Parish Council Contribution	£1,000

Evidence of support for the project / consultation

An article setting out the plans and details of the project were provided through the village hall broadsheet and Parish magazine delivered to every household. It was also available on both the village and village hall websites, which contained full details. A public road show was run at the village hall where all villagers were invited to attend. Written comments received from the villagers from these actions were all-supportive of the proposals.

Community Grants Assessment Score

Under SDDC community grants policies, funding is only recommended for projects scoring 22+

Category	Score	Maximum
A Eligibility	Y	
B Target Groups	6	6
C Project	5	5
D Capacity of Organisation	13	15
E Financial need	6	7
F Innovation	2	3
Total	32	37

Summary and Recommendation

Barrington is a small community within Area North with no other community facility. The need to ensure a well-managed, sustainable hall is vital to the groups that use the hall and as a social meeting place for residents.

The hall is well-managed with an active fundraising programme, and has met with previous conditions to secure long term maintenance reserves. Energy saving projects of this type have local and environmental benefits.

Recommendation:

To support the application for the full £3,000 requested.

Financial Implications

The District-wide Village Halls grants budget originally existed to support village hall projects applying to the Joint County & District Village halls grants programme. Due to an under spend in this budget and the fact that the Joint Village Halls scheme is no longer in operation it was agreed at Corporate Grants Committee that these funds could be awarded by Area Committees to village hall projects addressing energy efficiency and disabled access. There is currently £ 28,784 left in this budget. If this application is supported, £25,784 will remain in this budget for future projects.

Council Plan Implications

Focus two: Environment - “We want an attractive environment to live in with increase recycling and lower energy use”

Focus four: Health & Communities – “We want communities that are healthy, self reliant and have individuals who are willing to help each other”

Other Implications:

Area North priorities: SELF-HELP – we will promote greater levels of self-help to promote the sustainability of local services and facilities for all ages.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

This project will reduce the annual energy consumption of Barrington Village Hall. Co2 emission avoided: 3,274kg/a. Estimated energy supplied annually by solar system input – 3373.

Equality and Diversity Implications

This facility is open to all without distinction of political, religious or other opinions. The village hall particularly serves the needs of older and younger people.

Background papers: *Grant application file AN12/01*