

Area North Committee – 27 June 2012

## 8. Area North Community Grants – Curry Rivel Village Hall Energy Efficiency Improvements (Executive Decision)

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

### Purpose of the Report

For members to consider an application for financial assistance to Curry Rivel Village Hall for energy efficiency improvements.

### Public Interest

Curry Rivel Village Hall Committee has applied for financial assistance from SSDC towards physical improvements to the village hall. 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 £4,500 to Curry Rivel Robert Sewers Hall towards a programme of improvements 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

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Name of Applicant</b>          | Robert Sewers Hall Management Committee  |
| <b>Project</b>                    | Energy Efficiency Improvements   |
| <b>Project description</b>        | To install a digital control system for the heating, roof insulation, an upgraded electric cooker and an energy efficient dishwasher |
| <b>Total project cost</b>         | £9,177   |
| <b>Amount requested from SSDC</b> | £4,500 (49%)   |
| <b>Application assessed by:</b>   | Les Collett, Community Development Officer (Area North)  |
| <b>Contact details:</b>           | leslie.collett@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462249  |

## Background Information

Curry Rivel has around 2,500 residents so is one of the largest villages in South Somerset. There is a school hall, which is used mainly for sports activities, and the Church has a room that is currently being renovated, but neither hall has the ability or capacity to cater for large numbers. The village hall is licensed for up to 300.

Community groups as well as social and private events use the hall regularly.

## Project development

The village hall committee called a public meeting to discuss the future of the hall in 2011. 40 plus people attended the meeting, resulting in several new committee members. One of the first tasks was to survey the residents to establish how the hall should progress. The overwhelming result of the survey was problems with the heating system, bookings, decoration and up to date kitchen facilities.

Analysis and discussion of this survey resulted in the following objectives for the hall's business plan over the next 2-3 years:

- (a) To maintain and update the fabric of the building to make it warm and inviting for users whilst being more environmentally efficient.
- (b) To make the hall more accessible to users via promotion, booking and web site improvements.
- (c) The village hall committee to actively put on events to encourage use and raise funds for the village hall.
- (d) To enhance the overall user experience and encourage hall usage over the next 3 years to enable the hall to be self sufficient and establish a reserve fund for any future improvements/ issues arising.

The committee identified that a significant amount of the work required could be done on a voluntary basis, and also used the Community PayBack service. As a result the hall has been thoroughly 'refreshed', including an on-line booking system. The project for this application is to complete the essential refurbishment.

## Project description

Purchase and installation of a digital control system to the current heating system which will allow the hall to be zoned, insulation to current pipe work and increased insulation to the roof.

Replace the old electric oven which is currently a single oven with four ring hot plate and really not suitable for the size of the hall. Having a larger modern oven will allow the hall to cater for more social & wedding style events.

The purchase of a 3 minute cycle dishwasher which will save on having to currently use a large hot water system saving on time and energy.

## Anticipated benefits and outcomes

The current heating system is dated and not cost effective, as they currently have to heat the whole hall instead of individual rooms. The new system will allow the rooms to be zoned and to only heat the rooms which have been booked, effectively keeping heating costs and emissions down. The insulation of the pipes and roof will also enable heating

costs to be kept down. Altogether this will make the hall an altogether warm and inviting environment for users.

The dishwasher has a choice of 3 wash cycles 60, 110 and 150 seconds and is energy efficient and low on water usage.

The cooker is built to up to date standards and allows more ambitious fundraising to take place, as well as encourage bookings of the hall for larger events.

### 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 is working towards Hallmark 1 standard (an accreditation scheme for the management of community buildings operated by the Community Council for Somerset.).

A three year business plan has been produced by the trustees to improve the facilities at the hall of which this project forms part with aim of increasing usage which will generate a greater income for further improvements and maintenance.

The projected annual running costs are met by hiring fees and local fundraising. The planned improvements to the hall's equipment and facilities will help reduce costs and increase income.

### Consents and permissions

None required

### Project Costs

The table below shows the breakdown of the project costs.

| Item                               | Cost £        |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Digital control for heating system | £3,600        |
| Insulation                         | £380          |
| Commercial cooker                  | £2,749        |
| Commercial dish washer             | £2,448        |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>£9,177</b> |

### Match funding

| Funding Source   | Amount £      | Status    |
|------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Parish Council   | 1000 (11%)    | Confirmed |
| Own Funds        | 1,677         | Confirmed |
| Clark Foundation | 2,000         | Pending   |
| SSDC             | 4,500         | Pending   |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>£9,177</b> |           |

## Parish Information

Curry Rivel has around 2,500 residents so is a large village. There is a primary school, playgroup, four shops including a post office, two churches, a public house, a restaurant and café, a large care home, petrol station and a vehicle repair workshop.

|                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Parish</b>               | <b>Curry Rivel</b> |
| Parish population           | 2500               |
| No. Of Households           | 950                |
| Precept 12-13               | £25,530            |
| Band D Charge 12/13         | £28.05             |
| Parish Council Contribution | £1000              |

## Evidence of support for the project / consultation

On open day was run at the village hall where all villagers were invited to attend to look at the results of the survey and make further comments.

In 2011 an article setting out the plans and details of the project were provided through the Parish magazine delivered to every household.

## Community Grants Assessment Score

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

| Category                   | Score     | Maximum   |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| A Eligibility              | Y         |           |
| B Target Groups            | 7         | 6         |
| C Project                  | 5         | 5         |
| D Capacity of Organisation | 11        | 15        |
| E Financial need           | 5         | 7         |
| F Innovation               | 2         | 3         |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>32</b> | <b>37</b> |

## Summary and Recommendation

The hall is well-managed and the recent process to review and create future plans for the hall has led to an increase in bookings as well as an active fundraising programme. Energy saving projects of this type has local and environmental benefits.

### Recommendation:

To support the application for the full £4,500 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 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 £25,784 left in this budget. If this application is supported, £21,284 will remain in this budget for future projects.

## Corporate 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 Curry Rivel Village Hall by having greater control of the heating system and increased insulation, the dishwasher is energy efficient in time taken ( 3 minutes ) and low water consumption and the cooker meets modern standards.

## 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 AN12/05