

Area North Committee – 26 February 2014

11. Grant to Martock Parish Council – Refurbishment of Martock Parish Hall (Executive Decision)

Strategic Director: Rina Singh, Place and Performance
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Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant for £5,000 towards the cost of the final stage of a phased programme of improvements and refurbishment of the Parish Hall in Martock.

Public Interest

To date, Martock Parish Council has invested £75,000 in an extensive, planned refurbishment of the Parish Hall and is now seeking to complete this with the installation of secondary glazing, provision of new fire resistant curtains, complete redecoration and additional storage for the kitchen. It is keen to begin the work as soon as possible and has asked the Area North Committee to consider a grant towards the cost.

Recommendation

It is recommended that councillors award £4,928 to Martock Parish Council towards the installation of secondary glazing, provision of new fire resistant curtains, complete redecoration and additional storage for the kitchen in Martock Parish Hall, allocated from the District Wide Village Halls budget and subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (appendix A).

Application Details

Name of applicant	Martock Parish Council
Project	Completion of refurbishment of Martock Parish Hall (ref:AN13/13)
Project description	Installation of secondary glazing, provision of new fire resistant curtains, complete redecoration and additional storage in the kitchen of Martock Parish Hall
Total project cost	£9,856
Amount requested from SSDC	£4,928 (50%)
Recommended special conditions	None (standard conditions only.)
Application assessed by	Teresa Oulds, Neighbourhood Development Officer (North)

Community Grants Assessment Score

The table below shows the grant scoring for this application. In order to be considered for SSDC funding under the Community Grants policies, applications need to meet the minimum score of 22.

Category	Actual Score	Maximum score possible
A Eligibility	Y	
B Target groups	6	7
C Project	5	5
D Capacity of organisation	15	15
E Financial need	5	7
F Innovation	2	3
Grand Total	33	37

Background

Martock is a thriving community of around 5000 people less than one mile from the A303 London to Exeter Road. It has a primary school, medical and dental surgeries, a range of shops and a public library. The nearest secondary schools are in the nearby villages of Huish Episcopi and Stoke sub Hamdon.

The Parish Council plays an active part in the life of the village and supports a number of local initiatives, including a job club for local people, its own youth worker, the development of a business engagement group and a craft market. There is a regular monthly farmers' market.

There are around 2098 households and the precept for 2013/14 is £257,570, with a Band D charge of £149.74.

Built in 1885, Martock Parish Hall has been owned by the Parish Council since the 1960s. It is an important community building within the parish and is utilised by at least 10 user groups ranging from the Martock Players Drama Society to zumba and pilates exercise classes. Whilst there are plans to develop a new youth centre building at some stage in the future, the parish hall will continue to play an integral part in community events, activities and provision.

Evidence of Need

In 2012, the refreshed Local Community Plan for Martock identified the refurbishment of the Parish Hall as one of its action areas, notably a "complete upgrade of the Parish Hall interior to 21st century standards, including improving access and energy efficiency to meet the needs of existing and future users".

Also in 2012 the Parish Council supported the establishment of the Parish Hall User Group, which includes representatives of all the main users of the hall. The group meets monthly and provides a forum for users to discuss their needs and has helped formulate the list of improvements, both past and planned (and the subject of this grant application).

Guided by suggestions made by the user groups, the council has already invested over £75,000 in an extensive refurbishment of the hall in order to bring it up to the high

standards required in a community building. This has been carried out in three stages, as below.

1. Extensive repairs to the roof and the installation of insulation.
2. Stripping and refitting the kitchen, resurfacing the main hall floor, inserting new flooring in the kitchen and main entrance hall, carrying out damp treatment in the meeting room, redecorating the toilets and meeting room and installing a hearing loop.
3. Installation of a new heating system.

The Project

In order to complete the refurbishment of the Parish Hall to the high standards demanded of such a facility, the following remains to be done:

- Installation of secondary glazing
- Installation of new fire approved curtains for the main hall, including the stage
- Provision of additional wall storage for the kitchen
- Redecoration of the hall and amenity areas

The overarching aim of the project is to meet the needs of local users of the hall. They have identified that the hall is cold, draughty and uninviting. They have also identified specific needs in order to support their existing use of the hall and to enable them to grow e.g. additional storage and new curtains.

In addition to meeting the needs of users, the project will also reduce the Parish Hall's energy consumption and carbon footprint and complete what has been an extensive set of refurbishments which will increase its potential for further lettings and usage.

Management and Ownership

The Parish Hall is owned and managed by Martock Parish Council.

The Martock Parish User Group was established in 2012 in order to ensure that those who use the hall on a regular basis play an active role in its management and use. It has been able to suggest improvements to enhance the hall's attractiveness as a facility and its suggestions have formed the basis for much of the refurbishment programme.

Consents and Permissions

All the work is internal and planning permission is not required. Building Control will be consulted before the work is carried out.

Project Costs

Item or activity	Cost
Installation of secondary glazing	£4041
Redecoration – painting	£3000
Fire retardant curtains (including stage)	£2000
Additional kitchen storage	£ 815
Total	£9856

All work planned has been subject to quotation.

Funding Plan

Funding Source	
Martock Parish Council	£4928 - secured
Amount requested from SSDC	£4928 - requested

Conclusion and Recommendation

Martock Parish Council has embarked on an extensive, phased refurbishment of its Parish Hall which has been very well received by user groups. To date the Parish Council has spent over £75,000 on the work and has funded this itself, without any financial support from SSDC. The amount requested is 50% of the current – and last – phase but just 0.05% of the total amount spent on the improvements.

It is recommended that councillors award £4,928 to Martock Parish Council towards the installation of secondary glazing, provision of new fire resistant curtains, complete redecoration and additional storage for the kitchen in Martock Parish Hall, allocated from the District-wide Village Halls Grants Budget and subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (appendix A).

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 underspend in this budget and the fact that the Joint Village Halls scheme is no longer in operation, it was agreed at the Corporate Grants Committee that these funds could be awarded by Area Committees to village hall projects addressing energy efficiency and disabled access. There is £5000 available to support this project.

Council Plan Implications

Focus Two: Environment: “Encouraging businesses, individuals and communities to install energy and carbon reduction measures, such as improved property insulation, will be a priority.”

Carbon Emissions & Climate Change Implications

The refurbishment will help reduce the Parish Hall’s energy consumption and carbon footprint through the installation of secondary glazing, an improved heating system and the provision of new curtains.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The Council is committed to promoting equality, recognising and valuing diversity and ensuring equal opportunities chances for all and this project will be compliant with these aims and the legislation laid down in the Equality Act 2010.