

## 10. Merriott Village Hall - Grant Application (Executive Decision) (Excepted Business)

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### Purpose of the Report

For members to consider an application for financial assistance from Merriott Village Hall.

### Recommendations

That a grant of £5,200 be awarded from the SSDC Village Hall grants programme to Merriott Village Hall for energy efficiency improvements.

### Background

In addition to Area grants, SSDC operates a corporate village halls grants programme to support large-scale refurbishments and new-build projects, which are taken through the Joint County & District Village Halls grant scheme.

For 2008, only two projects in South Somerset were supported through this programme, which left £26,555 remaining in the SSDC village hall budget. At the SSDC Corporate Grants Committee meeting in October 2008 it was decided that the remaining funds would be reallocated to support smaller scale village hall projects in South Somerset during the year 2009/10.

It was agreed that priority would go to hall projects focussing on disabled access, energy efficiency and sustainability measures, and that grants should be administered through the area committees under the usual system, until the budget is used up.

### Merriott Village Hall

Merriott Village Hall is used by a large number of community groups that serve all ages of the community. The hall was built in 1923 and the main structure of the building is in good condition. However, the internal facilities and services are outdated and are no longer fit for purpose. Merriott Village Hall Committee has devised and started to implement a large refurbishment programme to improve the overall quality of the facilities and make major changes to the old inefficient heating system in order to upgrade the energy performance and environmental footprint of the building.

The committee has already carried out some of the improvements to the Village Hall and this includes a complete refurbishment of the kitchen and the Blake Room.

The main hall is a much larger project that needs to be undertaken by contractors and will include a new heating system, improvements to the stage area including electrical works to make the stage useable for modest performances, insulation of the roof space and energy efficiency lighting throughout the building.

**Project Cost and Funds Obtained**

The overall cost of the project is £39,241.41. The Village Hall Committee has already raised some funds towards the project.

| <b>Funding Source</b>        | <b>Amount requested</b> | <b>Funds secured</b> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Parish Council               | £500                    | Yes                  |
| Own funds                    | £20,000                 | Yes                  |
| Local fundraising            | £2,000                  | Yes                  |
| Loans                        | £13,000                 | Applied for          |
| SSDC - Opportunity Crewkerne | £5,000                  | Yes                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                 | <b>£40,500</b>          | <b>£27,500</b>       |

£5,000 was allocated to Merriott Village Hall Committee through Opportunity Crewkerne for the new heating system.

This application is for a financial contribution towards the work required to make the building more energy efficient. The costs specific to the improved energy efficiency of the building are £11,172.27. Those costs are:

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Energy efficiency lighting etc throughout building                                 | £3, 653.77        |
| Insulation in open roof space  | £1,360.00         |
| Removal of cement board with asbestos content                                      | £1,583.50         |
| Replacement of cement board & its replacement in part with insulated plaster board | £4,575.00         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>£11,172.27</b> |

The project has been assessed against SSDC's agreed criteria for assessing Community Grants and the following scores apply:

| <b>Category</b>            | <b>Score</b> | <b>Maximum score</b> |
|----------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| A Eligibility              | Yes          |                      |
| B Target Groups            | 4            | 7                    |
| C Project                  | 3            | 5                    |
| D Capacity of Organisation | 12           | 15                   |
| E Financial need           | 5            | 7                    |
| F Innovation               | 2            | 3                    |
| <b>Grand Total</b>         | <b>26</b>    | <b>37</b>            |

**Financial Implications**

The total budget available from the District wide Village Halls Budget is £26,555. Two applications from Village Halls will be decided at Area East Committee on July 8th. If those applications are approved the balance will be £23,275. If this request for £5,200 is approved, the remaining balance will be £18,075.

## Implications for Corporate Priorities

This project contributes towards enhancing the environment and addressing and adapting to climate change, improving the housing, health and wellbeing of our citizens and ensuring safe, sustainable and cohesive communities.

- 2.19 Decrease per capita CO2 emissions in the local authority area
- 3.14 Increase the satisfaction of people over 65 with both home and neighbourhood
- 4.19 Increase civic participation in the local area

**Background Papers:** *Grant application no. AW/09/246*

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