

Area West Committee – 19th September 2012

7. Request for Community Grants (Executive Decision)

Strategic Director: Rina Singh (Place and Performance)
Assistant Director: Helen Rutter / Kim Close (Communities)
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Purpose of the Report

To consider three applications for financial assistance. Chaffcombe Village Hall and Clapton and Wayford Village Hall both require structural repairs. Chard Methodist Church are seeking to replace the kitchen in their church hall.

Public Interest

Chaffcombe Village Hall Committee and Clapton and Wayford Village Hall Committee have applied for financial assistance towards the structural repairs of their Buildings. Chard Methodist Church have applied for financial assistance to replace an outdated kitchen in their church hall.

Recommendation

That members approve the following three grants:

Applicant	Project	Grant requested
Chaffcombe Village Hall	Repairs and replacement of windows and door. Re- pointing of two walls to rear storage shed	£1,390
Clapton and Wayford Village Hall	Replacement of leaking flat roof. Replace entrance doors upgrading foyer and inner doors.	£6,000
Chard Methodist Church Hall	Replacement of an outdated kitchen	£3,659

Chaffcombe Village Hall

Background

Chaffcombe is a small rural parish of approximately 80 houses and 250 residents. The village hall has been in use since 1961. The building itself was originally the village school dating back to 1879.

The hall provides an active and enthusiastic hub for clubs and entertainments to the residents of both Chaffcombe and the surrounding villages of Knowle St Giles, Cricket Malherbie and Lydmarsh, who lack village halls of their own.

The groups who currently use the hall include:

- The Arts Group
- The Disabled Arts Group
- The Singing Group
- The Yoga Group
- The Social Coffee Mornings Group

Additional events are organised throughout the year including Concerts, Whist Drives and the Harvest supper.

The hall has suffered wear and tear over the years to external windows and a door. Three of the wooden windows can be repaired and a further three plus the kitchen door now need to be replaced. There is also an amount of re-pointing required to two walls of the rear storage shed. The building works will improve the insulation of the building and make it more energy efficient.

Project Description

This grant request will help finance the following essential work to the building.

- Repairs to three wooden windows located at the rear of the main hall.
- Replacement of three metal framed windows and the kitchen door with three PVC windows and a PVC door.
- Re-pointing two walls of the rear storage shed.

Project costs

Quotes have been obtained and the total cost for this project is £2,779.63.

Table 1:

Repairs to three wooden windows	£693.63
Replacement of three metal framed windows and the kitchen door	£1,686.00
Re-pointing of two wall of rear storage area	£400.00
Total Project Cost	£2,779.63

Funding

The total cost for this project is £2,799.63. The village hall committee have raised £1,239.63 and have secured an additional £150 from the Parish Council. The Committee are now seeking a grant of £1,390 from SSDC to meet the total project cost.

Table 1:

Funding Source		
Own Funds	£1,239.63	Secured
Parish Council	£150.00	Secured
SSDC	£1,390.00	Pending
Total Project Cost		£2,779.63

Assessment

Table 3

Category	Score	Maximum score
Eligibility	Y	
Target Groups	5	7
Project	4	5
Capacity of Organisation	12	15
Financial need	4	7
Innovation	1	3
TOTAL	26	37

The Community Development Officer has assessed the application and the project has reached an overall score of 26 as outlined in the table above. This application exceeds the minimum score required for funding to be considered.

Recommendation

The Community Development Officer recommends that the grant be awarded in full.

Council Plan Implications

Focus Four: Health and Communities – We want communities that are healthy, self reliant and have individuals who are willing to help each other.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI 188)

The works will improve the insulation of the building and make it more energy efficient

Equality and Diversity Implications

Disabled access and disabled toilet facilities are provided in the hall.

Clapton and Wayford Village Hall

The village hall was built in 1961 and is now the only community facility in the village since the closure of the pub, shop and café in the mill. The hall is located in the centre of the village, has a large car park, a kitchen, one large hall and a smaller meeting area.

The Hall is a well used facility; regular activities include a monthly luncheon club, a weekly yoga class, the Clapton & Wayford Film Society, knit & natter, short mat bowls and an arts club. In addition the hall is regularly used for events that give villagers the opportunity to meet and socialise with activities like coffee mornings, bingo, plant and jumble sales and quiz nights. Take Art, the charity that arranges arts events in rural communities across Somerset, regularly books the village hall as a venue for music, poetry and art events.

Project and grant request

The grant request is to help finance essential building works to the foyer area of the building, which also houses the ladies toilets. There are four improvements that are

needed to this part of the building which would make a significant difference to the halls long term viability.

1) Replace the old flat roof with a pitch roof

This part of the building has a flat roof, which despite numerous repairs over the years, regularly lets in rain over the ladies toilets. When the roof leaks and causes flooding it puts out of action one of the two cubicles in the ladies toilets. The current flat roof also means there is no opportunity to insulate the entrance area which makes the foyer cold and damp. A new pitch roof will stop the raining getting in and allow that part of the building to be fully insulated which will improve the energy efficiency of the building, make the foyer feel warmer and ensure the ladies toilets are dry and useable.

2) Replace entrance doors and their frames

The wooden double doors leading from the car park into the entrance area are now rotten. The poor state of the doors and their frames adds to the cold draughty feel of the foyer. The committee would like to replace the doors with PVC double glazed units. These new entrance doors will improve the insulation of the foyer area and the energy efficiency of the whole building.

3) Upgrade the foyer

The building works to the foyer give the Committee the opportunity to upgrade the appearance of the foyer, improve the lighting and generally make the area far more welcoming to people as they enter the building. This is very important as it is this area that creates the first impression to anyone entering the building who is thinking of hiring the hall. A warm and welcoming foyer as opposed to a cold, damp and draughty one will create a positive impact.

4) Replace inner doors

The internal doors leading from the foyer into the main hall are old with a single glazed pane, which is situated at a level too high for wheelchair users to see through. The Committee would like to replace the old doors with new doors that have a low toughened glass pane, which would make it a lot easier for wheelchair users to use. As the Hall runs a very popular luncheon club they do receive regular comments from wheelchair users and their carers about the difficulty of using the current doors.

Planning permission to carry out these works was approved in August 2012 (application 12/02291/FUL).

Costs

The total cost of the works is £13,800 inclusive of VAT. These costs include the labour and materials to replace and insulate the roof, provide new doors, make good the plasterboard in the ladies toilets and refurbish the foyer area.

Funds

Clapton & Wayford Village Hall Committee have already secured £1,800 towards this project and have recently submitted an application for £6000 to Awards for All.

Funding Source	Amount	Status
Own funds	£1,300	Confirmed
Parish Council	£500	Confirmed
Awards for All	£6,000	Awaiting a decision
SSDC	£6,000	
Total	£13,800	

The Community Regeneration Officer has assessed this application and the project has received the following score:

Category	Score	Maximum
Target Groups	5	7
Project	5	5
Capacity of Organisation	13	15
Financial need	4	7
Innovation	2	3
Total	29	37

Recommendation

The Community Regeneration Officer recommends that the grant be awarded in full.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

The building works will improve the insulation of the building which will make it more energy efficient and should mean a decrease in the amount of energy required to keep the village hall warm.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The new external and internal doors will be much easier to negotiate for wheelchair users and parents with pushchairs.

Chard Methodist Church Hall

Background

The Methodist Church was built in Chard in 1874. The church hall has for many years been used by a wide variety of community groups in the town.

At present these include:

- The Boys brigade
- The Girls Brigade
- Pre school groups
- Toddlers groups
- Senior Youth club
- Junior Youth club
- Wednesday digest club (invited speakers on various subjects)
- Blind club
- The knitting circle

Coffee mornings and monthly community lunches are held and have proved popular. The hall is also hired for events and private functions.

The hall kitchen now needs to be replaced to meet the latest health and safety and hygiene regulations. A new kitchen will address concerns raised by hirers at the condition of the present facilities and will lead to an increase in bookings.

Project Description

This grant request will help finance the following works to the hall kitchen:

- Installation of new kitchen units.
- Replacement of the kitchen flooring.
- Installation of a new commercial dishwasher.
- Installation of a hot cupboard.

Project costs

Quotes have been obtained and the total cost for this project is £8,409.

Table 1:

Kitchen units (including fitting)	£5,700
Commercial Dishwasher	£1,308
Flooring	£456
Hot Cupboard	£945
Total Project Cost	£8,409

Funding

The total cost for this project is £8,409. Chard Methodist Church have raised £3,750 and have submitted a grant application to Chard Town Council for a further £1,000. The Church are now seeking a grant of £3,659 from SSDC to meet the total project cost.

Table 1:

Funding Source		
Own Funds	£3,750	Secured
Town Council	£1,000	Pending
SSDC	£3,659	Pending
Total Project Cost		£8,409

Assessment

Table 3

Category	Score	Maximum score
Eligibility	Y	
Target Groups	6	7
Project	4	5
Capacity of Organisation	12	15
Financial need	4	7
Innovation	1	3
TOTAL	27	37

The Community Development Officer has assessed the application and the project has reached an overall score of 27 as outlined in the table above. This application exceeds the minimum score required for funding to be considered.

Recommendation

The Community Development Officer recommends that the grant be awarded in full, subject to approval of the grant application at present with the Town Council.

Council Plan Implications

Focus Four: Health and Communities – We want communities that are healthy, self reliant and have individuals who are willing to help each other.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI 188)

Use of the church hall may reduce car journeys to attend clubs and events elsewhere.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The hall provides disabled access and disabled toilets. A hearing loop facility is also available.

Financial Implications

The Community Grant Scheme budget is £107,000. To date £66,746 of grant funding has been approved. This leaves a remaining budget of £40,254. The three grants requested in this report total £11,049 which can be funded from this budget.

Background Papers:*Community Grant Criteria*
(www.southsomerset.gov.uk/communities/funding-for-your-group-or-project)
Grant applications on File
AW Committee March 2011 Capital Grants
