

13. District Wide Village Hall Grant budget - Capital Grant Request – Barton St David Village Hall and Templecombe Village Hall (Executive Decision) (Excepted Business)

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Purpose of the Report

For members to consider requests for capital grants received from Barton St David Village Hall and Templecombe Village Hall.

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 2009, only 2 projects in South Somerset were supported through this programme, and so SSDC's Corporate Grants Committee agreed (at it's meeting in October 2008) that £26,555 should be made available from it's district-wide budget, to small, area-based projects during 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.

A. Barton St David Village Hall – Installation of suspended ceiling

Recommendation:

Members are asked to agree a contribution of £1630 (47% of total project costs) from the Joint County/District Village Halls budget, towards the cost of installing a suspended ceiling, subject to the following conditions:-

- (1) The funding has been awarded based on the information provided on the application form for application number AE/09/02.
- (2) The SSDC Evaluation Form will need to be completed in full and returned to the Area Council Offices when the applicant returns the signed acceptance of the funding offer;
- (3) all other funding sources are secured;
- (4) SSDC is given prior notice of the date when work is to commence;
- (5) SSDC is acknowledged on any publicity and on any permanent acknowledgement of assistance towards the project;
- (6) the applicant will work, in conjunction with SSDC Officers, to monitor the success of the scheme and the benefits to the community, resulting from SSDC's contribution to the project;

- (7) should the scheme be delayed or unable to commence within six months from the date of this Committee, SSDC must be notified in writing; and
- (8) should the final cost be less than the estimate considered by the Committee, the funding will be proportionately reduced. However, if the cost exceeds that estimate, no further funding will normally be available.

Background

Barton St David Village Hall Committee has applied to the District Council for a grant towards the costs of ceiling renewal and thermal insulation in order to increase heat retention and reduce running costs.

Past support from SSDC

Funding Source	Period	Amount
Area East Community & Leisure Capital budget	07/08	£6117

Report

Barton St David Village hall provides a meeting place for residents of the village and the surrounding area and accommodates the local pre-school. Apart from the pre-school which occupies the hall for twenty hours a week, regular users of the hall include the Parish Council, Scout packs, Table Tennis group, Whist group and the Cricket Club. The hall is also used for parties and community events (Harvest Supper, Carnival, Fun Run etc).

The proposed project will reduce running costs through greater energy efficiency by creating a thermal barrier above the ceiling. It is part of a phased improvement plan to ensure that the Hall continues to be a comfortable, affordable well-used facility, fully compliant with Disability Discrimination Act and Health and Safety requirements. Work to bring the kitchen up to the required standard has been recently completed. The applicant has a good track record of raising funds locally and has previously received funds from a number of external sources.

A good mix of funding sources has been identified for other projects set out in the development plan and the request to SSDC for a grant of £1630 (47% of total project cost) should be considered in this context. An application has been submitted to Viridor for a modest grant however all other funding will be found locally.

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Amount of Funding	Status
Own Funds	29%	£1000	Secured
Parish Council	14%	£500	Applied for
Viridor	10%	£350	Applied for
SSDC	47%	£1630	Applied for
Total Scheme Cost	100%	£3480	

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

Category	Score	Maximum score
A Eligibility	Y	
B Target Groups	4	7
C Project	4	5
D Capacity of Organisation	14	15
E Financial need	5	7
F Innovation	2	3
Grand Total	29	37

Financial Implications

The total budget available from the District wide Village Halls Budget was £26,555. If the above sum of £1630 is approved this will leave a reducing balance of £24,925 unallocated.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

This project contributes towards ensuring safe, sustainable and cohesive communities. 4.19, 4.21, 4.25.

Other Implications

Village Hall improvements are in the Area Action Plan

Background Papers: Grant Application files.

B. Templecombe Village Hall – Installing Suspended Ceiling

Purpose of the Report

To seek Members' support for a contribution towards installing a suspended ceiling and improving insulation at Templecombe Village Hall.

Recommendation

Members are asked to agree a contribution of £1,650 (36% of total project costs) from the District wide Village Halls budget, towards the cost of installing a suspended ceiling and additional insulation at Templecombe Village Hall subject to the following conditions:-

- (1) The funding has been awarded based on the information provided on the application form for application number AE/09/03.
- (2) The SSDC Evaluation Form will need to be completed in full and returned to the Area Council Offices when the applicant returns the signed acceptance of the funding offer;
- (3) all other funding sources are secured;
- (4) SSDC is given prior notice of the date when work is to commence;
- (5) SSDC is acknowledged on any publicity and on any permanent acknowledgement of assistance towards the project;
- (6) the applicant will work, in conjunction with SSDC Officers, to monitor the success of the scheme and the benefits to the community, resulting from SSDC's contribution to the project;
- (7) should the scheme be delayed or unable to commence within six months from the date of this Committee, SSDC must be notified in writing; and
- (8) should the final cost be less than the estimate considered by the Committee, the funding will be proportionately reduced. However, if the cost exceeds that estimate, no further funding will normally be available.

Background

Templecombe Village Hall Committee has applied for a grant towards installing a suspended ceiling and increasing the insulation in the Hall.

Past support from SSDC

Funding Source & Project	Period	Amount
Area East Community & Leisure Capital – Roof repairs	07/08	£ 2800

Report

Templecombe Village Hall provides a meeting space for a number of local groups which until recently included the pre-school. The pre-school no longer uses the hall as they now have a purpose-built space on the Primary school site. The relocation of the pre-school has had a huge impact on hall usage. It has however also created opportunities to develop new uses and the committee has been promoting the hall through the development of activities including a table tennis club which is now thriving and is bringing in new users. The hall is also used for children's parties and other celebrations and has a successful short mat bowls club. The Balsam Project is keen to run outreach sessions at the hall and has started to offer pilates sessions.

The regular pre-school sessions not only provided essential secured income but also helped to ensure that the hall was warm for groups using it in the evening. The need to heat the hall for evening bookings has highlighted the inefficiency of the current system and has increased the running costs. Having considered possible ways of reducing the cost and retaining heat through improved energy efficiency the committee has agreed that this scheme is the best and most cost effective solution.

The plans include the installation of a suspended grid system, insulation to a high standard and new lighting. This scheme will make the hall more comfortable and attractive while reducing running costs to enable the group to continue to offer the use of the hall at a reasonable rate.

Funding Sources	% Funding of Total Scheme Cost	Amount of Funding £	Status
Own Funds/local fundraising	23%	1000	Ongoing
SSDC	36%	1650	Applied for
Parish Council	4%	200	Applied for
Short Mat Bowls Club	5%	200	Secured
In kind – Ceiling tiles	34%	1500	Secured
Total Scheme Cost	100%	4550	

The project has been assessed against the agreed criteria and the following scores apply.

Category	Score	Maximum score
A Eligibility	Y	
B Target Groups	3	7
C Project	3	5
D Capacity of Organisation	12	15
E Financial need	4	5
F Innovation	2	3
Grand Total	23	37

Financial Implications

The total budget available from the District wide Village Halls Budget was £26,555. If the previous sum of £1630 is approved this will leave a reducing balance of £24,925 unallocated. If this request for £1,650 is approved, the reducing balance will be £23,275

Implications for Corporate Priorities

This project contributes towards ensuring safe, sustainable and cohesive communities. 4.19, 4.21, 4.25.

Other Implications

None

Background Papers: Grant Application files.
