

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture and Recreation
Date:	4 November 2011
Title:	Community Buildings Fund 2011/12
Reference:	3340
Report from	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Contact name: Margaret Plumridge

Tel: 01962 84 6173

Email margaret.plumridge@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary:

- 1.1 The County Council provides partnership funding from the Community Buildings Fund for capital projects to Community Associations, Village Hall Trusts and similar bodies as outlined in the fund's criteria. This enables the voluntary and community sector to maintain the quality of Hampshire's cultural assets, namely community centres and village halls, some of which are listed.
- 1.2 This report provides details of the financial position of the Community Buildings Fund in 2011/12 and details requests for partnership funding from this fund.

2. Applications considered in this report:

Hall/Centre	District	£
Alton Community Association	East Hampshire	3,568.00
Fordingbridge Community Association	New Forest	3,676.00
Headley Village Hall Trust	East Hampshire	987.00
Wield Village Hall Trust	East Hampshire	4,250.00
TOTAL		12,481.00

3. Contextual Information:

- 3.1 The County Council works in partnership with specific community organisations, particularly community associations and village hall trusts who seek to enable local people to meet the recreational, educational, social, cultural and environmental needs of their local communities. These organisations give local people an opportunity to participate in local activities and encourage local initiatives by people of all ages.

- 3.2 Partnership funding from the Community Buildings Fund enables the voluntary and community sector to maintain the quality of Hampshire's cultural assets, namely their village halls and community association buildings, some of which are listed. This finance enables improvements to be made to those buildings and can assist with the development of new facilities where appropriate. The provision of these buildings by the voluntary and community sector enable local communities to access the services and facilities they need.
- 3.3 By providing financial support to these organisations for the maintenance of their buildings the County Council is able to work in partnership with the community sector to achieve the Corporate Priority – Enhancing our Quality of Place.

4. Budget Position:

- 4.1 A sum of £120,000 has been set aside in the 2011/12 capital programme for Culture, Communities and Business Services to support the Community Buildings Fund. To date £65,178 has been allocated this year and if the recommendations in this report, which amount to £12,481 are approved then £42,341 will be available for the rest of the year.

5. Criteria for Grant:

- 5.1 The partnership funding distribution criteria is set out in Appendix 1.
- 5.2 Projects listed in Appendix 2 meet fully the criteria and have been allocated a proposed level of partnership funding in line with the criteria.

6. Other Considerations

6.1 Legal Implications

The Council has wide powers under Section 19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to provide recreational facilities and to contribute by way of grant or loan towards expenses incurred by voluntary bodies in providing such facilities.

6.2 Impact Assessment

Organisations applying to this scheme are by their nature defined as accessible to all members of the community. This is embodied within their charitable objects, therefore no groups or organisations should be excluded from any benefit arising from these decisions. Furthermore the application procedure includes equalities monitoring information as agreed as part of the corporate review of grants programmes and procedures.

7. Recommendations:

That partnership funding totalling £12,481.00 as listed below be approved for allocation from the Community Buildings Fund for 2011/12.

Hall/Centre	District	£
Alton Community Association	East Hampshire	3,568
Fordingbridge Community Association	New Forest	3,676
Headley Village Hall Trust	East Hampshire	987
Wield Village Hall Trust	East Hampshire	4,250
TOTAL		12,481

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	no
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
Applications for financial assistance	Community Support Service Department for Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs Mottisfont Court, Winchester

Appendix 1

CRITERIA FOR THESE GRANTS:

The partnership funding distribution criteria for the Community Buildings Fund is as follows:

Partnership funding is granted for:

- Building repairs, extensions and refurbishments
- Health and safety issues
- Equipment to improve the buildings and increase usage
- Feasibility studies

Who can apply:

- Village halls (not parish run halls)
- Community associations
- Church organisations that have a separate community programme on their property

Funding criteria:

- For projects costing less than £15,000, the funding criteria is up to one third of the cost.
- For projects costing more than £15,000, the grant is calculated at 50% of the combined district and parish council contribution up to a maximum of 25% of the project costs or £12,500, whichever is the lesser.
- Feasibility studies – applications will be considered for 50% of the cost up to a maximum of £500.

Priority Criteria:

1. Health and safety issues that could result in the building being closed or activities seriously curtailed if the work is not carried out.
2. The work is absolutely essential in order to meet the terms of the Disability Discrimination Act. (It has been widely publicised that these types of buildings will not be closed provided reasonable steps have been taken to meet the terms of the Act).
3. The project is part of a phased development and this element is essential to it's overall completion.
4. Non priority work.

Appendix 2

Name	Alton Community Association
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Joy, has been informed.
Project	Soundproofing of internal doors
Cost	£3568
General Reserves	£0
Project Reserves	£0
Statement	The Association wishes to apply soundproofing to 5 internal doors on their ground floor to make the rooms more useable. At present, the Association are losing hirers due to noise disturbance from other rooms. This will especially benefit the Association in terms of being able to provide more accessible rooms as, at present, bookings are being moved upstairs.
Partnership Funding	Awards For All £1,500 confirmed Molson Coors £1,000
Recommendation	Up to £1189 as one third of project costs up to a maximum of £5,000

Name	Fordingbridge Community Association
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Heron, has been informed.
Project	Thermal and Acoustic Insulation
Cost	£11,028
General Reserves	£11,500
Project Reserves	£5,500
Statement	This project involves a number of different parts with the aim of creating a more aesthetically pleasing user friendly space. The thermal and acoustic insulation will help to reduce the Association's Carbon Footprint, reducing their fuel consumption and energy bills and leading to overall improving user comfort.
Partnership Funding	Fordingbridge Town Council £1852 (To be confirmed)
Recommendation	Up to £3676 as one third of project costs up to a maximum of £5,000

Name	Headley Village Hall Trust
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Cowper, has been informed.
Project	Replacement fuel Tank
Cost	£2961
General Reserves	£19,800
Project Reserves	£1000
Statement	The current Steel fuel tank has corroded with age causing a hazard to those within the vicinity. The tank is also not very secure.
Partnership Funding	Headley Parish Council £987 (To be confirmed)
Recommendation	Up to £987 as one third of project costs up to a maximum of £5,000

Name	Wield Village Hall Trust
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Kemp-Gee, fully supports the application.
Project	Repairs to roof, bell tower and brickwork. New windows, oil and gas tanks and boiler.
Cost	£21,000
General Reserves	£0
Project Reserves	£11,500
Statement	The Village hall is in need of some major restoration work to ensure the continued viability of the facility. These works will help to improve the hall's energy efficiency as well as it's safety.
Partnership Funding	Wield Parish Council £3500 (confirmed) East Hampshire District Council £5,000 (Confirmed)
Recommendation	Up to £4250 as fifty percent of combined District and Parish partnership funding up to a maximum of £12,500