

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture and Recreation
Date:	20 January 2012
Title:	Community Buildings Fund 2011/12
Reference:	3525
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	£
Buckskin and Worting Community Association	Basingstoke	2,236.00
Copythorne Parish Hall Trust	New Forest	3,900.00
Denmead Community Association	Winchester	665.00
Liss Community Association	East Hampshire	4,902.00
Old Alresford Village Hall Trust	Winchester	3,321.00
Pilands Wood Community Association	Eastleigh	3,385.00
Portchester Community Association	Fareham	4,797.00
Romsey Abbey Parish Church Council	Test Valley	500.00
Sparsholt Memorial Hall Trust	Winchester	859.00
St Matthews Church Parish Council	Gosport	2,298.00
Winnall Community Association	Winchester	12,500.00
TOTAL		39,363.00
Victoria Hall Trust	Winchester	2,500.00
TOTAL		41,863.00

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 £75,280 has been allocated this year, although a grant made in July 2011 to Chilworth Parish Hall for £2,800 has been cancelled. This leaves an allocated amount to date of £72,480 and if the recommendations in this report, which amount to £39,363 are approved then £8,157 will be available for the rest of the year.

In addition to the above capital, there is a further sum of £18,875 allocated by Councillor Ellis specifically for applications from rural projects. Consequently, the actual sum remaining is £27,032

- 4.2 Furthermore, there has been an unusual request for funding from the Victoria Hall Trust in Sutton Scotney for financial support towards the purchase of the car park next to the village hall (please see Appendix 2 Item 1). The car park is currently in the ownership of The Rank Foundation and the organisation have decided to sell this particular piece of land. In order to retain their car parking facilities, it is essential that Victoria Hall trust purchases it.
- 4.3 This request is outside the normal criteria of the Community Buildings Fund but Councillor Ellis has requested that consideration be given to supporting the project from the rural fund element. Therefore, it is recommended that up to £2,500 be set aside to support the purchase of the car park by the Victoria Hall Trust.

- 4.4 Should this recommendation be approved, £24,532 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 £41,863 as listed below be approved for allocation from the Community Buildings Fund for 2011/12.

Hall/Centre	District	£
Buckskin and Worting Community Association	Basingstoke	2,236.00
Copythorne Parish Hall Trust	New Forest	3,900.00
Denmead Community Association	Winchester	665.00
Liss Community Association	East Hampshire	4,902.00
Old Alresford Village Hall Trust	Winchester	3,321.00
Pilands Wood Community Association	Eastleigh	3,385.00
Portchester Community Association	Fareham	4,797.00
Romsey Abbey Parish Church Council	Test Valley	500.00
Sparsholt Memorial Hall Trust	Winchester	859.00
St Matthews Church Parish Council	Gosport	2,298.00
Winnall Community Association	Winchester	12,500.00
TOTAL		39,363.00
Victoria Hall Trust	Winchester	2,500.00
TOTAL		41,863.00

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:	yes
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.)

Document

Location

Applications for financial assistance

Community Support Service

Department for Culture, Communities and Business Services

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	Victoria Hall Trust
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Porter, has been informed.
Project	Purchase of Car Park
Cost	£13,760
General Reserves	£0
Project Reserves	£0
Statement	The Rank Foundation currently own the car park next to the Victoria Hall and have decided to sell this piece of land. The Victoria Hall Trust needs to purchase this land to ensure continued car parking facilities for their users and the local community.
Partnership Funding	£2,000 South Wonston Parish Council
Recommendation	Up to £2,500 as requested by Councillor Ellis

Name	Buckskin and Worting Community Association
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Reid, has been informed
Project	New Boiler
Cost	£6,707
General Reserves	£0
Project Reserves	£0
Statement	The current boiler is 12 years old, has a number of intermittent problems and needs upgrading to a newer, slimmer model. This will ensure a more effective and efficient heating and hot water system for the future of the Association's building.
Partnership Funding	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council £5030 (To be confirmed)
Recommendation	Up to £2,236 as one third of project costs up to a maximum of £5,000

Name	Copythorne Parish Hall Trust
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Heron, has been informed
Project	New Heating System
Cost	£11,700
General Reserves	£18,000
Project Reserves	£2,000
Statement	The current heating system has been in place since the hall was built in the 1960's. This is outdated and inefficient. The new system will be much more environmentally friendly as well as efficient and will contribute to reducing the heating bills for the hall.
Partnership Funding	£8,775 New Forest National Park (To be confirmed)
Recommendation	Up to £3,900 as one third of project costs up to a maximum of £5,000

Name	Denmead Community Association
Consultation	The local member has not been informed due to a vacancy at present.
Project	Upgrade to Emergency Lighting System
Cost	£1,995
General Reserves	£11,226
Project Reserves	£1,330
Statement	The current emergency lighting system within the centre is not fit for purpose. There are places where the lighting does not exist as well as temperamental wiring and defective lights. This project will enable the replacement and upgrade of the emergency lighting system to bring it up to standard and meet required health and safety legislation.
Partnership Funding	None
Recommendation	Up to £665 as one third of project costs up to a maximum of £5,000

Name	Liss Community Association
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Clarke, has been informed and comments “I would strongly support the application by The Liss Community Association for funding towards a new energy efficient boiler. They are a well run organisation, and a new boiler would certainly reduce their energy bill in the future.”
Project	Replacement Boiler
Cost	£14,706
General Reserves	£21,000
Project Reserves	£5,000
Statement	The Association are currently undertaking a number of works to improve their existing toilet facilities. As a part of this process, and following a number of problems, they have been informed that their current boiler is no longer fit for purpose. They wish to purchase and install a new energy efficient boiler that will meet the needs of the Association.
Partnership Funding	None
Recommendation	Up to £4,902 as one third of project costs up to a maximum of £5,000

Name	Old Alresford Village Hall Trust
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Porter, has been informed and comments “The hall is well supported locally and deserves support through this scheme... It is the hub of village life... and would benefit from refurbishment, I definitely want to support this application.
Project	Kitchen and toilet refurbishment
Cost	£9,962
General Reserves	£10,000
Project Reserves	£7,000
Statement	The Village Hall Trust wish to refurbish the existing toilets and kitchen to make the hall more welcoming and user friendly. The last refurbishment of the facilities was approximately 20 years ago. The refurbishment is especially needed in the kitchen where a number of drawer and door fronts are beyond repair.
Partnership Funding	None
Recommendation	Up to £3,321 as one third of project costs up to a maximum of £5,000

Name	Pilands Wood Community Association
Consultation	The local member, Councillor House, has been informed and comments “I support grant support to this Association which provides services in one of Eastleigh Borough’s highest areas of deprivation.”
Project	New reception area and extension to meeting room.
Cost	£10,155
General Reserves	£0
Project Reserves	£5,000
Statement	The current reception area is at the back of the building, meaning that often visitors are not seen immediately or feel intimidated when entering the building. The Association wish to move the reception area to the front of the building to make the Centre more welcoming. In turn, this will enable the Association to extend the meeting room next to the current reception area to make a larger more useable space.
Partnership Funding	Burseldon Parish Council £500 (confirmed) Eastleigh Borough Council £2,000 (Confirmed)
Recommendation	Up to £3,385 as one third of project costs up to a maximum of £5,000

Name	Portchester Community Association
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Price, has been informed and has declared his interest in this project as he is a trustee of the Association. He also comments "Portchester Community Centre is having a new building built and this should be built by September next year. The new building is not being fitted out with any new equipment and therefore all the old equipment will have to be transferred from the current building to the new building which is not very satisfactory as much of it is very old and way passed its sell by date. I therefore fully support the application as this will be new equipment which can be transferred in to the new building and will help to make the new building much better with new modern equipment, this will be very much appreciated by all the users of the current and new hall.
Project	Replacement Kitchen Equipment
Cost	£14,391
General Reserves	£79,000
Project Reserves	£0
Statement	The current Kitchen equipment used at the centre is from either the 1960's or 1980's. The equipment is outdated and in need of replacing. The project will enable the organisation to purchase new tables, chairs, crockery, cutlery and an evacuation chair for use by the sections of the Association and general public.
Partnership Funding	£9,053 Awards for All (To be Confirmed) £440 Fareham Borough Council (To be confirmed)
Recommendation	It is unusual to fund requests for this type of equipment from this particular scheme but I would recommend that an exception be made in this case. Up to £4,797 as one third of project costs up to a maximum of £5,000

Name	Romsey Abbey Parish Church Council
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Cooper, has been informed and comments “I am happy to support the grant of £500 for Romsey Abbey PCC.”
Project	Feasibility Study considering the purchase of the former Romsey Magistrates Court for community use.
Cost	£15,000
General Reserves	£0
Project Reserves	£0
Statement	The PCC are currently in discussion with Hampshire County Council regarding the purchase of the former Magistrates court in Romsey. The purchase would enable the PCC to provide community spaces, classes and social care as well as a café area for the people of Romsey and surrounding areas. In order to do this, they wish to carry out a feasibility study initially to assess need, operational use and the financial resources necessary for such a venture.
Partnership Funding	£0
Recommendation	Up to £500 as contribution towards a feasibility study to a maximum of £500

Name	Sparsholt Memorial Hall Trust
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Bailey, has been informed and comments “I fully support this project. The Hall is well used both for the local community and for Sparsholt School and needs to be safe for all.”
Project	Replacement Oil Tank
Cost	£2,578
General Reserves	£5,698
Project Reserves	£1,000
Statement	The current oil tank does not meet with current health and safety requirements due to it’s age and therefore is in need of replacing as soon as possible to prevent a possible leak causing detriment to the surrounding area.
Partnership Funding	None
Recommendation	Up to £859 as one third of project costs up to a maximum of £5,000

Name	St Matthews Parish Church Council
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Geddes, has been informed.
Project	Disabled Toilet Facility
Cost	£6,895
General Reserves	£0
Project Reserves	£0
Statement	This church needs to provide a disabled toilet in order for them to be compliant with current regulations. The church has a large number of disabled people using their facilities and this will mean they are able to provide a better level of comfort and service for their customers.
Partnership Funding	£0
Recommendation	Up to £2,298 as one third of the project costs up to a maximum of £5,000

Name	Winnall Community Association
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Collin, has been informed.
Project	New roof, insulation and heating system.
Cost	£145,975
General Reserves	£0
Project Reserves	£0
Statement	The current roof of the building is had to have major repairs over the last few years and the Association has now received advice that the roof is in need of replacement. The building also currently has no insulation and heating is provided by electric heaters. The Association wish to replace the roof with a new 'green' roof as well as insulate the roof, walls, windows and doors to provide a much more energy efficient building. They also wish to install a new heating system to help reduce costs.
Partnership Funding	£25,000 Winchester City Council (To be confirmed)
Recommendation	Up to £12,500 as fifty percent of combined District and Parish partnership funding up to a maximum of £12,500