

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture and Recreation
Date:	8 March 2012
Title:	Community Buildings Fund 2011/12
Reference:	3678
Report from	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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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	£
Butts Ash Community Association	New Forest	400.00
Springwood Community Association	Havant	2,575.00
Stanmore Community Association	Winchester	667.00
St Mary Magdalene Parish Church Council	East Hampshire	3,072.00
Westside Community Association	Basingstoke and Deane	9,375.00
TOTAL		16,089.00

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. In addition to the above Capital, there is a further sum of £18,875 allocated by Councillor Ellis specifically for applications from rural projects.
- 4.2 To date £117,143 has been allocated this year. If the recommendations in this report, which amount to £16,089, are approved then £5,643 will remain.

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 £16,089 as listed below be approved for allocation from the Community Buildings Fund for 2011/12.

Hall/Centre	District	£
Butts Ash Community Association	New Forest	400.00
Springwood Community Association	Havant	2,575.00
Stanmore Community Association	Winchester	667.00
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TOTAL		16,089.00

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.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
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	Butts Ash Community Association
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Dash, has been informed.
Project	Car Park Resurfacing
Cost	£1,200
General Reserves	£2000
Project Reserves	£300
Statement	Following a major refurbishment project over the summer, supported by the St John's Youth group, the Association are now looking to provide additional car parking provision at the rear of their building. Use of the centre is increasing and neighbouring houses are beginning to complain about users parking due to the road outside being narrow. By providing additional parking at the rear along with a turning circle, the Association will be better able to serve their users whilst reducing the noise and disturbance to residents.
Partnership Funding	None
Recommendation	Up to £400 as one third of the project costs.

Name	Springwood Community Association
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Beagley, has been informed and is fully in support of the Application
Project	Play Area Refurbishment
Cost	£7,724
General Reserves	£10,000
Project Reserves	£0
Statement	Unfortunately the pre-school who used to use the centre had to leave approximately 18 months ago. Currently a day service provider have taken the place of the Pre-school, however the outside space that the pre-school use is unsuitable for the Day Care service. The Association have been told by Havant Borough Council that the sandpit that is outside the main lounge/ hall area is dangerous and needs replacing. The Association wish to put in a ramp down to the area with handrails and cover the sandpit with slabs to ensure a useable outside space for those older people who attend the Day Care service.
Partnership Funding	None
Recommendation	Up to £2,575 as one third of the project costs.

Name	Stanmore Community Association
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Dickens, has been informed.
Project	New Fencing
Cost	£2,000
General Reserves	£3,000
Project Reserves	£1,400
Statement	The Stanmore Community Association now have a new Committee who are looking to improve the facilities available to the local residents. As a part of this, they wish to

improve the outside security and accessibility by installing a new fence and double gate. This project will also improve the aesthetics of the building.

Partnership Funding

None

Recommendation

Up to £667 as one third of the project costs.

Name

St Mary Magdalene Parish Church Council

Consultation

The local member, Councillor Kemp-Gee, has been informed and fully supports the Application

Project

New heating and lighting system

Cost

£9,216

General Reserves

£16,000

Project Reserves

£4,000

Statement

There are currently no heating systems within the hall and the lighting facilities are outdated and inadequate. The Church wishes to make these improvements in order to provide a better service to their users especially the older people of their area.

Partnership Funding

None

Recommendation

Up to £3,072 as one third of the project costs.

Name

Westside Community Association

Consultation

The local member, Councillor Hussey, has been informed.

Project

Window Replacement

Cost

£25,000

General Reserves

£11,000

Project Reserves

£5,000

Statement

The current windows within the Community Centre are all single glazed. Following a recent energy audit, it was decided that the

first priority should be to replace all the existing windows and fire doors to ensure better energy efficiency and reduce costs

Partnership Funding

Up to £18,750 from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (To be confirmed)

Recommendation

Up to £9,375 as up to 50% of the combined Parish and District backing up to a maximum of £12,500.