

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture and Recreation
Date:	25 April 2013
Title:	Community Buildings Fund 2013/14
Reference:	4814
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 community centres and village halls.
- 1.2 This report provides details of the financial position of the Community Buildings Fund in 2013/14 and details requests for partnership funding from this fund.

2. Applications considered in this report:

Hall/ Centre	District	£
Hampshire Art & Craft Community Interest Company, Romsey	Test Valley	12,500
Swanmore Tennis Club	Winchester	0
Froyle Village Hall	East Hants	1,002
St. Stephen's Village Hall, Tadley	Basingstoke & Deane	Delegated authority to the Director to decide
TOTAL		13,502

3. Contextual Information:

- 3.1 The County Council works in partnership with specific community organisations, particularly Community Associations and Village Hall Trusts which 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 village halls and Community Association buildings. 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 £125,000 has been set aside in the 2013/14 capital programme for Culture, Communities and Business Services to support the Community Buildings Fund. If the recommendations in this report, which amount to £13,502, are approved then £111,498 will remain.

5. Criteria for Grant:

- 5.1 The partnership funding distribution criteria is set out in Appendix 1.
- 5.2 Three projects have been put forward for a grant and, of these, two meet the criteria and one does not, as set out in Appendix 2.

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.

7. Recommendations:

7.1 That partnership funding totalling £13,502 as listed below be approved for allocation from the Community Buildings Fund for 2013/14.

Hall/ Centre	District	£
Hampshire Art & Craft Community Interest Company, Romsey	Test Valley	12,500
Swanmore Tennis Club	Winchester	0
Froyle Village Hall	East Hants	1,002
St. Stephen's Village Hall, Tadley	Basingstoke & Deane	Delegated authority to the Director to decide
TOTAL		13,502

7.2 That the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services be given delegated authority to consider the application from St. Stephen's Hall, Tadley for grant funding from the Community Buildings Fund 2013/14 and to award a grant up to a maximum of £15,000 if appropriate.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	No
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	Yes
Corporate Improvement 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
 Castle Avenue, Winchester

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
- Faith organisations that have a separate open access community programme on the property.

Who can't apply:

- Parish Councils and other local authorities
- Individual groups: youth clubs; playgroups; lunch clubs; uniformed organisations etc.
- School properties
- Sports Clubs.

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 funding from sources other than the organisations own funding up to a maximum of 25% of the project costs or £12,500, whichever is the lesser.

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 its overall completion.
4. Non priority work.

Name	Hampshire Art & Craft Community Interest Company
Consultation	Cllr M Cooper has been consulted
Project	1 st Floor education and café development
Statement	The project will enable the establishment of the education and cafe areas. This includes the creation of the 1st floor kitchen and serving areas with appropriate facilities, flooring and lighting, as well as the establishment of the children's area and the accessible toilet facilities. Once the education and cafe spaces are fully operational, this will enable the provision of regular workshops and sessions for groups such as creative play with young children, family workshops for young and inexperienced parents, book clubs, as well as craft and art demonstrations and workshops for individuals and groups.
Cost	£199,347
Amount organisation has for project	£0
Funding from other sources	Heritage Lottery Fund £99,600 (Not confirmed) Waitrose Community Fund £10,000 (Confirmed) Patrons, Sponsors and Friends £56,647 (Confirmed)
Recommendation	£12,500 as 50% of funding from other sources up to a maximum of £12,500

Name	Swanmore Tennis Club
Consultation	Cllr F Hindson has been consulted.
Project	Work with Swanmore College to provide floodlit tennis courts for local people to use.
Statement	The Club has 550 members on six courts. The Club will support Swanmore College to increase casual play on new floodlit courts, which will be available to members of the public at low cost 12 months of the year. The Club will also be providing free/subsidised tennis coaching to Swanmore Primary School, St Johns Primary School and pupils within Swanmore College in order to promote tennis and the use of the new courts. The club envisages an increase of traditional tennis members and an increase in the number of people receiving tennis coaching in the local rural area.
Cost	£30,000
Amount organisation has for project	£0
Funding from other sources	Swanmore Parish Council £2,000 (Not Confirmed) Hampshire Lawn Tennis Association £5,000 (Confirmed) Hampshire Playing Fields £1,500 (Confirmed) Member Donations £1,000 (Confirmed) Lawn Tennis Association £15,000 (Not confirmed)
Recommendation	£0 as the criteria states that sports clubs and schools cannot be supported. However, this grant has been referred to the Policy and Resources one-off grant stream for consideration.

Name	Froyle Village Hall
Consultation	Cllr M Kemp-Gee - being the Divisional CC, I am thoroughly in favour of increasing the proposed grant for Froyle VH to £5,000.
Project	Repairs and replacement of plumbing and boiler
Statement	This funding is to add to a previous HCC grant of £3,998. The work scheduled under the original grant led to the discovery of an under floor leak which caused damage to the new boiler. The most viable repair option was to alter the plumbing rather than dig up the hall floor. This increased the project cost. Cllr Chapman has visited the hall to discuss the project with the hall committee.
Cost	£2,805 +Vat (cost of extra work) Total project cost £15,350
Amount organisation has for project	£9,000
Funding from other sources	£1,000 Froyle Parish Council £4,350 Local Donations
Recommendation	£1,002 recommended following Cllr Chapman's visit.

Name	St. Stephens Village Hall, Tadley
Consultation	Cllr. K. Chapman has been consulted
Project	Replace the toilets, update the kitchen, repaint the main hall and replace hall curtains
Statement	The hall is underused because the facilities are not very appealing. Hall bookings would increase if it was a more cheerful and modern place to visit
Cost	
Amount organisation has for project	
Funding from other sources	
Recommendation	The original grant application was not filled in correctly and a new application is due to be received shortly. As the next Decision Day is on 20 June, it is recommended that the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services be given delegated authority to consider the application from St. Stephen's Hall, Tadley for grant funding from the Community Buildings Fund 2013/14 and to award a grant up to a maximum of £15,000 if appropriate.