

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****Decision Report :**

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Culture and Recreation
<b>Date of Decision:</b>	14 January 2010
<b>Decision Title:</b>	Community Buildings Fund 2009/10
<b>Decision reference:</b>	1149
<b>Report from</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs

Contact name: Margaret Plumridge

Tel: 01962 84 6173

Email [margaret.plumridge@hants.gov.uk](mailto: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 2009/10 and details requests for partnership funding from this fund.

**2. Applications considered in this report:**

<b>Hall/Centre</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>£</b>
Fair Oak Village Hall Management Committee	Eastleigh	3,931
Selborne Village Hall Trust	East Hampshire	4,000
St John the Evangelist Church Hall Committee Fareham	Fareham	1,135
The Valley Church Andover Trust	Test Valley	4,985
Woodley Village Hall Association	Test Valley	12,500
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>26,551</b>

**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 £80,000 was originally set aside in the 2009/10 capital programme for Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs to support the Community Buildings Fund. Since then an allocation of £25,000 has been made to the fund from the Rural Action Plan Fund to support applications from village halls bringing the total available for distribution to £105,000. To date £142,616 has been allocated this year and if the recommendations in this report, which amount to £26,551, are approved then this total will rise to £169,167. This over-commitment of £64,167 is within the sum identified as available following a review of the 2005/06 fund activity.

#### **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 £26,551 as listed below be approved for allocation from the Community Buildings Fund for 2009/10.**

Hall/Centre	District	£
Fair Oak Village Hall Management Committee	Eastleigh	3,931
Selborne Village Hall Trust	East Hampshire	4,000
St John the Evangelist Church Hall Committee Fareham	Fareham	1,135
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<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>26,551</b>

**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.)

Document

Location

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**

<b>Name</b>	Fair Oak Village Hall Management Committee
<b>Consultation</b>	The local member, Councillor Angela Roling, has been consulted and she supports the application.
<b>Project</b>	Window and door replacement
<b>Cost</b>	£11,794
<b>General Reserves</b>	£21,399
<b>Project Reserves</b>	None
<b>Statement</b>	The current window and door frames have rotted and the current units are single glazed and therefore not energy efficient. The management committee wishes to improve their energy efficiency and appearance of the hall by installing new windows and doors throughout the building to address these issues.
<b>Partnership Funding</b>	None
<b>Recommendation</b>	Up to £3,931 as one third of project costs

<b>Name</b>	Selborne Village Hall Trust
<b>Consultation</b>	The local member, Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee, has been consulted.
<b>Project</b>	Energy efficiency improvements to hall
<b>Cost</b>	£19,534
<b>General Reserves</b>	£4,000
<b>Project Reserves</b>	£1,534
<b>Statement</b>	The management committee wish to improve the energy efficiency of the village hall by installing new double glazed units to the front of the hall, new entrance doors and the installation of acoustic panelling in the roof. They also wish to create a new entrance lobby to improve the look and feel of the building
<b>Partnership Funding</b>	Selborne Parish Council £3,000 (To be confirmed) East Hampshire District Council £5,000 (Confirmed)
<b>Recommendation</b>	Up to £4,000 as 50% of the combined District and Parish Council contribution up to a maximum of £12,500

<b>Name</b>	St John the Evangelist Church Hall Committee, Fareham
<b>Consultation</b>	The local members, Councillors John Bryant and Ray Ellis, have been consulted.
<b>Project</b>	Rebuild stage and install stage furnishings
<b>Cost</b>	£3,405
<b>General Reserves</b>	£23,717
<b>Project Reserves</b>	£3,404
<b>Statement</b>	The current stage is beyond economic repair and is starting to present a risk of splintering. Some wood worm damage has also been found. Therefore, the hall committee wish to replace the stage and also take the opportunity to include stage dressings which have not previously been provided to add to the appeal of the hall.
<b>Partnership Funding</b>	None
<b>Recommendation</b>	Up to £1,135 as one third of the project costs.

<b>Name</b>	The Valley Church Andover Trust
<b>Consultation</b>	The local member, Councillor David Kirk, has been consulted and he supports the application.
<b>Project</b>	Repair and replace sash windows
<b>Cost</b>	£14,955
<b>General Reserves</b>	£0
<b>Project Reserves</b>	£7,000
<b>Statement</b>	The window frames of this Grade II listed building are now beginning to rot and are in need of urgent repair to prevent further risk to the public whilst still being in keeping with its listed status. New windows will also help to improve the efficiency of the building.
<b>Partnership Funding</b>	None
<b>Recommendation</b>	Up to £4,985 as one third of the project costs.

<b>Name</b>	Woodley Village Hall Association
<b>Consultation</b>	The local member, Councillor Roy Perry, has been consulted.
<b>Project</b>	Waterproofing cellar, disability improvements and improvements to heating system
<b>Cost</b>	£63,460
<b>General Reserves</b>	£0
<b>Project Reserves</b>	£5,000
<b>Statement</b>	This project involves a number of phases to generally improve the look and accessibility of the hall. This should help to increase the hall's letting potential and bring it into line with current disability access requirements. The works to the heating system will also help to improve the energy efficiency of the building
<b>Partnership Funding</b>	Romsey Extra Parish Council £6,250 approved in principle Test Valley Borough Council £18,750 (Confirmed)
<b>Recommendation</b>	Up to £12,500 as 50% of the combined District and Parish Council contribution.