

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture and Recreation
Date:	17 May 2011
Title:	Community Buildings Fund 2011/12
Reference:	2887
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	£
Blandford Hall	New Forest	1,316
Crofton Community Association	Fareham	7,500
Heath End Village Hall	Basingstoke and Deane	2,226
Longparish Village Hall	Test Valley	12,500
TOTAL		23,542

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 The recommendations in this report amount to £23,542 and will be funded from the Community Buildings Fund for 2011/12.

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 £23,542 as listed below be approved for allocation from the Community Buildings Fund for 2011/12.

Hall/Centre	District	£
Blandford Hall	New Forest	1,316
Crofton Community Association	Fareham	7,500
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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 its overall completion.
4. Non priority work.

Appendix 2

Name	Blandford Hall
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Heron, has been consulted *and supports the recommendation.*
Project	Rebuild of perimeter wall
Cost	£3,950
General Reserves	£5,857
Project Reserves	£2,000
Statement	The wall is collapsing into the road. The trustees have been advised that a repair is unrealistic as the binding mortar has deteriorated badly.
Partnership Funding	New Forest District Council £1,300 tbc
Recommendation	Up to £1,316 as one third of project costs up to a maximum of £5,000

Name	Crofton Community Association
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Knight, has been consulted *and supports the recommendation.*
Project	Kitchen and Toilet Refurbishment
Cost	£53,244
General Reserves	£42,094
Project Reserves	£17,500
Statement	Both kitchens are very well used but cupboards are broken and worktops split. The toilets are getting very shabby, stained floor and wash basin, will all be replaced with facilities that are easy to clean and sanitise.
Partnership Funding	Fareham Borough Council £15,000 tbc
Recommendation	Up to £7,500 as 50% of the district and parish contribution up to a maximum of £12,500

Name	Heath End Village Hall	
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Mrs Tucker, has been consulted *and supports the recommendation.*	
Project	Extension of artificial grass in 'ball wall' area	
Cost	£6,679	
General Reserves	£1,000	
Project Reserves	£3,000	
Statement	In 2007 a ball wall was installed on the village green attached to the hall for local children and young people to use for football and basketball. The ball wall is used every day but the artificial grass needs to be extended as there is a large worn area that becomes muddy in the rain. Extension will also reduce the damage to the surrounding grass and will encourage people to continue to use when the grass is wet.	
Partnership Funding	Baughurst Parish Council	£1000
Recommendation	Up to £2,226 as one third of project costs up to a maximum of £5,000	

Name	Longparish Village Hall	
Consultation	The local member, Councillor Gibson, has been consulted *and supports the recommendation.*	
Project	Refurbishment of village hall including accessible toilets and entrance hall.	
Cost	£240,000	
General Reserves	£5,500	
Project Reserves	£18,000	
Statement	<p>The hall is not wheelchair accessible. It is cold damp, dark and dreary and difficult to heat. The windows are too high to see out of. There is no accessible toilet and both the ladies and gents are accessed directly from the main hall so difficult to use discreetly. Some parts of the hall are so dilapidated they are unusable. The project will make the hall more attractive and easier to use. It will be warmer and lighter, accessible to all , have better storage and good, modern toilet and kitchen facilities.</p>	
Partnership Funding	Test Valley Borough Council	£18,750 tbc
	Longparish Parish Council	£40,000
	Veolia Trust	£40,000 tbc
	Reaching Communities	£50,000 tbc
	Garfield Weston	£50,000 tbc
Recommendation	Up to £12,500 as 50% of the district and parish contribution up to a maximum of £12,500	