

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report :**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture and Recreation
Date:	8 July 2010
Title:	Community Buildings Fund 2010/11
Reference:	1643
Report from	Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs

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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 2010/11 and details requests for partnership funding from this fund.

2. Applications considered in this report:

Hall/Centre	District	£
Alton Methodist Church	East Hampshire	2,500
Barton Methodist Church	New Forest	5,250
Clanfield Parish Institute	East Hampshire	10,000
TOTAL		17,750

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 £84,000 has been set aside in the 2010/11 capital programme for Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs to support the Community Buildings Fund. To date £3,294 has been allocated this year and if the recommendations in this report, which amount to £17,750 are approved then £62,956 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 £17,750 as listed below be approved for allocation from the Community Buildings Fund for 2010/11.

Hall/Centre	District	£
Alton Methodist Church	East Hampshire	2,500
Barton Methodist Church	New Forest	5,250
Clanfield Parish Institute	East Hampshire	10,000
TOTAL		17,750

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 its overall completion.
4. Non priority work.

Appendix 2

Name	Alton Methodist Church
Consultation	The local member is Councillor Andrew Joy.
Project	Complete hall refurbishment
Cost	£874,500
General Reserves	£86,500
Project Reserves	£201,000
Statement	The committee are looking to extensively update and renovate the church hall facilities in order to provide a better facility for their users and attract new custom into the building. This will include a completely new layout to the hall ensuring better access and more flexibility as well as a new kitchen and improved disabled toilets. The work will also contribute towards making the space more environmentally friendly with improved insulation, energy efficient lighting and double glazing.
Partnership Funding	East Hampshire District Council £5,000 (Awaiting Decision)
Recommendation	Up to £2,500 as 50% of the combined District and Town Council contributions.

Name	Barton-on-Sea Methodist Church
Consultation	The local member is Councillor Mel Kendal.
Project	New kitchen
Cost	£50,000
General Reserves	None
Project Reserves	None
Statement	The Methodist Church wishes to extend and completely refurbish the kitchen at the church hall. This will help to encourage new users and will provide better, more hygienic facilities for those using the hall.
Partnership Funding	£10,000 from New Forest District Council (Confirmed) £500 from New Milton Town Council (Confirmed)
Recommendation	Up to £5,250 as 50% of the combined District and Town Council Contributions.

Name	Clanfield Parish Institute
Consultation	The local member is Councillor John West.
Project	Structural roof repairs
Cost	£70,000
General Reserves	£11,402
Project Reserves	None
Statement	Unfortunately this Village Hall has remained closed for approximately 1 year due to a structural fault with the roof. This is currently being supported with scaffolding. However, there is a need to replace the existing roof in order to make the hall useable again.
Partnership Funding	Clanfield Parish council £15,000 (Confirmed) East Hampshire District Council £5,000 (Awaiting Decision)
Recommendation	Up to £10,000 as 50% of the combined District and Parish Council Contributions.