

Decision Maker: RENEWAL & RECREATION PORTFOLIO HOLDER
FOR PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY BY THE RENEWAL AND RECREATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: 18th September 2013

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: **COMMUNITY HALLS FUND: APPLICATION FROM HAYES VILLAGE HALL**

Contact Officer: Colin Brand, Assistant Director Leisure and Culture
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Chief Officer: Nigel Davies, Director of Environment & Community Services

Ward: Hayes and Coney Hall

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 An application for grant aid has been received from the Hayes Village Hall management Committee with respect to roof re-covering works.
- 1.2 This reports sets out the details of the application, together with officer's comments and the approved criteria in respect of such grants.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the Portfolio Holder approves the award of a grant of £2,500 towards the costs of re-roofing Hayes Village Hall subject to the successful completion of the works.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. BBB Priority: Supporting Independence:
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated Cost £2,500
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Community Halls Fund
 4. Total current budget for this head: £10,517
 5. Source of funding: Community Halls Fund
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-Statutory - Government Guidance:
 2. Call-in: Applicable:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): 5000+
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Yes
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

Cllr. Manning commented that:

I fully support this application for Grant, bearing in mind the extensive facilities provided for and by the local community in the Hall. The Village Hall Management Committee also does what it can to ensure that the less well-off organisations can continue to operate. I am told that the life of the Hall will be extended by about another 30 years as a consequence of the roofing works, which include badly-needed insulation. The grant will be put, therefore, to very good use.

Cllr. Arthur commented that:

I also fully support this application. Hayes Village Hall has been at the heart of the Hayes community since its construction and has served successive generations but never more so than today. From time to time the community has creatively funded the necessary repairs and this is a real opportunity to show support for the outstanding effort now being made for this major refurbishment.

Cllr. Reddin responded by saying that he too supports the application in the same terms.

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 A grant application to the Community halls Fund has been received from the Hayes Village Hall Management Committee for a contribution to the costs of re-roofing the village hall. The current roof is now no longer water tight and water ingress is impacting on the hire of the hall. The Hall Management Committee have been raising funds for the works from a number of sources, with the works programmed to have started in August, and with completion anticipated by mid September 2013.

Approved Criteria

3.2 The Community Halls Fund was originally established in 1978 with a sum of £25,000 for assistance towards the cost of repair and maintenance of privately owned halls which were available for “pubic use”. At its meeting on the 23rd May 1996, the then Leisure and Community Services Committee agreed that its Community Halls Fund could be used to make grants of up to 50% to meet the expense of repairs to halls which can be demonstrated as being available for wider public use.

3.3 Applications, which are considered on a “first come first served” basis, must also show that there is a financial need for assistance and that the Council has been approached as a last resort. Applications must be supported by evidence of financial viability of the scheme and the financial situation of the applicant. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have the ability to fully fund the costs of the works as any grant agreed will only be paid once the works have been fully completed and signed off. Overall, the level of grant applications has remained consistent over the life of the fund with on average two or three requests received each year.

3.4 In 2008, the then Environment and Leisure Committee, agreed that in future, grant requests of below £1,000 would be delegated to the Director of Environment and Leisure Services.

3.5 The Hayes Village Hall application meets the above criteria. The Hall is available for community use on a non- profit making basis and the application is made to support works to enable the hall to continue operating as an effective community resource.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Community Halls Fund was established to support local groups in the management of local halls that were providing community access on a not for profit basis. This application fully meets those criteria.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 As of the 1st September 2013 there was a balance of £10,517 in the Fund. The costs of the works in total are £41,939. The audited accounts of the Hayes Village Hall Committee show that the Committee have £21,384 in their reserve account as of the 5th July 2013 and a further £26,452 in their Bonus Saver account as of the 28th June 2013 showing that they have sufficient funds to complete the works.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Legal and Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Community Halls Fund – Leisure and Culture PDS 12/7/04 Hayes Village Hall Management Committee Annual Accounts