
REPORT TO:	Housing and Community Services	AGENDA ITEM: 7
DATE OF MEETING:	9 June 2005	CATEGORY:
REPORT FROM:	Director of Community Services	DELEGATED OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	M Roseburgh/D Townley-Jones	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Community Partnership Scheme	REF: HCS 07
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That members consider the recommendations of the Community Partnerships Scheme Assessment Panel and award a grant of £25,000 to Dalbury Lees Millennium Hall Trust for their Community Hall project.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To update members on applications for funding received by the Community Partnership Scheme and seek approval for recommendations from the assessment panel for awards from the scheme.

3.0 Executive Summary

3.1 The Community Partnership Scheme for 2005/06 is continuing according to the same processes and procedures as previously agreed and reported to Committee.

3.2 In total three applications were received for the first bidding round of 2005/06 asking for £29,350 against a budget for the year of £150,000. One application was deemed ineligible due to its revenue nature and therefore not scored. Of the other two applications one is recommended to receive a full grant and one recommended to receive no grant due to its low score.

4.0 Detail

4.1 The Community Partnership Scheme offers capital grants of up to £25,000 from an annual budget of £150,000 to projects brought forward from the voluntary and community sector. A panel comprising five Councillors, with advice from the Partnership Development Officer, assess projects against set criteria and then make recommendations about grant distribution to the Committee.

4.2 The applications received and considered for the first round of the scheme in 2005/06 were as follows:

**Dalbury Lees Millennium Hall Trust – Dalbury Lees Community Hall
(Requesting £25,000)**

The Trust was set up with the key objective of providing a new facility after the original owner of the village hall sold the property in 1996 and left the community with no meeting place. The organisation has a small but dedicated voluntary management committee made up of members of the community with a wide range of skills and experience.

The aim of the project is to purchase and erect a prefabricated wooden hall of 130 square metres and erect it on the site already purchased by the Trust, complete fitting it out internally and complete all external connections, car park etc.

Dalbury Lees is part of the Northern parishes area, which has several small communities with limited bus services and few other local amenities. The Trust have consulted widely within their own and neighbouring communities to ascertain likely use and prepared a business plan on this basis to demonstrate the halls viability.

The total eligible project cost is £80,575 which includes the building, land, site preparation, service connections, entrance, car park and landscaping, fitting out etc. The project has requested £25,000 from this scheme. The remainder of funding is coming from the organisations own reserves (from local fundraising), the Duke of Devonshire Trust, Rolls Royce and Toyota, with applications outstanding to the Midlands Co-operative Society, Lennox Hannay Charitable Trust, May Heathcote Charitable Trust, WREN and Garfield Weston Foundation.

**Newton Solney Village Hall – Rewiring of the whole of the Building
(Requesting £1,350)**

The Village Hall is a registered charity that wishes to rewire the whole of the Village Hall and in so doing make the building safe for use and regain it's entertainment licence. The Hall is managed by a committee consisting of 4 elected officials, two elected members and representatives from each of the user groups. The uses of the hall include pre-school, parents and toddlers, Women's Institute, senior citizens, art and calligraphy, whist drives, rabbit shows, badminton, bowls, tennis, snooker, rifle club, talks, shows, meetings and family celebrations.

The Village Hall is the only community facility in the village and consists of a main hall, committee room, kitchen, rifle range/indoor bowls area/exhibition space, snooker room, outdoor bowls green, tennis court and separate grass area.

The rewire will cost £5,400 and the group has requested £1,350 from this scheme. The remainder of funding will come from their own modernisation fund and a request to the Parish Council for £1,350.

**Willington Parish Council – Refurbishment of Tennis Courts
(Requesting £3,000)**

Willington Parish Council is an active Parish Council with a diverse and skilled make up, regular meetings and a number of sub committees. The aim of their project is to

restore local tennis courts giving them a playable surface and a new 2m high fence. By doing this they hope to provide a recreational facility for the local community in general and young people in particular that will encourage a healthy lifestyle.

The existing surface and fencing are in a very poor state of repair. There is no tennis club in Willington and the nearest municipal facility is 3 miles away in Etwall. The Parish Council have some plans for advertising the courts and have links with a local tennis coach and activity club that are keen to use the facility.

The refurbishment will cost £14,404. The Parish Council have £4,256 available in an asset renewal fund and have made an application to the Derbyshire Aggregates Levy Scheme for £9,000 to which they expect a decision in mid July.

4.3 The Community Partnership Scheme Assessment Panel met on 12 May 2005 to score the applications against the questions and weightings previously agreed during the relaunch of the scheme. The weighted criteria include links with corporate priorities, security of external funding, sustainability, value of other contributions, value for money, community involvement, risk and commitment to equal opportunities.

4.4 In considering the applications prior to formal assessment and scoring the panel decided that the application from Newton Solney Village Hall was ineligible and should not be scored. The rationale for this decision was that the application for a rewire was considered revenue rather than capital in nature. In addition in contrast to one of the key objectives of the scheme the project as it stood was leveraging in no external funding. In light of the nature of the application the Panel wished that officers should contact the group and offer support in respect of both alternative funding options and making applications.

Once the weightings had been applied the final scores of the remaining two projects were as follows:

Dalbury Lees Millennium Hall Trust – Community Hall	7.00
Willington Parish Council – Tennis Court Refurbishment	3.67

4.5 The point previously used as a cut off in terms of making positive recommendations to committee was 4.67. The panel's recommendation for distribution of grant was therefore as follows:

Dalbury Lees Millennium Hall Trust – Community Hall	£25,000
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4.6 It should be noted that the recommendation for an award of £25,000 to the Dalbury Lees Millennium Hall Trust is within the schemes normal maximum limit (i.e. £25,000). However, it is above the normal limit in terms of percentage of total project costs (i.e. between 5 and 25%). Nonetheless within the guidance the Council reserves the right to make recommendations outside the usual procedures if they judge circumstances dictate.

4.7 The formal application from the Trust was accompanied by a request that acknowledged what they were asking for was slightly above normal limits but cited the discretionary element and made reference to circumstances they felt justified applying the discretionary powers. The main justification was that in 1999 the Council had previously agreed a grant of £25,000 to help with purchase of the land but had

had to withdraw the grant at short notice due to the financial crisis of the time. In order to rescue the project all the Trust's money at the time was used to purchase the land. The withdrawal of grant therefore significantly delayed the project and necessitated a new cycle of fundraising and project development.

4.8 The panel also requested that the grant recommended for Dalbury Lees should be conditional on the hall having access and toilets for people with disabilities.

4.9 When committee has agreed the allocation of resources all projects will be contacted and informed of the decision. Successful projects will then have 12 months in which to spend their award. If the grant is not spent within this time period then applicants will need to reapply unless otherwise agreed. Grant payments will be released upon receipt of invoices or independently certified completion reports. The projects will also be monitored to ensure that the aims and objectives of the project have been met.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 The award of grants falls within the Community Partnerships budget allocation.

6.0 Corporate Implications

6.1 The scheme contributes to a number of the Council's key aims including safeguarding and enhancing a sustainable environment, reducing crime and disorder, developing a vibrant economy and improving access to leisure and cultural activities. In addition each individual project's impact on corporate priorities has been assessed as part of the appraisal process.

7.0 Community Implications

7.1 The scheme maximises funding available for community investment by providing both direct funding and enabling leverage from other funding sources. It also continues to offer a direct line of communication with the voluntary and community sector.

7.2 The impact on the community and amount of community involvement in each individual project has been assessed as part of the appraisal process.

8.0 Conclusions

8.1 The Community Partnerships Scheme continues to provide the District Council with an excellent means to support a variety of community partners in improving the quality of life for local residents. It also enables the community partners to lever in additional external funding to the district.

9.0 Background Papers

9.1 File: CPS – Returned applications and assessments Round 1 2005/06