

**CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES
5 SEPTEMBER 2010**

VILLAGE HALL/COMMUNITY CENTRE GRANTS 2011/2012

Report by Director for Social and Community Services

Introduction

1. The County Council's grant scheme for the improvement of village halls and other community buildings is administered by the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC). This report summarises the applications received and recommends allocations from the grant fund for 2011/12.

Applications Received

2. Fifteen applications were received and were checked against the established eligibility criteria of the scheme (Annex 1).
3. Notes of each application are in the Members' Resource Centre.

ORCC Grant Recommendations

4. ORCC's grant recommendations are attached in the table at (**Annex 2**). These have been discussed with ORCC's Village Halls Advisory Group consisting of representatives of village hall committees countywide.

Third Party Funding as a trigger for Landfill Tax Credit support for projects

5. It is possible that in a few cases part of a grant recommended for a project will be needed as Third Party Funding in order to trigger a grant from the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment. This is a productive use of the Council's financial support in order to lever in other funds. A note about Third Party Funding is included in the Guide to the application notes in the Members' Resource Centre.

Progress on grants allocated in previous years.

6. Twenty two grants were allocated in 2009/10 totalling £58,843. Of these two projects are still in progress (Fencott £2,000, and Upper Heyford, £2,500).
7. Sixteen grants were allocated in 2010/11 totalling £59,137. Of these, one project is still in progress (Shenington, £5,000) and one project is in the process of claiming (Ramsden, £5,000).

Financial Implications

8. The annual budget for the grants in 2011/12 is £59,137. The grant of £7,500 awarded in 2010/11 to Wiggington Village Hall has been withdrawn owing to circumstances at the hall. With the approval of the Director for Social and Community Services, this has been allocated to this year's budget, bringing the total of grants recommended in this report to £66,637.
9. Funds from 2009/10 and 2010/11 budgets have been carried forward to meet the commitments made to projects approved in those financial years.

RECOMMENDATION

- 10. The Cabinet Member for Safer and Stronger Communities is RECOMMENDED to approve the grants proposed in Annex 2 to this report**

John Jackson
Director for Social and Community Services

Background papers: Notes on Applications

Contact Officer: Karen Warren, Acting County Librarian, Tel: (01865) 323580

September 2011