

**SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
18 FEBRUARY 2013**

**VILLAGE HALL/COMMUNITY CENTRE GRANTS**

**Report by Head of Law and Culture**

## **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). The annual budget for the grants is currently £59,137. This Report sets out the criteria by which applications are assessed, the level of grants awarded and presents an analysis of grants awarded over the last five years.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

2. Village halls and community centres i.e. buildings in urban and rural areas which are available for use by a wide range of local people and organisations are eligible to apply. The managing body of the building should be a properly constituted voluntary organisation representative of users or a town/parish council in a community of under 10,000 population.
3. Buildings managed by one particular sectional organisation will not normally be eligible. If such a building serves a wider role in the community and no publicly-owned facility is available, an application can be considered on its merits. In the case of any building not held on trust for public use, the managing body must undertake to make the building available for general public use for at least 21 years.
4. Grants will be considered for:
  - acquisition of land or buildings
  - adaptation and improvement of existing buildings and their accessibility
  - erection of new buildings
  - professional fees, including assistance with initial design and costing work
  - other associated expenses, e.g. fencing, car park

- major replacement items such as a new floor, new roof, new heating system

Grants will not be considered for:

- routine repairs or maintenance work
- associated outdoor facilities, such as play areas, sports facilities and associated changing rooms, which are not related to the indoor use of the building.

5. Other criteria are also taken into consideration:

- There should be sufficient security of tenure of the building – a freehold or long lease.
- Planning permission and building regulations approval should have been obtained.
- The property should not be subject to a mortgage or a loan secured on the property
- Grant aid is not available for any expenditure on the project which has already been committed or incurred.

6. Applicants also have to show that:

- there is a need for the project which could not be met by any other means
- there is financial need for a grant
- other sources of finance are available to supplement the grant requested from the County Council to meet the total cost of the project. It will normally be expected that grant aid support will be sought from the Town/Parish Council and District Council
- the project is technically feasible and reasonably priced. At least 3 estimates or a costing by a quantity surveyor should have been obtained
- the design and construction meet health and safety and other relevant regulations
- all building work whether or not it requires building control approval should comply with Part M (2004) of the Building Regs. 2000
- the property is adequately insured

## **Award of Grants**

7. The County Council seeks to make available grants of up to 35% of total project costs, normally up to a maximum cash limit of £10,000. For projects to provide access/facilities for people with disabilities, the Council seeks to make available grants of up to 50% of total project costs (normally subject to the same cash limit). For schemes affected by the maximum cash limit there is the possibility of applying for grant aid phased over more than one year.
8. All applications should indicate how projects will result in accommodation which is more effective and better able to meet local needs. The County Council will give priority to the following:
  - Projects where there is no existing publicly-owned provision and no other suitable alternative facilities or where existing provision is seriously inadequate.
  - Work on existing accommodation which if not carried out would seriously threaten the future of the building or seriously restrict its use.
  - Work required for health and safety reasons.
  - Work to provide access/facilities for people with disabilities and to ensure, as a minimum, compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act
9. It is expected that building work should commence within 12 months from the date on which grant aid is agreed. Work should be completed within 2 years from that date.

## **Grants Awarded**

10. An analysis of grants awarded over the last five years is attached at Annex 1.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

11. **The Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to:**

- a) **note the report.**

PETER CLARK  
Head of Law and Culture

Background papers: Notes on Applications

Contact Officer: Karen Warren, Cultural Services Manager

## VILLAGE HALL/COMMUNITY CENTRE GRANTS - ANNEX A

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL VILLAGE HALL/COMMUNITY GRANTS AWARDED 2008 - 2012					
DISTRICT	HALL	PROJECT	OCC Funding	PROJECT COST	
Cherwell	Claydon	Install disabled w.c.and repairs to roof	4,710	13,466	
	Drayton	Make building water tight	7,500	30,383	
	Balscote	Equip new kitchen, install disabled ramp and pathway	2,500	13,700	
	Sherington	Improve disabled access	5,000	16,450	
	Wigginton	Build new toilet block to include new disabled toilet	7,500	28,241	
	Arncott	Refurbish kitchen	1,500	16,638	
	Steeple Aston	Update heating and fit secondary glazed windows	3,000	15,381	
	Begbroke	Replace windows	4,000	12,529	
	Chesterton	Provide disabled w.c. and refurbish kitchen	2,500	31,050	
	Merton	Install disabled w.c. and refurbish toilet/kitchen area	3,000	43,815	
	Upper Heyford	Install disabled w.c. and refurbish existing toilets	2,500	19,159	
	Fencott & Murcott	Refurbish kitchen	2,000	7,906	
	Hornton	Extend kitchen, replace windows update changing rooms	4,500	98,112	
	Somerton	Equip new kitchen	2,000	14,854	
	Steeple Aston Rec Trust	Replace hall flooring	2,800	9,344	
	Mollington	Refurbish kitchen	2,500	17,605	
	Sherington	Refurbish kitchen	3,180	11,585	
	Tadmarton	To cover over disabled access to building	1,000	3,290	
	Wroxton	Refurbish existing facilities	9,000	48,178	
	Wendlebury	Redevelop kitchen and bar area	2,000	54,746	
				<b>72,690</b>	<b>506,432</b>
	Oxford City	Oxford Asian Centre	Demountable stage and chairs	3,400	9,758
		East Oxford Comm Centre	Refurbish Centre	defer	35,000
Mortimer Hall, Old Marston		Install disabled w.c. and refurbish existing toilets	4,258	42,573	
Mortimer Hall, Old Marston		Remove stage to create new space for toilets	2,500	8,075	
			<b>10,158</b>	<b>95,406</b>	
South	Cholsey	New Parish Hall	10,000	1,136,331	
	Cuxham	Refurbish hall	7,500	23,443	
	Garsington	Refurbish and extend hall to include better DDA facilities	10,000	246,000	
	Mapledurham	Repair and replace roof including insulation	6,500	18,750	
	Tetsworth	Install disabled w.c., improve access and renew heating	7,500	208,508	
	Ewelme	Replace 10 existing windows	1,307	4,757	
	Goring	Extend the existing hall	7,500	98,000	
	Great Milton Pavilion	Refurbish pavilion/hall to include new disabled facilities	7,500	192,398	
	Ipsden	Install disabled w.c. and refurbish existing toilets	5,000	16,199	
	Checkendon	Update heating, insulation, electrics and flooring	1,500	45,993	
	Rotherfield Peppard	Replace existing windows	2,500	17,000	
	Berrick & Roke	Install disabled w.c. and refurbish toilets and kitchen	3,000	34,494	
	Britwell Salome	Refurbish existing facilities to include disabled access	4,000	52,958	
	Great Haseley	Install disabled w.c. and refurbish existing toilets	1,585	18,785	
	Sydenham	Run gas, install heating and replace wooden floor	3,000	23,644	
	Shiplake	Install fire alarm and emergency lighting	2,800	8,941	
	Chinnor Village Centre	Redevelop existing facilities	5,000	60,000	
	Crowmarsh Gifford	Renew ceiling and lighting	1,000	5,200	
	Pyrtton	Lower and insulate ceiling and lighting	2,000	33,852	
	Rotherfield Peppard	Upgrade heating and refurbish kitchen	3,000	18,079	
	Chinnor VH	Extend and refurbish hall	5,000	561,059	
	Holton	Extension for storage	5,000	46,155	
	Kingston Blount	Refurbish toilets	1,400	19,467	
			<b>103,592</b>	<b>2,890,013</b>	
Vale	Grove	Refurbish kitchen	6,000	18,500	
	Kingston Lisle	Refurbish hall	5,000	28,800	
	East Hendred	Refurbish existing toilets	3,000	21,000	
	Childrey	Refurbish kitchen	3,000	15,967	
	Farmoor	Refurbish hall, to include new lighting and new heaters	2,000	16,388	
	Bourton	Install disabled w.c. and refurbish existing toilets	2,000	11,330	
	Northcourt Centre, Abingdon	Replace wooden floor	1,000	5,582	
	Appleton with Eaton	Install Fire Alarm system	1,950	5,955	
	Upton	Extend hall to increase space in main hall and storage	8,750	118,400	
	Wootton & Dry Sandford	To redevelop existing facilities	9,000	811,980	
			<b>41,700</b>	<b>1,053,902</b>	
West	Milton under Wychwood	Resurface Car Park	6,000	21,928	
	South Leigh	Renovate Hall	10,000	231,000	
	Over Norton	Install double doors to improve access to hall	5,000	30,018	
	Bampton	Refurbish kitchen	5,000	25,000	
	Combe	New storage	5,000	34,756	
	Filkins	Upgrade heating and refurbish kitchen	5,000	31,250	
	Ramsden	Meeting Room Developments	5,000	42,300	
	Bampton	Refurbish kitchen	3,000	25,000	
	Combe	New storage	3,137	34,756	
	Fifield Parish Hall	Refurbish existing facilities for Health and Safety	5,000	62,687	
	Asthall Leigh	Install disabled w.c., replace part of roof and window	1,500	49,364	
	Brownes Hall, Carterton	Install heating, update toilets and kitchen	4,000	23,500	
	Finstock	To repair damage to floor and roof	380	1,965	
			<b>58,017</b>	<b>613,524</b>	
			<b>286,157</b>	<b>5,159,277</b>	