

**CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES
21 JANUARY 2013**

VILLAGE HALL/COMMUNITY CENTRE GRANTS 2012/2013

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). This Report summarises the applications received and recommends allocations from the balance of the grant fund for 2012/13.

Applications Received

2. Six 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 previously

6. Twelve grants were allocated in 2011/12. Of these, two projects, totalling £13,560, are still in progress (Over Norton, Tetsworth) and one project (Claydon) has made a part claim, the balance to be claimed being £2,242.50.
7. Six grants were allocated in September 2012, of which £12,000 has already been claimed, leaving 4 projects still in progress.

Financial Implications

8. The annual budget for the grants in 2012/13 was £59,137. The grants recommended for allocation in September 2012 totalled £35,400, with the allocation of the balance, £23,737, being deferred to this meeting.
9. The grant of £1,120 awarded in 2011/12 to Ducklington Village Hall has recently been withdrawn, as the planned work could not proceed. This sum has been added to the balance above, bringing the total for grants recommended for allocation in this report to £24,857.
10. Funds from 2011/12 budget have been carried forward to meet the commitments made to projects approved in that financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

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

PETER CLARK
Head of Law and Culture

Background papers: Notes on Applications

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