

CABINET

4-FEBRUARY 2009

COMMUNITY GRANTS – CAPITAL AWARDS 2009-2010

REPORT OF HEAD OF PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNICATIONS

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RECENT REFERENCES:

WTF 125 – Community Grants Capital Awards – 13 January 2009

CAB 1612 – Community Grants Capital Awards 2008-2009 – 13 February 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report contains details of applications for capital grant aid in 2009/10 and recommends appropriate levels of support based on the policies and criteria currently in force and the availability of resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Cabinet, subject to Council approval of the 2009/10 budget provision:

- 1 Approves the allocation of £9,000 for the 2009/10 Community Chest grant programme.
- 2 Approves the following capital grants for 2009/10, subject to compliance with the conditions of grant currently in force and any additional conditions specified in Appendix 1:

(i) Alresford & District Community Association	£3,600
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(ii)	Cheriton Village Hall Committee	£5,000
(iii)	East Stratton Village Hall	£10,000
(iv)	New Alresford Town Trust (Eel House)	£2,000
(v)	Winchester Dramatic Society (Chesil Theatre)	£20,000
(vi)	Winchester Lido Sports Association	£5,400

3 Expresses regret that it is unable to support the following applications:

- (i) New Alresford Town Council (West Street Project)
- (ii) Weeke Community Association

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DETAIL:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present details of the community capital grant applications for 2009/10 and to recommend appropriate levels of support for each, as outlined in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The original application forms and supporting documents are held in the Partnerships and Communications Division. Any Member wishing to study the forms prior to the meeting should contact the Partnership and External Funding Officer who will make the necessary arrangements.

2 Resources

- 2.1 The 2009/10 budget proposals recommend a reduced budget for capital grants from £80,000 to £65,000 (CAB1786).
- 2.2 There is an earmarked grant reserve which exists in order that emergency grant requests (both capital and revenue) can be supported. The balance on the earmarked grant reserve at 31 March 2008 was £64,591 and during 2008/09 £22,674 has been released from this reserve leaving a balance of £41,917 at 23 January 2009.
- 2.3 Eight applications for capital grant were received and the total amount of grant requested for 2009/10 was £85,600, which is in excess of the available budget. This report recommends grant awards totalling £46,000 for 2009/10.
- 2.4 The application from Winchester Dramatic Society (Chesil Theatre) requests a grant of £90,000 to be spread over 3 years. Consideration will be given to awarding further grants to this organisation in 2010-11 and 2011-12 should funds be available.

- 2.5 A sum of £9,000 is to be made available for the Community Chest Scheme in 2009/10. This will provide very small grants of up to £500 for one-off items of expenditure. In the five years since the Scheme was established, 181 grants have been awarded across a wide range of community and voluntary organisations.
- 2.6 A sum of £10,000 remains unallocated from the capital grant budget. Should this remain unallocated by the year end it will be added to the grant reserve.

3 Application Details

- 3.1 Details of all the applications received are shown in Appendix 1. Each project has been subject to a rigorous evaluation to assess the level of community benefit, compliance with the policies and criteria currently in force, the level of external funding already secured, and sustainability. The recommended grant levels reflect the results of these considerations.
- 3.2 Members are reminded that the maximum level of City Council grant aid available to each project is double the contribution from the local parish council or the Winchester Town Account. There is an exception where the tax base for the Parish is 150 or below, which does not apply to any of the applications received.
- 3.3 Three requests for capital grant have been received from groups within the Town Forum area.
- 3.4 Two applications have not been recommended for support:
- (i) New Alresford Town Council (West Street Project) – grant has not been awarded for this scheme as it is not eligible under the current criteria for capital grant. This project to be further evaluated and a report to be submitted to a future Cabinet.
 - (ii) Weeke Community Association – This group was awarded a grant of £7,000 in 2006-2007 but due to lack of other funding have not been able to progress this work. They have now revised the project into phases and have requested an additional grant for this work. The request was refused as it was considered that this organisation already has grant to enable the first phase of work to go ahead. Once they have completed this phase then they will be encouraged to apply for grant to complete the later stages.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

4 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 4.1 The priority areas for capital grant funding are in line with the Winchester City Council Corporate Strategy 2008 - 2013, and the Winchester District Community Strategy (updated March 2007).
- 4.2 The community capital grants scheme helps address many of the Council's priorities for the District and in particular those under Health and Wellbeing, and Inclusive Societies.
- 4.3 The provision of grants to village halls and recreational facilities is authorised by S 19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. Theatres can be given grants under S145 Local Government Act 1972. Grants can be made in respect of buildings of historic interest under S57 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The recommendations in this report demand a total capital commitment of £55,000, which is made up of £46,000 in capital grant awards, and the £9,000 set aside for Community Chest grants.
- 5.2 The proposed capital programme allocation for grants in 2009/10, which will be decided upon as part of the budget consideration taking place elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting, is £65,000. Detailed debate on the resource issues is included in Section 2 of this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Completed grant application forms and supporting documentation held in the Partnerships & Communications Team files.

APPENDICES:

Appendix I - Capital Grant Applications 2009/10

Capital Grant Applications 2009/10

Name of Organisation	Alresford & District Community Association
Parish Council	New Alresford
Tax Base & Precept (Band D)	Tax Base: £2,229.54 Precept : £112.13
Project Details	Repairs to stonework above front entrance. The building is a Grade II listed building and the stonework above the entrance is deteriorating, and is a health and safety issue for users of the building.
Comments (if any)	
Total Project Cost	£8,225
Parish Council Contribution	£1,800
Amount Requested from WCC	£3,600
Recommendation	£3,600
Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organisation must secure building regulations consent and planning permission as required prior to commencing works. • Subject to PC funding

Name of Organisation	Cheriton Village Hall Committee
Parish Council	Cheriton
Tax Base & Precept (Band D)	Tax Base: £303.81 Precept : £27.98
Project Details	To construct an access ramp to the main door of the village hall and build toilets to meet the needs of disabled users. Refit and modernise old toilets for men and ladies to meet health and safety regulations.
Comments (if any)	
Total Project Cost	£21,160.00
Parish Council Contribution	£2,500
Amount Requested from WCC	£5,000.00
Recommendation	£5,000.00
Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organisation must secure building regulations consent and planning permission as required prior to commencing works. • Subject to PC funding

Name of Organisation	East Stratton Village Hall
Parish Council	Micheldever
Tax Base & Precept (Band D)	Tax Base: £577.66 Precept : £62.32
Project Details	Demolish and rebuild of village hall
Comments (if any)	This group has been working on this project over the last two years. This grant will provide the final match funding (£60,000) for the Parish contribution. It is planned that work on this project will commence in the Spring of 2009.
Total Project Cost	£275,000.00
Parish Council Contribution	£30,000
Amount Requested from WCC	£10,000
Recommendation	£10,000
Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organisation must secure building regulations consent and planning permission as required prior to commencing works. • Subject to PC funding

Name of Organisation	New Alresford Town Trust
Parish Council	New Alresford
Tax Base & Precept (Band D)	Tax Base: £2,229.54 Precept : £112.13
Project Details	Final renovations to Eel House to include provision of a sluice system to allow eel trap to be operated. Removal and replacement of chipboard floor and provision of an information board.
Comments (if any)	This group received a grant of £3,000 in 2007/2008 for renovations to the Eel House building. Group are committed to ensuring that it will be open to the public on at least 8 days per year.
Total Project Cost	£50,000
Parish Council Contribution	£1,000
Amount Requested from WCC	£2,000
Recommendation	£2,000
Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organisation must secure building regulations consent and planning permission as required prior to commencing works. • Subject to PC funding

Name of Organisation	New Alresford Town Council
Parish Council	New Alresford
Tax Base & Precept (Band D)	Tax Base: £2,229.54 Precept : £112.13
Project Details	Upgrade of south side of West Street in New Alresford including improved parking, moving of the bus stop, Improved pedestrian and disabled access, relaying of paving, and provision of railings. A grant of £10,000 per year over two years is requested.
Comments (if any)	Grant has not been awarded for this scheme as it is not eligible under the current criteria for capital grant. This project to be further evaluated and a report to be submitted to a future Cabinet.
Total Project Cost	£87,000
Parish Council Contribution	tbc
Amount Requested from WCC	£10,000
Recommendation	Nil
Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organisation must secure building regulations consent and planning permission as required prior to commencing works. • Subject to PC funding • All permissions regarding Highways issues must be secured.

Name of Organisation	Weeke Community Association
Parish Council	Winchester Town
Tax Base & Precept (Band D)	Tax Base: £14,003.42 Precept : £55.04
Project Details	Revision of project to alter the entrance of this building to provide new ladies toilets and disabled toilets. This work will impact on the drainage systems and heating systems. Project has now been divided into two phases.
Comments (if any)	This group was awarded a grant of £7,000 in 2006-2007 but due to lack of other funding have not been able to progress this work. They have now revised the project into phases and have requested an additional grant for this work. The request was refused as it was

Name of Organisation	Weeke Community Association
	considered that this organisation already has grant to enable the first phase of work to go ahead. Once they have completed this phase then they will be encouraged to apply for grant to complete the later stages.
Total Project Cost	£28,782.00
Town Forum Contribution	Nil
Amount Requested from WCC	£17,000
Recommendation	Nil
Conditions	•

Name of Organisation	Winchester Dramatic Society (Chesil Theatre)
Parish Council	Winchester Town
Tax Base & Precept (Band D)	Tax Base: £14,003.42 Precept : £55.04
Project Details	To build an extension to the Chesil Theatre including acquisition of land.
Comments (if any)	This organisation has requested a total of £90,000 to be spread over 3 years, i.e. £30,000 per year.
Total Project Cost	£1,150,800.00
Town Forum Contribution	£10,000
Amount Requested from WCC	£20,000
Recommendation	£20,000
Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organisation must secure building regulations consent and planning permission as required prior to commencing works. • Subject to Town Forum funding

Name of Organisation	Winchester Lido Sports Association
Parish Council	Winchester Town
Tax Base & Precept (Band D)	Tax Base: £14,003.42 Precept : £55.04
Project Details	Replacement double glazed windows.
Comments (if any)	
Total Project Cost	£17,605
Town Forum Contribution	£2,600

Name of Organisation	Winchester Lido Sports Association
Amount Requested from WCC	£5,400
Recommendation	£5,400
Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organisation must secure building regulations consent and planning permission as required prior to commencing works. • Subject to Town Forum funding • Subject to adherence to conservation area regulations

Summary:

Total of grants requested	£85,600
Proposed Budget available to support requests in 2009/10	£65,000
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Total Allocated for Community Chest	£9,000
Total level of grants recommended for 2009/10	£46,000
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Total Capital Grant commitment	£55,000
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Balance Remaining	£10,000