

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs
Date:	14 January 2019
Title:	Rural Communities Fund – Community Hub in the Holy Trinity Church, West End Development
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. Recommendation

- 1.1. It is recommended that the Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs approves a grant award between £10,000 and £15,000 from the Rural Communities Fund providing a contribution towards the development of a community hub within the Holy Trinity Church in Colden Common.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The purpose of this paper is to outline an application for funding from the Rural Communities Fund 2018/19, under the 'Other' theme.

3. Contextual information

- 3.1. The Rural Communities Fund offers small grants to support Parish Councils, groups and organisations in rural Hampshire and small market towns. Applications are accepted to support one of four themes. The aim of the 'Other' theme is to help build community resilience and/or encourage self-help in rural areas. The grant scheme criteria and eligibility are set out in Appendix C.
- 3.2. Colden Common is a rural community in Hampshire made up of 4000 residents. Research conducted by the Church Group (as the Applicant) has identified 25% of Colden Common residents are elderly and live alone, and the 1 in 12 children live in poverty.
- 3.3. The project's objective is to better support the community of Colden Common, widening the inclusivity, welcome and use of the church building to all by creating a hospitable multi-purpose community hub open to all residents & visitors.
- 3.4. Permission has been granted by the owners of the church building, the Diocese of Winchester, recognising that the improvements will support the buildings role in tackling the community's social challenges in; supporting older and

vulnerable people, young families in need and individuals experiencing social isolation.

3.5. Specifically, the project will deliver:

- A new, wider welcome to all new visitors and regulars of all ages, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion and mobility.
- An economical and sustainable heating system.
- Strong, safe and flat, easy-clean, accessible flooring.
- An accessible toilet suitable for wheel chair use and with child changing facilities.
- A small kitchen with serving hatch and drinking and waste water connections.
- A well-equipped Children's play zone.

3.6. A volunteer team has been established to develop and coordinate an effective activity programme making best use of the new facilities in tackling the social issues in 3.4. Full DBS checks are in place and further qualifications in progress to expand on the groups existing ability to provide counselling and community services with examples to include; bereavement support, Dementia carers and family support through subsidised day care.

4. Finance:

4.1. Financial Summary:

Total Project Costs	£ 87,346
Actuals raised to date (incl. £10,500 from Parish Council)	£ 47,846
Current shortfall	£ 39,500
Further Sources identified:	
National Churches Trust	£ 17,000
Taylor Wimpey Southern	£ 3,000
Forecast Shortfall	£ 19,500
PROPOSED RCF GRANT	£ 10,000 (minimum)
Forecast Shortfall (assuming minimum award)	£ 9,500

4.2. To meet the forecast shortfall of £9,500 (assuming the award proposed in this report of £10,000), the applicant is continuing with their Fundraising campaign over the Christmas period and are expecting to raise a further £5,000 to £15,000. Full evidence of the fund-raising activities and resulting income generated will be made available to the County Council.

4.3. Depending upon their success, the applicants would ask the Executive Member to consider up to an additional £5,000 to address any remaining shortfall which will be confirmed before final consideration of this paper at the Decision Day.

4.4. The Diocese of Winchester have granted permission for the works to be undertaken to the west end of the church. Their condition is that no works

commence until all the funding is in place, and this would also be a condition of HCC's grant.

5. Additional Support:

- 5.1. The local member, Councillor Humby, strongly supports the application.
- 5.2. The application is also supported by the Parish Council who have already provided £10,500 towards the cost of the project (see 4.1. Financial Summary).

6. Alternative Options Considered:

- 6.1. The Rural Communities Fund was identified as the most suitable County Council Grant or Fund available given the projects primary aim of providing local resources and initiatives which address social issues in a rural community.

7. Rural Community Fund - General Finance:

£15,000 is currently available from the 'Other' theme of the Rural Communities Grant identified for 2018/19.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u> Rural Delivery Strategy – rural delivery funding Hampshire County Council’s Rural Delivery Strategy	<u>Date</u> March 2018 March 2014
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

The proposals are expected to have a high positive impact on people living in rural areas. No negative impacts are anticipated.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. More vibrant and active communities are likely to suffer less crime and anti-social behaviour.

3. Climate Change:

3.1. How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption? Supporting rural retailers encourages residents to shop locally thus reducing car use.

3.2. How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer-term impacts? The initiative proposed supports the culture of self-help and community resilience in rural areas.

Rural Communities Fund 2018-19

Supports Parish Councils, groups and organisations in rural Hampshire and small market towns

The Rural Communities Fund supports Parish Councils, groups and organisations in rural Hampshire and small market towns. The priorities of the scheme are to build community resilience and encourage self-help.

Applications are welcome to support three specific themes as well as general projects or initiatives supporting the scheme priorities.

- **Community-led flood alleviation** – we want to help rural communities deliver solutions to flooding in their local areas to benefit both people and property
- **Countryside access** – we want to help communities deliver improvements to their local access network
- **Rural retailers and community enterprises** – we want to help them grow, increase their productivity and ultimately improve the services that are offered to communities in rural areas
- **Other** – we are keen to support other projects or initiatives that will help build community resilience and/or encourage self-help in rural areas e.g. supporting vulnerable and older people; supporting innovative transport solutions to access services. Contact us to discuss your project ideas before making an application and we can advise if it will be eligible
Email: ruralcommunitiesfund@hants.gov.uk

When to apply

Applications for funding up to £5,000:

Accepted throughout the year and decisions will typically be made within eight weeks of receiving a completed application.

Applications for funding over £5,000:

Funding criteria

We typically fund up to a maximum of £5,000, although larger grants are available to support applications for community-led flood alleviation schemes and retailer and community enterprise schemes (typically up to £10,000).

The minimum grant is typically £1,000 however awards may be for less if this is felt to be appropriate, in particular for applicants to the countryside access theme.

Organisations seeking funding of less than £500 are generally recommended to look at [County Councillor Grants](#).

The organisation must have actively sought funding from other sources; this must include district, borough, town or parish council funding where available. Priority will be given to applications which have partner funding in place from other sources, particularly district, borough, town or parish council funding where available.

An element of match funding can be 'in-kind' (e.g. through volunteer time). Any in-kind contributions must be accounted for as part of the total cost of the project/activity, for example the total cost is made up of expenditure (e.g. materials, contractors) and the value of in-kind contributions.

- For applicants to the countryside access theme we typically ask for 50% match funding. This can include in kind contributions made up of volunteer labour (excluding Community Service Payback Teams) and/or contributions from landowners. Match funding of less than 50% may be considered in some circumstances
- For applicants to the retailer and community enterprise theme we ask for a minimum of 50% match funding of the total eligible costs. For commercial businesses, the match funding cannot be sourced from any other grant making authority. For community enterprises, the match funding can be sourced from other grants

Grant criteria and eligibility

We will fund applications which meet all of the following criteria. It is a competitive process, so grants will be approved on their merits.

- Projects/activities must deliver measurable results against the priorities of the Fund
- The project/activity must take place in rural Hampshire, a small market town, or directly benefit rural communities

- Applications must have support from the local community and Parish/Town Council
- Applicants must have a clear management structure within its constitution or suitable governance/terms of reference (with the exception of landowners applying to the countryside access theme)
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate that without support from Hampshire County Council the project/activity would not be able to proceed at all or to the extent outlined in the application
- Applicants with significant funds in place or higher levels of reserves must demonstrate why funding from Hampshire County Council is needed.
- Applications must include a project plan, business plan or specification (where applicable)
- If the application is successful, it is expected that you will have a plan to continue the project/activity after the end of the funding period (where applicable)
- Successful applicants must provide appropriate reporting and/or monitoring for their projects/activities
- Successful applicants must acknowledge the support of Hampshire County Council in all publicity and media coverage relating to the project, and in the organisation's next annual audited statement of accounts
- Applicants must have appropriate policies, procedures and insurance in place
- Applications for community-led flood alleviation schemes must:
 - demonstrate the benefit to people and property, without any increase in risk elsewhere
 - have the necessary consents from the Environment Agency and Hampshire County Council

- Applications for countryside access schemes must adhere to the detailed scheme guidance
- Applications for rural retailer and community enterprise schemes must adhere to the detailed scheme guidance

Financial eligibility

Organisations will not normally be eligible for grants where they hold unallocated reserves in excess of one year's running costs. In cases where reserves held exceed this level, a reduced level of funding may be agreed. All charitable organisations are expected to have an agreed reserves policy that addresses their financial risk.

What we can fund

If you are applying to the rural retailer and community enterprise theme, or the countryside access theme select the scheme guidance below to find out more about the eligible activities and any additional criteria.

[Rural retailers and community enterprises – scheme guidance](#)

[Countryside access – scheme guidance](#)

What we can't fund

- Projects that receive funding from other Hampshire County Council sources (except for County Councillor grants)
- Individuals (with the exception of landowners applying for countryside access schemes)
- Profit making events/activities (with the exception of applications for rural retailer and community enterprise schemes)
- Projects or activities solely within the unitary authority areas of Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council

- Non-constituted organisations (with the exception of landowners applying for countryside access schemes)
- Projects/work that has already been carried out, you must apply for a grant and receive an offer from us before starting any work or making any purchases
- General/core running costs of an organisation