

RURAL/URBAN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPLICATION FOR 18th MARCH 2020 EXECUTIVE :

Applicant :

Wren Hall

Description of scheme:

Planning permission was granted in February 2017 to make extensive changes to the Hall; these works were split into two main phases within which are further sub phases:

Phase 1 – was completed in 2018; this included improvements to the existing main hall room which is used by community groups and individual members of the community for private social events (for example; new toilet facilities, windows and secondary glazing, fire door, lighting, chairs, tables and redecoration) and also to the grounds outside (new fencing, tree works and creation of a patio area). A RUCIS grant contributed towards these works.

Phase 2 – is to create a new modern 120sqm assembly room with a foyer, new kitchens and toilets. This main phase is now in progress with the following sub phases:

- New groundworks, structure and superstructure for the new room and lobby; completed December 2019.
- Brickwork, roof tiling, gutters, plastering, new windows and doors, electrics; in progress, aim to complete by Spring 2020.
- Finishing work by way of heating, insulation and ventilation; not started yet.
- The last sub-phase which this RUCIS application is to contribute towards is for; a) Plastering, decorating, flooring, sound system, stage with lighting, tables and chairs for the new assembly room, b) a new external shed to be used as a storage facility, c) new gates to the hall's car park, d) new signage, and e) recommissioning of the hall's alarm system.

Evidence of need:

The Parish Plan issued in 2013 identified the Hall as an important facility for village life and its benefit to the community important. In the last 5/6 years the level of community buy-in and support has grown substantially as witnessed by the number of volunteers helping to prepare and run different events. In 2016, the company offering childcare at Wren Hall decided to close their facility, at that point the Wren Hall Committees decided that the Hall should be dedicated solely to community use. To do this it was visually obvious that reconfiguration and modernisation of the Hall would be required as the layout of the building is clearly made for a village primary school which the Hall once was;

- The décor and facilities were very old fashioned / dated
- Existing rooms were not large enough to support events for larger numbers of people
- Use by larger groups of people would create Health & Safety issues for safe access and escape in emergencies
- Requires better disabled access and toilet facilities

The Wren Hall Committees held a community forum in March 2017 attended by over 90 people in which only positive views were expressed and ideas for future events / uses given.

3 years accounts received?

2016 - 2018 accounts have been received along with a recent bank statement for all accounts held (1st February 2020); this evidences sufficient cash reserves to meet the contribution stated on the application form.

Financial Performance; minus figure = deficit

Year ended	Year ended	Year ended
31/12/18	31/12/17	31/12/16
£149	£1,875	£209,950

Available Funds (cash and reserves)

Year ended	Year ended	Year ended
31/12/18	31/12/17	31/12/16
£152,201	£225,283	£233,210

NOTE: In 2016 there was an exceptional profit on sale of a fixed asset which was £228,620, these funds were ring fenced as the Hall's contribution towards the overall two phase improvement program. The most significant cost is in phase two which is now under way; the bank statement provided shows a balance of £87,843.05 as at 1st February 2020, there will be further significant outgoings as the phase two project progresses not least the last sub-phase which this RUCIS application is to contribute towards with the Hall contributing £30,000 to this sub-phase alone.

Details of membership, fees etc:

The Hall is open to the whole community without discrimination; events are self-financing through ticket and/or bar sales. The Hall is hired for private parties on a regular basis and is £10 per hour for residents and £12 per hour for non-residents.

Details of usage:

Wren Hall was previously a village primary school; it is now the community centre for Beausale, Haseley, Honiley and Wroxall and is a registered charity. Until Spring 2016, the Hall also served as a childcare centre and when this closed the Wren Hall Committees decided that the Hall should be dedicated solely to community use to improve the lives of residents in the parish and its wider neighbourhood. Currently the Hall opens around 5 times a week and hosts Sunday teas, Saturday horse tackle markets, produce shows, barbecues in the summer, a series of social evening events (attract approx. 100 to 150 people) and is a centre for an annual BHF Bike Ride (approx. 200 people). The main hall room is used by community groups (History Group, Women's Club, Neighbourhood Watch), for all Joint Parish Council Meetings and is available to the community for events such as children's parties. It is also the village's official emergency gathering centre.

Details of Organisations equalities policies:

Wren Hall is a registered Charity whose purpose is to serve the requirements of the entire village without any semblance of discrimination. A copy of the Hall's Mission Statement has been provided, part of this states "The Trustees will ensure that the Hall is available to any group without discrimination of gender, religion, status, age or ability that would like to use it at reasonable rates"

3 quotes provided:

Yes - 32 quotes in total to cover all aspects of the project works

Which of the Council's Corporate Priorities are met?

Evidence

Reduce anti-social behaviour

Wren Hall currently hosts Sunday teas, Saturday horse tackle markets, produce shows, barbecues in the summer, a series of social evening events (attract approx. 100 to 150 people) and is a centre for an annual BHF Bike Ride (approx. 200 people). The main hall room is used by community groups (History Group, Women's Club, Neighbourhood Watch), for all Joint Parish Council Meetings and is available to the community for events such as children's parties. This Phase 2 project will deliver a new large, modern fit-for-purpose assembly hall, in particular the sub phase that this application is requesting a contribution towards (for example; staging and lighting), will offer an even better tailor made facility for further community activities and events to be held. This all helps to reduce anti-social behaviour.

Reducing obesity, particularly in children

Physical exercise groups already use the main hall room, for example; Yoga and Pilates classes. This phase 2 project will deliver a new large, modern fit-for-purpose assembly hall which will give further opportunity for physical activity. This helps to reduce obesity.

Increase opportunities for everyone to enjoy and participate in sports, arts and cultural activities

This Phase 2 project will deliver a new large, modern fit-for-purpose assembly hall, in particular the sub phase that this application is requesting a contribution towards (for example; staging and lighting), will offer an even better tailor made facility for further community activities and events to be held. It will also be a venue for events during the Coventry Year of Culture. This will increase opportunity for the community to enjoy and participate in physical, arts and cultural activities.

Engaging and strengthening communities

Wren Hall is run by a committee of volunteers from across the community, events are also organised and run by volunteers. Wren Hall already provides events that bring the community together, particularly in the summer, and with this Phase 2 project which will deliver a new large, modern fit-for-purpose assembly hall (in particular the sub phase that this application is requesting a contribution towards for example; staging and lighting), it will offer an even better tailor made facility for further community activities and events to be held. This all helps to engage and strengthen the community.

Targetting disadvantage in rural / urban areas:

Most events are very low cost or free of charge; the old School Room will be a drop-in centre for all.

Total cost of scheme (including VAT where appropriate) £61,857

Funded by:

Status

Organisations Own Funds £31,557 Approved

Beausale, Haseley, Honiley & Wroxall Parish Council £300 Approved

Total RUCIS £30,000

equates to 49.0%