

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: RESOURCES SUB-COMMITTEE - 7 February 2000

SUBJECT: VILLAGE HALLS - DISABILITY ADAPTATIONS - APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT

FROM: COMMISSIONING TEAM

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider applications for grants by Hatton Village Hall Management Committee and Cubbington Parish Council towards the cost of installing disabled facilities.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Social Key Issue Strategy revenue budget in the current year makes a one-off provision of £10,000 for grants for disability actions in village halls. Whilst this particular budget is the responsibility of Economic and Community Development Sub-Committee, the old Equality and Equal Access Key Issue Strategy Working Party decided that any applications should be considered by this Sub-Committee.
- 2.2 All Parish Councils were contacted in late 1998 about this budget, but no applications were received until recently. Consequently, no part of the budget has been allocated yet.
- 2.3 Two grants have been approved, however, as part of other works which were the subject of applications for grants under the Rural Initiatives Scheme. As a guide, the grant in these cases was between 75% and 80%.

3 HATTON VILLAGE HALL

- 3.1 Members will recall that, at their last meeting, a grant was approved towards the costs of resurfacing the village hall car park and improving the drainage system. At that time, the Trustees referred to a need to preserve some of their funds for future maintenance costs, for works that were necessary to the caretaker's cottage, and for the installation of disabled toilet facilities.
- 3.2 An application for assistance towards the costs of providing the disabled toilet facilities has now been received from the Trustees.
- 3.3 Development in the area means that greater use is being made of the hall. Access ramps for use by the disabled are already in place, and the provision of a fully fitted out toilet for their use is essential to enable them to take full

advantage of the hall's facilities.

3.4 The estimated cost of the works is £3,800.

3.5 **It is suggested that a grant of £3,000 be made.**

4 CUBBINGTON VILLAGE HALL

4.1 During 1999, the Parish Council has undertaken works to refurbish Cubbington Village Hall. This has included re-roofing, re-wiring, installing new windows, a new heating system and cladding the outside of the building. The total cost has been £55,000 plus professional fees.

4.2 The Parish Council hopes that the final phase will take place next financial year. The estimated cost of this final phase is £25,000 including £4,200 for the provision of disabled toilet facilities and £400 for an access ramp.

4.3 So far, funding for the improvements has been raised by the Parish Council through its annual precept, £58,300 having been raised in the last 5 years. The precept for 2000/01 includes a further £12,500 towards redevelopment of the Village Hall.

4.4 An application for assistance towards the costs of providing the disabled toilet facilities and access ramp has now been received from the Parish Council.

4.5 **It is suggested that a grant of £3,500 be made.**

5 KEY ISSUE STRATEGIES

5.1 It is considered that the schemes will meet the Social Key Issue Strategies

SO2 to encourage the development of communities where none exist or where they are weak; and

SO4 to recognise that service accessibility by remote communities will inevitably be more difficult, and seek to enhance or introduce new services specifically aimed at reducing the effects of isolation.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The suggested amounts of grant in paragraphs 3.5 and 4.5 will leave approximately £3,500 in the budget for disabled adaptations in village halls.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Consideration be given to the requests for grant aid.

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Background Papers

Correspondence with the applicants.

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Areas of District Affected Hatton and Cubbington.