

 Executive – 13th November 2013		Agenda Item No. <h1>16a</h1>
Title	Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Application	
For further information about this report please contact	Jon Dawson Finance Administration Manager 01926 456204 e mail: fsteam@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Wards of the District directly affected	Stoneleigh	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	N/A	
Background Papers	Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme details. Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Applications file No. 185 onwards Correspondence with Applicant.	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No
Equality & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	Yes

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive		Chris Elliott
Head of Service		Mike Snow
CMT		Chris Elliot, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer		Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer		Andy Jones
Finance		Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)		Cllr Mobbs
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Final Decision?		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides details of a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement application by Baginton Village Hall to resurface the car park.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant of 50% of the total project cost up to a maximum of £7,500

As supported by appendix 1.

3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The Council operates a scheme to award Capital Improvement Grants to organisations in rural and urban areas. The grant recommended is in accordance with the Council's agreed scheme and will provide funding to help the project progress.
- 3.2 This project contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy as without these premises there would be fewer opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in arts and cultural activities which could potentially result in an increase in anti-social behaviour and disadvantage this rural area. Maintaining the car park will create a clearer parking facility to maximise capacity, will create two or three disabled parking bays and will resolve current health & safety issues by reducing the risk of visitors tripping and falling, especially in poor weather conditions, due to the existing poor surface. This will help to keep the facility well used and potentially increase the number of users; the community will be able to continue to benefit from activities provided such as dog owner clubs, art and parent & toddler groups, Lucy Price lunches and yoga classes.

4. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 The Rural and Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Review supports the Sustainable Community Strategy and the cross cutting themes which form the priorities for funding areas as follows:-

Engaging and supporting communities including community cohesion and Embedding sustainability.

Targeted geographical areas (Neighbourhood Anchors).

Narrowing the gaps/ families at risk

Rurality

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 The budget for the Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Applications for 2013/14 is £150,000 (£75,000 for Rural Projects and £75,000 for Urban Projects). The unallocated budget from 2012/2013 of £29,685.49, will be added to this and sits within a separate cost centre budget, this could then be added to either Rural or Urban schemes once the 2013/2014 budget has been used.
- 5.2 There is £36,313 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the Urban Cost Centre budget for 2013/14.

- 5.3 There is £66,500 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the Rural Cost Centre budget in 2013/14. If the application within this report for 50% of the total project cost up to a maximum of £7,500 is approved, £59,000 will remain in the Rural Cost Centre budget.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED

- 6.1 The Council has only a specific capital budget to provide grants of this nature and therefore there are no alternative sources of funding if the Council is to provide funding for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Schemes.
- 6.2 Members may choose not to approve the grant funding, or to vary the amount awarded.

7. BACKGROUND

Baginton Village Hall

- 7.1 Baginton Village Hall has submitted an application to resurface the car park.
- 7.2 The application is for 50% of the total project cost up to a maximum of £7,500.
- 7.3 Baginton Village Hall is not registered for VAT therefore the award is inclusive of VAT.
- 7.4 The existing car park is approx 50 years old; it is now in a poor condition with an uneven surface and several pot holes. In poor wet weather conditions large puddles are created which in turn create potential health & safety trip hazards and also lead to further deterioration of the car park surface despite several repair attempts made in recent years. The project is to resurface the car park which will alleviate these potential health & safety problems and create clearer and safer parking to maximise capacity.
- 7.5 By resurfacing the car park and re-marking white and yellow lines off-street parking spaces will be maximised and up to two or three disabled parking bays will be created. This will make the club's facilities more accessible and help to further increase the number of people using them.
- 7.6 Baginton Village Hall has stated that they will provide £7,000 (47% of the total project costs) towards the project from their own cash reserves.
- 7.8 Baginton Village Hall requested a £500 contribution from the Parish Council; they have had written confirmation that this has been approved.
- 7.9 Baginton Village Hall has previously had a successful RUCIS application:
- £12,900 (50% of the total project costs) to resurface the car park and redecorate the hall in November 2011

Please note that this award was withdrawn in February 2013 as the scope of the project presented to the Executive Committee had changed and therefore no longer met the required criteria for the RUCIS scheme. This meant that the car park was never resurfaced and has now led to this new redefined application.

This application meets the criteria whereby after a successful grant award an organisation must wait for a minimum of 2 years before re-applying for a new grant.