

RURAL/URBAN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPLICATION FOR 1ST NOVEMBER 2017 EXECUTIVE :

Applicant : Wren Hall

Description of scheme: Wren Hall was built as a village primary school and as such it fails to be an ideal building for a community centre. Planning permission was granted in February 2017 to make extensive changes through which a modern 120sqm assembly room with a foyer, new kitchens and toilets will be created and, in addition to this, improvements are needed for the existing main hall room (used by community groups and members of the community for private events) and also the grounds outside to make this a modern welcoming facility that is more fit-for-purpose for community use. The overall project is going to be delivered in two phases.

PHASE 1

This RUCIS application is to contribute to the first phase project which will include;

- New fencing
 - Tree works; fell and cut back trees
 - Building works; demolish redundant chimney, replace guttering, create new doorway entrance to existing main hall room, create patio area outside new doorway, new fire escape door, create structure for new toilet facilities for the main hall room
 - Windows; two new windows, install secondary glazing on two existing windows
- These works will ensure better access, particularly disabled access, to the existing main hall room and also escape in case of emergency, it will help to retain heat and also reduce noise from the main Birmingham Road situated outside making the room more usable throughout the whole day and all-year round. The outside works will make the facility more welcoming and provide more usable outdoor space which will help to attract more usage.

Additional work that will be funded through Wren Hall's cash reserves after the completion of phase 1, includes:

- New lighting, chairs, tables and decoration in the main hall room
- Fitting out of the newly created phase 1 main hall room toilet structures

PHASE 2

This is a major project that is planned for Autumn 2018;

- Demolish small rooms at the rear of the Hall
- Create a new large main assembly room

A letter dated 23rd August 2017, signed by the Trustees (Richard Slatem and Huw Jones), has been provided; this pledges that the additional work between Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects will be completed, it also confirms understanding that failure to complete the next phase of works may result in the clawback of the RUCIS grant awarded for the phase 1 project.

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 2/3 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 are very old fashioned / dated
- Existing rooms are 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. Multiple letters of support have been provided, for example; Women's Institute, Rowington Old Folk's Party Fund, Four Parishes History Group, Riding for the Disabled Association, Ferncumbe Youth Club, Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, and many more.

3 years accounts received?

Yes; 2014 to 2016 and also a recent bank statement (1st August 2017) and a deposit receipt for 60 day notice savings account (1st May 2017)

Financial Performance; minus figure = deficit

Year ended	Year ended	Year ended
31/12/16	31/12/15	31/12/14
£209,950	£1,184	-£8,559

In year ending 31/12/16 there was £228,620 exceptional profit on the sale of a fixed asset

Available Funds (cash and reserves)

Year ended	Year ended	Year ended
31/12/16	31/12/15	31/12/14
£233,210	£29,246	£29,727

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, 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; 19 quotes in total covering all aspects of the project work

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. When the phase 1 project, that the RUCIS grant is part-funding, is completed the main hall room will be available for use throughout the whole day and all-year round as it will be warmer and have less noise disturbance, there will also be better disabled access and a paved patio area outside; this will all help to increase opportunities for more community activities and events. This all helps to reduce anti-social behaviour.

Increase opportunities for everyone to enjoy and participate in sports, arts and cultural activities When the phase 1 project, that the RUCIS grant is part-funding, is completed, the main hall room will be available for use throughout the whole day and all-year round as it will be warmer and have less noise disturbance, there will also be better disabled access and a paved patio area outside; this will all help to increase opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in arts and cultural activities and events. There is already a nucleus of a choir in the village which needs a facility to use and the hall committee have knowledge of a desire to set up a regular art class.

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 the improved main hall room and outside area that will be delivered by the phase 1 project there will be more activities and events available for the community all-year round. This all helps to engage and strengthen the community.

Total cost of scheme (including VAT where appropriate) £61,603 Excluding VAT as Wren Hall intend to declare the work VAT free being a listed building and a village hall without commercial profit-making activities

Funded by: **Status**

Organisations Own Funds £31,103 Approved

Beausale, Haseley, Honiley & Wroxall Parish Council £500 Approved

Total RUCIS **£30,000**

equates to **48.7%**