

**RURAL/URBAN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPLICATION FOR 13TH JANUARY 2016 EXECUTIVE :****Applicant :****Westbury Community Centre (Myton Church)****Description of scheme:**

The project is to improve the facilities of the Westbury Community Centre, Westlea Road, Leamington Spa. Myton Church assumed the lease for the running of the Centre from Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs in June 2014. The project is to:

- Reconfigure the current changing room which is not used into two parts to provide, a) a store room, and b) a 'tea point' that will provide refreshment facilities away from the main kitchen which will enable multi-usage of other rooms within the centre at the same time
- Refurbish the kitchen and server area
- Refurbish the main room to include redecoration and new flooring, ceiling tiles and radiators

**Evidence of need:**

Over the last 6 years community surveys have been completed, discussions have been held with Warwick District Council's Community Partnership Team and the Council has also undertaken two community surveys (please note that evidence of this has not yet been supplied). However, there is a visible need (as evidenced by my visit and the pre-project photographs taken) and letters of support have been provided from:

- Jonathan Chilvers (County Councillor, Leamington Brunswick) - dated 15th March 2015
- J E Canning (Chairwomen of Painting for Pleasure) and multiple group members - dated through February 2015
- Pamela Thompson (Leamington and Warwick Foodbank) - dated 10th March 2015
- Jane Puzey (WAYC) - dated 13th March 2015
- Beryl Chisholm (Local CAP Money Co-Ordinator for Warwick and Leamington) - not dated
- Kath Bannister (Community Development Worker, Warwick District Council Community Partnership Team) - 15th March 2015
- Anna York (President Warwick Youth Phab) - dated 16th March 2015

**3 years accounts received?**

2012 - 2014 accounts have been received, along with recent bank statements for all accounts which evidences the reserves for the organisations contribution to the project

**Financial Performance; minus figure = deficit**

<b>Year ended</b> 31/12/14	<b>Year ended</b> 31/12/13	<b>Year ended</b> 31/12/12
-£17,718	£23,201	-£9,803

**Available Funds ( cash and reserves )**

<b>Year ended</b> 31/12/14	<b>Year ended</b> 31/12/13	<b>Year ended</b> 31/12/12
£73,622	£78,976	£75,408

**Details of membership, fees etc:**

There is no membership structure to use the facilities, although some groups operating in the Centre have a fee structure for the classes / activities they run.

**Details of usage:**

Regular activities include the following:

- Knitting and Sewing - weekly during term time, approximately 6-8 people
- WAYC youth group - two nights per week, approximately 40 people per week
- Painting for pleasure - two sessions per week during term time, approximately 24 per week
- TaeKwon Do classes - weekly, approximately 12 people
- Dance classes - weekly during term time, approximately 20 people
- Warwick PHAB (Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied) youth - weekly during university term time, approximately 12 people per session
- Community drop in café - weekly, visitors vary, on average between 30-70 people
- Foodbank - weekly, number of visitors varies but currently averages between 1-8 people
- Myton Church youth group (the only church activity at the centre and this is open to both church members and non-church attendees): two nights per week during term time, approximately 35 per week
- Free English classes once a week during term time - currently between 18-20 people
- Periodic CAP Money Management courses - there are 4 courses per year which run for 4 weeks, with approximately 6 attendees per course.

In addition, there is ad hoc usage for private events; generally there is approximately one such booking per month, with on average 30-50 visitors per booking.

**Details of Organisations equalities policies:**

A copy of the Westbury Community Centre Equality Policy has been provided, the following is a brief extract:

"As a Christian charity, Myton Church is committed to providing equal opportunities both in its employment and service delivery, and to avoiding unlawful discrimination either directly or indirectly. This policy is intended to assist the Church to put this commitment into practice for its activities, with particular reference to the Westbury Centre. It is hoped that compliance with this policy should also ensure that employees, volunteers and user groups do not commit unlawful acts of discrimination. In developing this policy, we have used the Guidance for voluntary and community sector organisations published by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (published April 2014) as a basis. [www.equalityhumanrights.com/private-and-public-sector-guidance/organisations-and-businesses/guidance-service-providers](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/private-and-public-sector-guidance/organisations-and-businesses/guidance-service-providers)

**COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW**

It is unlawful to discriminate directly or indirectly because of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, or sexual orientation. These are known as "protected characteristics". We seek to ensure that no one at the Westbury Centre, whether employees, volunteers, user groups or partners are discriminated unlawfully through...."

**3 quotes provided:**

Yes - three quotes have been received for all aspects of the project.

**Which of the Council's Corporate Priorities are met?****Evidence**

<b>Reduce anti-social behaviour</b>	<p>Whilst the project doesn't directly impact on this, without the centre there would be a reduction in activities for the local community, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dance classes</li> <li>• TaeKwon-Do classes</li> <li>• Painting for Pleasure group</li> <li>• Youth group sessions</li> </ul> <p>With an improved centre, not only can the existing activities continue to be run, there will also be the infrastructure to enable multiple activities to be run at any one time. This all helps to support a reduction in anti-social behaviour.</p>
<b>Reducing obesity, particularly in children</b>	<p>Whilst the project doesn't directly impact on this, without the centre there would be a reduction in activities for the local community, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dance classes</li> <li>• TaeKwon-Do classes</li> <li>• Youth group sessions / activities</li> </ul> <p>With an improved centre, not only can the existing activities continue to be run, there will also be the infrastructure to enable multiple activities to be run at any one time. This all helps to support a reduction in obesity, particularly in children.</p>
<b>Increase opportunities for everyone to enjoy and participate in sports, arts and cultural activities</b>	<p>Without the centre there would be a reduction in activities for the local community, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dance classes</li> <li>• TaeKwon-Do classes</li> <li>• Painting for Pleasure group</li> <li>• Youth group sessions</li> </ul> <p>With an improved centre, not only can the existing activities continue to be run, there will also be a flexible infrastructure to enable multiple activities to be run at any one time. The improvements will also create opportunity to offer more activities to the community such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food related skills sessions</li> <li>• Lunch events for elderly residents</li> </ul> <p>The project will therefore increase opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in arts, cultural and physical activities.</p>
<b>Engaging and strengthening communities</b>	<p>Once the refurbishment is complete, the centre will be enabled to host a larger spread of activities and services for the local community at the times of day where they are most in demand. Changes to the Mary Edwards (main) room and servery area will enhance the capacity and ability of the cafe to provide an environment where members of the local community can meet. This will help to further engage and strengthen the community.</p>
<b>Targeting disadvantage in rural / urban areas:</b>	<p>The Centre is situated in the Brunswick Ward of Leamington Spa. According to a recent social inclusion report commissioned by Warwick District Council, and the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010, the five LSOAs that make up Brunswick Ward all appear in the top ten most excluded LSOAs in Warwick District, and two of them are in the top 30% most deprived areas nationally. This indicates an area where exclusion is high and community cohesion is low. A thriving community centre can be extremely significant in combating exclusion, and encouraging interaction between different groups within the community.</p> <p>In order to encourage a vibrant atmosphere at the Centre, work needs to be done to improve the layout, décor and facilities.</p>

<b>Total cost of scheme (including VAT where appropriate)</b>	£101,003	Including VAT
<b>Funded by:</b>		<b>Status</b>
<b>Town Council</b>	£500	Approved
<b>Own Funds</b>	£613	Approved
<b>WREN</b>	£49,890	Approved
<b>JW Laing Trust</b>	£20,000	Application currently being drafted
<b>Total RUCIS</b>	<b>£30,000</b>	
<b>equates to</b>	<b>29.7%</b>	