

## RURAL/URBAN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPLICATION FOR 21st AUGUST 2019 EXECUTIVE :

<b>Applicant :</b>	<b>Lowsonford Village Hall</b>									
<b>Description of scheme:</b>	In late 2017 the previous Trustees held a public meeting; the hall was losing money and there was no one interested to keep it running, one of the options proposed was to close the hall and to try to build houses on the land, however, following a village meeting and survey in early 2018, a new team of Trustees were appointed to revitalise and modernise the hall. Work completed so far includes a new flat roof, main roof repairs, electrical survey and works, new guttering, tree surgery, new front doors and new site drainage; this was funded by the hall reserves, fundraising and support from Rowington Parish Council and the Jane Ryland Trust. The next phase of the refurbishment programme, which this application is towards, is to replace the toilets, install a new kitchen, sand and seal the floor and install a sound/projector system. The hall will then be fully modernised and refurbished for many years to come and will also be fit for purpose for hire with disabled and wheelchair friendly toilets and a new commercial kitchen, compliant with all EHO guidelines.									
<b>Evidence of need:</b>	<p>The need is visually obvious:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No disabled toilet facilities</li> <li>• No baby changing facilities</li> <li>• Kitchen is dated and isn't compliant with EHO guidelines</li> <li>• No sound/projector system so unable to host film nights</li> </ul> <p>A village survey was also completed in early 2018; there were 77 surveys distributed with 28 replies giving a 36% return rate, highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People like the position of the hall and having a community spirit but there is a recognition that it needs work in various places, for example; damp, kitchen facilities</li> <li>• Unsurprisingly modernisation was a key theme in "change" with many people wanting to see upgrading and refurbishment across many areas</li> </ul>									
<b>3 years accounts received?</b>	2016 - 2018 accounts have been received along with recent bank statements for all accounts held (April 2019); this evidences sufficient cash reserves to meet the contribution stated on the application form.									
<b>Financial Performance; minus figure = deficit</b>	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Year ended</b></th> <th><b>Year ended</b></th> <th><b>Year ended</b></th> </tr> <tr> <th>31/12/18</th> <th>31/12/17</th> <th>31/12/16</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>£660</td> <td>-£448</td> <td>£2,357</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Year ended</b>	<b>Year ended</b>	<b>Year ended</b>	31/12/18	31/12/17	31/12/16	£660	-£448	£2,357
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<b>Details of membership, fees etc:</b>	There is no membership scheme, hire charges are as follows; 1-3 hours £12 per hr, 4-8 hours £11 per hr, 8+hours £10 per hr, £200 per day, Skittles hire £65.									
<b>Details of usage:</b>	The hall is used every week by 4 regular clubs; an Artists Group, a Women's Club, Pilates and Zumba classes, the attendance for these groups totals approx. 50 people a week. The hall is also used by individuals from the community for birthday parties, family celebrations, weddings, club meetings and social events; there are usually around 75 events booked each year which attracts over 1,000 people. The village organises a community hog roast each year (in 2018 this attracted over 125 people) and other community events, for example; a village dog walk, Christmas Fair, a Christmas party and two coffee mornings during the year (over 400 people attended these events). The hall co-hosts the village show with the local pub, the Fleur de Lys; this is held bi-annually in the village and attracts over 400 people.									
<b>Details of Organisations equalities policies:</b>	The hall doesn't have a formal policy, however, as part of the Trustee Deeds, the hall is open and used by all sections of the community without prejudice.									
<b>3 quotes provided:</b>	Yes; 16 quotes in total									
<b>Which of the Council's Corporate Priorities are met?</b>	<b>Evidence</b>									
<b>Reduce anti-social behaviour</b>	<p>The hall provides facilities for people to meet, participate in activities and be entertained, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Artists Group</li> <li>• A Women's Club</li> <li>• Pilates and Zumba classes</li> </ul> <p>The project will provide better, modern, fit-for-purpose facilities which will help to increase the number of regular events and group activities, for example; potential for a youth club, film night, hobby classes, more private hire. This all helps to reduce anti-social behavior.</p>									
<b>Reducing obesity, particularly in children</b>	The hall currently hosts weekly Pilates and Zumba classes. The project will provide better, modern, fit-for-purpose facilities which will create the potential for other classes/fitness activities to be offered. This all helps to reduce obesity.									

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

The hall hosts arts and cultural events, for example; a weekly Artists Group. The hall also hosts local society meetings and other cultural events, including the Village Show in August co-hosted with the Fleur de Lys pub. The project will provide better, modern, fit-for-purpose facilities which will help to increase the number of regular events and group activities, for example; potential for a youth club, film night, hobby classes, more private hire. The project will also provide disabled access to toilet facilities and baby changing facilities which will also increase opportunity for members of the community to access the activities provided by the hall and potentially increase private hire bookings. All this will increase opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in fitness, arts, cultural and social activities. If the modernisation work isn't carried out the hall may eventually become unusable which would then decrease opportunity for the community to enjoy and participate in fitness, arts, cultural and social activities.

**Engaging and strengthening communities**

Lowsonford Village only has the village hall, St Luke's Church (which is only used once a month) and the local pub, the Fleur de Lys. The hall is run by a board of trustees who are all volunteers from across the community. The hall therefore plays a vital part in strengthening the community spirit in the village. If the modernisation project isn't carried out the hall will eventually become unusable and without the hall there would be much less opportunity for the community to meet and participate in activities and be entertained which would weaken and disengage the community.

**Targetting disadvantage in rural / urban areas:**

As part of the Trustee Deeds, the hall is open and used by all sections of the community and is affordable to hire. There is no local public transport; the nearest train station is Lapworth which is 2.4 miles away and the other village halls in the area (Lapworth, Rowington Shrewley) are all approx. 2.4 miles away. Without Lowsonford Village Hall, local residents would have to use taxi's or their own transport to attend events and/or activities.

**Total cost of scheme (including VAT where appropriate)**

£61,704 Including VAT

**Funded by:**

**Status**

**Organisations Own Funds**

£1,904 Approved

**Rowington Parish Council**

£3,000 Approved

**Other Providers Already Agreed**

£16,800 National Lottery Awards for All (£10,000), Jane Ryland Trust (£2,800), William A Cadbury Trust (£500), Edward Cadbury Trust (£2,000), and Lowsonford Womens Club (£1,500)

**Garfield Weston Foundation**

£10,000 Application made, waiting for a decision

**Total RUCIS**

**£30,000**

**equates to**

**48.6%**