

 Executive – 12th October 2011		Agenda Item No. 11A
Title	Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Application	
For further information about this report please contact	Chris Brown Finance and Admin Support Manager 01926 456204 e mail: fasteam@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Wards of the District directly affected	Budbrooke/Willes	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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.163 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	05/09/11	Andy Jones
Head of Service		N/A
CMT		N/A
Section 151 Officer	05/09/11	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer		N/A
Finance	02/09/11	Chris Brown
Portfolio Holder(s)	05/09/11	Cllr Grainger
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Final Decision?	Yes	

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides details of a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Application by The Budbrooke Village Hall Committee for the refurbishment of the Village Hall Kitchen and a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Application by St Mary's Allotment Association for the supply and erection of security fencing and automated gate.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant of £3,469 to Budbrooke Village Hall Committee for the kitchen refurbishment, which equates to 50% of the cost as detailed in paragraph 7.1 supported by appendix 1.
- 2.2 It is also recommended that the Executive approves a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant of £8,923 to St Mary's Allotment Association for security fencing and automated gate, which equates to 50% of the cost as detailed in paragraph 7.1 supported by appendix 2.

3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The Council operates schemes to award Capital Improvement Grants to organisations in urban and rural areas. The grants recommended are in accordance with the Council's agreed scheme and will provide funding to help the schemes progress.
- 3.2 To provide funding to help the schemes progress as the kitchen has not been upgraded since 1985 in respect of the Village Hall and to eradicate the crime problem caused by poor existing security fencing at St Mary's Allotments.

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 are 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 2011/12 is £150,000 (£75,000 for Rural Projects and £75,000 for Urban Projects). To this has been added £114,586 which is the unallocated budget from 2010/11 which will sit in a separate cost centre and be allocated to either Rural or Urban schemes as the main budgets are used up.
- 5.2 After the grant awarded by the July Executive, there is £45,000 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the Rural Cost Centre in 2011/12 and if the application within this report is approved, £41,531 will remain in the Rural Cost Centre.

- 5.3 There is £75,000 available in the Urban Cost Centre and if the application within this report is approved, £66,077 will remain in the Urban Cost Centre as outlined in Appendix 3.

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 alternatives 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 as discussed in paragraph 7.

7. BACKGROUND

7.1 Budbrooke Village Hall Committee

The Budbrooke Village Hall Committee have submitted an application in order to refurbish the kitchen as it is in need of modernisation as it has been in situ since 1985.

The Budbrooke Village Hall Committee has £26,634 in reserves but is using £2,969 to fund this project and have more maintenance projects in the pipeline for improvements to the Village Hall.

The Budbrooke Village Hall Committee's last successful application from the Rural Initiative Scheme was back in February 2008.

It is recommended that the Executive approves the award of a Rural/Urban Capital improvement Grant to The Budbrooke Village Hall Committee of 50% of the total cost of the project inclusive of VAT subject to a maximum payment of £3,469

7.2 St Mary's Allotment Association

The St Mary's Allotment Association have submitted an application in order to erect a security fence and a new gate as there has been a number of break-ins and vandalism over the last 18 months which has been very demoralising for the members of the Association.

The St Mary's Allotment Association has £26,060 in reserves but is using £8,923 to fund this project and also have another project of replacing the water supply later in the year from their remaining reserves.

The St Mary's Allotment Association has never applied before for a grant as it was only open to rural areas before June 2011. This in fact will be the first grant (if successful) to come from the New Urban Improvement Fund.

It is recommended that the Executive approves the award of a Rural/Urban Capital improvement Grant to The St Mary's Allotment Association of 50% of the total cost of the project inclusive of VAT subject to a maximum payment of £8,923 - this may well be reduced when Leamington Town Council issue there grants in October.