

 Executive – 3rd September 2014		Agenda Item No. <h1>10A</h1>
Title	Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme (RUCIS) 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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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. 197 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	11.8.14	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	6.8.14	Mike Snow
CMT	11.8.14	Chris Elliot, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	6.8.14	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	11.8.14	Andy Jones
Finance	6.8.14	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	4.8.14	Cllr Cross
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Community Partnership Team and Manoj Sonecha (Active Communities Officer) –Copy of report forwarded 1 st August 2014		
Final Decision?		Yes/No
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides details of a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme grant application by Stoneleigh Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust to a) combine two small rooms into one larger room to make an adequate facility for a variety of uses, b) create direct access from the enlarged room onto the stage in the main hall which will create more auditorium space to increase audience capacity and, c) construct a storage area that leads directly from the main hall to the stage to remove current health & safety issues when moving equipment around and also remove vandalism issues that are occasionally experienced with the current storage shed that is based in the grounds of the hall.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the Rural cost centre budget for Stoneleigh Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust of 50% of the total project costs to adapt the village hall, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1 and 3.2, up to a maximum of £19,081 subject to receipt of the following:

- Written confirmation of formal financial contribution request and subsequent funding decision from Stoneleigh Parish Council; if approved, the contribution from Stoneleigh Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust cash reserves will be reduced accordingly
- Receipt of a third decorating quote
- Receipt of a third asbestos survey quote

(see 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 the Village Hall and playing fields there would be fewer opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in sports, arts and cultural activities which could potentially result in an increase in anti-social behaviour and obesity, particularly in children. The combining of two rooms into one larger room will create more space in the main hall which will increase audience capacity which will also increase opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in arts and cultural activities. The provision of an indoor storage facility close to the main stage will remove health and safety and vandalism issues that are experienced with the current outdoor storage shed.

4. POLICY FRAMEWORK

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

- Community Engagement & Cohesion (including Families at Risk)
- Targeting disadvantaged rural locations
- Narrowing the Gaps

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 The budget for the Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme applications for 2014/15 is £150,000 (£75,000 for rural projects and £75,000 for urban projects).
- 5.2 In addition there is the unallocated budget from 2013/2014 of £33,634 which sits within a separate cost centre budget; this could then be used for either Rural or Urban schemes once the 2014/15 budget has been used.
- 5.3 There is £75,000 still available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the Rural Cost Centre budget in 2014/15. If the application within this report from Stoneleigh Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust for 50% of the total project costs, up to a maximum of £19,081 is approved, £55,919 will remain in the Rural Cost Centre budget.
- 5.4 There is £52,758 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the Urban Cost Centre budget for 2014/15.

6. RISKS

- 6.1 There are no main risks for this proposal.

7. ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 Members may choose not to approve the grant funding, or to vary the amount awarded.

8. BACKGROUND

- 8.1 Stoneleigh Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust has submitted a RUCIS application to a) combine two small rooms into one larger room to make an adequate facility for a variety of uses, b) create direct access from the enlarged room onto the stage in the main hall which will create more auditorium space to increase audience capacity and, c) construct a storage area that leads directly from the main hall to the stage to remove current health & safety issues when moving equipment around and also remove vandalism issues that are occasionally experienced with the current storage shed that is based in the grounds of the hall.
- 8.2 The RUCIS application is for 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £19,081
- 8.3 Stoneleigh Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust is not registered for VAT; they won't be reclaiming VAT in connection to this project therefore the award will be inclusive of VAT.

- 8.4 Stoneleigh Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust has committed £12,581 to the project from their cash reserves. These funds have been evidenced through the provision of a recent bank statement and copies of the organisations savings passbook.
- 8.5 Stoneleigh Parish Council has indicated that they support the project and are likely to make a small financial contribution of approximately £100 - £200. If the Council do agree to contribute, Stoneleigh Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust's contribution from their cash reserves will be reduced accordingly. A formal request has yet to be made by Stoneleigh Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust therefore a caveat has been included that the successful award of a grant is subject to receiving evidence that the formal request was made and the decision made.
- 8.6 Stoneleigh Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust had planning permission granted on 1st August 2014.
- 8.7 The architect employed to produce building plans and aid the planning application has recommended that an asbestos survey is completed ahead of starting any building work as a precautionary measure, however, it is thought very unlikely that there any asbestos issues. The Stoneleigh Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust committee feel an obligation to the community to carry out this survey to alleviate any possible concerns of the community.
- 8.8 Stoneleigh Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust has previously had successful RUCIS applications:
- £2,281 (25% of the total project costs) for resurfacing the car park in December 2004
 - £30,000 (50% of the total project costs) for redeveloping tennis courts in April 2012

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. It is therefore recommended that the Executive approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Stoneleigh Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust of 50% of the total cost of the project inclusive of VAT subject to a maximum of £19,081.