

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

Applicant : Shrewley Village Hall

Description of scheme: Replace village hall chairs; during their 10-15 years use, the existing chairs have proved to be very acceptable to users of the hall, however, they have become faded and damaged in the course of normal use. The project is to provide seating which is back up to the standard users expect and which is at least equal to the standard offered by neighbouring village halls.

Evidence of need: There is an obvious visible need and the hall has also received letters from some of the most active groups who use the premises, for example; Shrewley & District Garden Society, Shrewley Women's Institute and South Midlands Area of NAFAS (copies provided). The common theme is that the chairs have become dirty and damaged, and a few are even burned where they have been carelessly stacked against radiators. These letters back up verbal comments that are also made from time to time. As most of them have faded, cleaning the existing chairs is not the solution, and though many of them could be re-upholstered the hall have found that the cost of this service is as much as or more than the cost of new chairs. Furthermore, modern chairs tend to be lighter and easier to stack than the existing furniture, so the best solution is to replace them.

3 years accounts received? Yes; 2014 to 2016, also received recent bank statement (31st July 2017) and an explanation of the financial structure (a proportion of the cash reserves are actually the Shrewley Social Club's funds)

Financial Performance; minus figure = deficit	Year ended	Year ended	Year ended
	31/12/16	31/12/15	31/12/14
	£ 1,522	£3,484	£3,635

Available Funds (cash and reserves)	Year ended	Year ended	Year ended
	31/12/16	31/12/15	31/12/14
	£16,121	£12,379	£12,380

Details of membership, fees etc: The village hall has no membership scheme although the various groups have their own schemes. The hall charges approximately £12 per hour for the use of the main hall and £6 per hour for the smaller committee room.

Details of usage:

Regular usage:

- Shrewley Parish Council: every 2 months, attended by approx. 20 people
- Shrewley Women's Institute: Formal monthly meetings, attended by over 40 people
- Shrewley Women's Institute: Monthly committee meetings, attended by approx. 10 people
- "Keep fit" classes: every Wednesday, attended by approx. 25 people
- Shrewley and District Garden Society: Monthly meetings, attended by approx. 40 people
- Shrewley Social Club: Club nights at 6 week intervals, attended by approx. 40 – 80 people
- Shrewley Social Club: Preparatory and feedback meetings, over 12 per annum, attended by approx. 10 people
- Children's extra tuition classes: 4 nights per week except for school holidays, attended by approx. 10 people (this will be increasing soon)
- Children's dance classes: every Sunday, attended by approx. 20 people
- Shrewley Parents' Group: Children's play meetings, about every 4 weeks, attended by approx. 40 parents and children
- "Live & Local" performances: at least 2 per annum, attended by approx. 80 people
- Live & Local admin committee: at least 2 meetings for each performance, attended by approx. 10 people
- Village Show planning meetings: 4 per annum, attended by approx. 12 people)
- Sundry quiz nights, barn dances, beetle drives and so on, at least one of each per annum, each attended by over 80 people, also with associated preparation meetings
- NAFAS flower shows: about twice a year, attended by approx. 60 people, also with associated preparation meetings
- Shrewley Village Show: annual, visited by well over 200 people

Ad hoc hiring:

- Local birthday parties, anniversary celebrations and so on, about one per week, each attended by approx. 50 people
- Motor Cycle Action Group: about twice an year, conferences with approx. 50 members present
- Antique Horological Society: conferences twice a year involving approx. 30 people

Details of Organisations equalities policies: The village hall has no formal equality policy; it is available for hire by any respectable individual or organisation although the Hall reserves the right to decline an application for hiring if there is any suspicion of dangerous practice or criminal activity likely to take place, or if there is a possibility of damage to the fabric of the hall. There is no religious discrimination: all peace-loving members of society are welcome.

3 quotes provided: Yes; 3 written quotes received, the hall have chosen the middle quote as the preferred option based on the attributes of comfort, perceived quality and appearance.

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

Reduce anti-social behaviour

The village hall provides a variety of activities for the whole community such as:

- Social club events
- Keep fit classes
- Dancing school sessions
- Children's extra tuition classes
- Meeting place for W.I., Social Club, Garden Society and Parents' Group

The new chairs will help to keep the hall a viable facility; provision of these activities helps towards reducing anti-social behaviour.

Reducing obesity, particularly in children

Whilst the new chairs will not directly affect this issue, the village hall provides a variety of activities for the whole community such as:

- Keep fit classes
- Dancing school sessions.

The new chairs will help to keep the hall a viable facility; provision of these activities helps towards reducing obesity, including in children.

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

The number of usable chairs is already declining to the point that it is necessary to bring some damaged ones "out of retirement" when there is a particularly large gathering in the hall; as the number of usable chairs decreases the community will see a reduction in opportunities to participate and enjoy social, arts and cultural activities, completing this project and purchasing new chairs will ensure that the current opportunities are maintained. The hall facility will be enhanced with the new chairs with the community more likely to hire the hall for functions and events which will increase social opportunities for the community.

Engaging and strengthening communities

The facility is managed and run by a wide range of volunteers from the local community and the activities that are available also bring together a wide range of people from the community; this all helps to engage and strengthen the community. For example; a new social group was formed in the village last year for the benefit of young families, called "Shrewley Parents' Group", and it is becoming increasingly active using the hall for most of its meetings. The more attractive and fit-for-purpose the hall is, the more it will be used by the emerging group, and the new children will be able to grow up knowing there is a pleasant facility nearby.

Total cost of scheme (including VAT where appropriate)

3,684

Funded by:

Status

Organisations Own Funds

£637

Approved

Shrewley Parish Council

£100

Approved

Total RUCIS

£2,947

equates to

80.0%