

 Executive – 13th March 2013		Agenda Item No. 10B
Title	Rural/Urban Capital Improvement 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	Leek Wootton (Shrewley)	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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. 177 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	30.1.13	Andy Jones
Head of Service	4.2.13	Mike Snow
CMT	14.2.13	Chris Elliot, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	4.2.13	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	30.1.13	Andy Jones
Finance	4.2.13	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	30.1.13	Cllr Mobbs
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Final Decision?		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides details of a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement application by Shrewley Village Hall to reinforce the driveway at the side of the hall to improve access to the rear field for outdoor summer events and provide an additional parking area for all-year round indoor events.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant of £1100 to Shrewley Village Hall for reinforcing the driveway at the side of the hall to improve access to the rear field for outdoor summer events and provide an additional parking area for all-year round indoor events, subject to receipt of the following:

- Satisfactory independently audited accounts for 2012; this should reflect the Hall's capability to fund £600 of the project cost from their own funds
- Written confirmation of the Parish Council approval to fund £600 of the project cost

This equates to 48% of the cost as detailed in paragraph 7.1 supported by appendix 1.

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 This scheme contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy as it will provide further opportunities for everyone to enjoy and participate in sports, arts and cultural activities as more events can be planned and held. It will also help to continue to engage and strengthen the community from which there is a wide circle of volunteers who work on setting up entertainment events.
- 3.3 This scheme will potentially help the village hall to become more self efficient in the future by money raised through increased events.

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 areas 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 2012/13 is £150,000 (£75,000 for Rural Projects and £75,000 for Urban Projects). The unallocated budget from 2011/2012 of £127,088 has been added to this but sits within a separate cost centre budget, this can be added to either Rural or Urban schemes once the 2012/2013 budget has been used.
- 5.2 There are no funds available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the Rural Cost Centre budget for 2012/13. Any future Rural Applications approved will need to be funded from the slippage from 2011/2012. If the Shrewley Village Hall application is approved, £92,349 would remain in the slippage cost centre budget.
- 5.3 There is £50,000 still available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the Urban Cost Centre budget in 2012/13.

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 alternative sources of funding 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

Shrewley Village Hall

- 7.1 Shrewley Village Hall has submitted an application to reinforce the side driveway to improve access to the rear field to hold summer outdoor events. The reinforced driveway will also create additional parking for all-year round indoor events.
- 7.2 The current "driveway" is a 5 metre wide track constituting a clay substrate and very thin topsoil. Unless the driveway has time to dry out between rain showers the topsoil becomes muddy and water soaks into the clay substrate rendering it incapable of supporting any traffic, including pedestrians, which has limited the number of events held in this space.
- 7.3 This scheme will also help to alleviate parking problems and enable more off-road parking; the hall's capacity is 100 people. The car park on the apron in front of the hall is about 450 sq m and can accommodate approximately 20 cars before it gets grid-locked. The side driveway is approximately 250 sq m in area and, once reinforced, could accommodate a further 10 cars.
- 7.4 Shrewley Village Hall has stated that they have cash reserves to provide £600 to help fund this project. See Appendix 1.
- 7.5 Shrewley Village Hall has previously made three successful Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant Fund applications, details as follows:

June 2008 - 50% grant awarded which equated to £14,500 for a new ceiling and an extension.

April 2010 – To enable the ceiling and extension project to be completed a further award of £8,915 was approved. This was to pay for additional electrical work required due to the new ceiling and to cover an increase in labour and material costs for the extension.

January 2011 – During the final stages of the extension a major issue was discovered with regards to the existing sewer drains; they were found to be broken and had been leaking into the soil for a number of years. An additional grant was required to stop the closure of the Hall on health and safety grounds; an award of £5,573 was approved.