

Item 7a

AREA 3 FORUM

8th November 2006

Report of the Head of Strategy and Regeneration

Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

Application Report

Introduction

This report highlights a Local Improvement Programme (LIP) application submitted to and initially appraised by the Strategy and Regeneration Section. The report provides information to the Area 3 Forum for their consideration and comments, which will be used to formulate a report and recommendation to the Sedgefield Borough Council cabinet.

The Area 3 Forum has been allocated £532,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009. £177,334 was allocated for 2006/07 of which £71,099 has been allocated to date, leaving a balance of £106,235.

Project Background

- **Name of Project:** Ceddesfeld Hall – Attic and Cellars Technical Study
- **Name of Applicant:** Sedgefield Community Association (SCA)
- **Legal Status:** Registered Charity
- **Date of Application:** 25th October 2006
- **Landlord:** Sedgefield Town Council leased to the community association on a long term lease
- **Brief Description of Project:** The project is to commission a consultant to investigate the feasibility of bringing the attics and / or cellars back into use at Ceddesfeld Hall.
- **Requested from LIP:** £1,500 (100%)
- **Total Project Cost:** £1,500
- **What will the LIP be used for:** The LIP would pay for a consultant to examine the following:
 - The existing layout and limitations of Ceddesfeld Hall and how effective it is in providing necessary and appropriate facilities for future use.
 - If and how the attics / cellars can be brought back into effective public use.

- What current internal factors have to be considered in bringing these areas into public use.
- How disability access to at least the first floor can be accommodated.
- The options available, cost of works involved and future timescales for implementation of such works.

LIP Criteria

- **Department for Communities and Local Government Definition:**

The attics and cellars are not currently useable and therefore the first phase of this project will examine the possibility of bringing them back into effective use.

- **Community Strategy Objectives:**

The project links to 3 of the 4 community strategy objectives – Healthy, Prosperous and Attractive. Healthy – Access to Services, Prosperous-Development of the Borough’s unique cultural and tourism attractions and Attractive – Develop and Maximise the leisure and cultural facilities.

- **Evidence of need and community support:**

The applicant has outlined that the community appraisal for Sedgefield Village highlighted a lack of meeting places for young people in the village and demonstrated that problems existed with young people congregating in the street. The SCA have been approached by several organisations requesting additional community space within the locality.

- **Value for money and Revenue implications:**

At this stage, the applicant is applying for 100% of the funding for this project.

It is appreciated that at this stage the request represents a relatively small sum of money from the LIP. By carrying out this stage of the project full details will be able to be obtained about the likely cost of implementing the actual solution of refurbishing the attics and / or cellars.

Recommendation from the Strategy and Regeneration Section:

That the Area Forum considers the following key issues:

- The relative priority of this project within the Sedgefield / Area 3 locality, and a willingness that this stage of the project is commenced to inform a full debate on costs at a future Area Forum.
- That no duplication of services will occur with other community venues in Sedgefield

If the Area Forum feel that it is appropriate to process with this project given local circumstances and identified need, a further report will be brought to the Area Forum to consider the cost implications of the final project once the Technical Study has been completed.

Subject to being happy with the above points that the Area Forum supports the progress and further development of this application.

Material considerations:

Other applications received from Area 3:

In taking the above decision the Area Forum is requested to consider the implication of the funding level requested against the following projects that have been received for future determination by the Forum.

- Memorial Children's Playing Field- Memorial Children's Playing Field Charity- LIP requested £58,900, Total project cost £150,000
- Sedgefield Parish Hall – Sedgefield Town Council – LIP requested £37,000, Total project cost £37,000
- Sedgefield Advice and Information Development – Sedgefield Town council – LIP requested £65,000, Total project cost £90,000

The following project is under development and no application has been received to date. Once an application received this project will be brought forward to the Forum for debate.

- Sedgefield Cricket Club – Refurbishment of the club house for use as a community venue - no costs as yet.

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