

Item 7c

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:** Sedgefield Parish Hall Regeneration Programme
- **Name of Applicant:** Sedgefield Town Council
- **Legal Status:** Town Council
- **Date of Application:** 24th October 2006
- **Landlord:** Sedgefield Town Council owned.
- **Brief Description of Project:** 4 Elements to the project – Acoustic Survey of the building, new stage facility including fixed lighting / sound equipment, refurbishment of the kitchen to provide additional facilities and chair lift to first floor.
- **Requested from LIP:** £37,000 (100%).
- **Total Project Cost:** £37,000 (Capital)
- **What will the LIP be used for:** LIP will pay for an acoustic survey to be carried out to look into possibilities for solving the noise problems in the Parish Hall. New lighting / sound and stage equipment will be installed in the large hall in order to cater for increased users and a greater range of groups. The Kitchen facilities will be refurbished to provide opportunities for lifestyle courses / healthy eating classes and alterations will be done to the first floor to improve access.

LIP Criteria

- **Department for Communities and Local Government Definition:**
The applicant has outlined that the building is underused at the moment as a result of the outdated facilities and noise problems between the Parish Hall and neighbouring property.
- **Community Strategy Objectives:**
The project links to 2 of the 4 community strategy objectives – Healthy and Attractive. Healthy – Access to Services, and Attractive – Develop and Maximise the leisure and cultural facilities in the borough.
- **Evidence of need and community support:**
The applicant has stated that, the need for the Parish Hall was highlighted in both the Town Plan and the Community Appraisal for Sedgefield. This also raised the issues to be addressed and the need for a community building. This led to the referendum which was held in June / July 2006 when there was support to retain the hall on the existing site and carry out major refurbishment. The community have been involved in the project since its inception in 2000 when the Parish Hall development group consisted of members of the user groups and the community. The Town Council are still working with the user groups and residents forum to develop the project and priorities.
- **Value for money and Revenue implications:**
The applicant is applying for 100% of the funding for this phase of the project. The applicant has received quotations for the various aspects of work. Future revenue implications and opportunities for further matched funding are to be resolved with the applicant in due course as part of the full project appraisal process.

It is expected that the acoustic survey will highlight the need for further phases of the regeneration of the Parish Hall. The Parish Council will therefore pursue further funding from other sources for this future phase of the project in due course. This LIP application relates to immediate priorities to increase use of the Parish Hall.

Recommendation from the Strategy and Regeneration Section:

That the Area Forum considers and debates the following key issues;

- The relative priority of this project within the Sedgefield / Area 3 locality.
- That the Area Forum is satisfied that no duplication of services will occur with other community venues in Sedgefield.

Subject to being happy with the above points that the Area Forum supports the progress and further development of this application. Following Area Forum comments on the principle of further developing the project, the

application that has been made will be subject to a full project appraisal involving further discussions with the applicant organisation.

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 amount £58,900, Total project cost £150,000
- Sedgefield Advice and Information Development – Sedgefield Town council – LIP requested £65,000, Total project cost £90,000
- Ceddesfeld Hall Cellar and Attics Technical Study- Sedgefield Community association- LIP requested £1,500, Total project cost £1,500

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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