

# Item 6c

AREA 5 FORUM

11<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

## Application - Aycliffe Village Hall Improvements

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 5 Forum for their consideration and comments, which will be used to further develop the project proposal prior to it being taken through Sedgefield Borough Council's decision-making process.

The Area 5 Forum has been allocated £1,140,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009 subject to budget approval. A total of £380,000 has been allocated to the year 2007/08. A number of projects have been allocated in the previous year for this area, and there is some additional under-spend resulting from last year, which will be available to the Area Forum for project activity.

## Project Background

- **Name of Project:** Aycliffe Village Hall Improvements
- **Name of Applicant:** Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association
- **Brief Description of Project:** The aim of the project is to provide stage lighting and curtains, which would enable amateur theatre productions, a glazed entrance feature creating additional useable space of 30m<sup>2</sup> and also improved access to the Village Hall.
- **Requested from LIP:** £44,815 (92%)
- **Total Estimated Project Cost:** £48,815
- **What will the LIP be used for:**

The applicant has stated that the project will provide stage curtains and lighting and enable amateur theatrical group performances, a glazed entrance feature which would create additional space to be used for social activities including library, coffee club and a social meeting place. The plan is to create additional space, a better-managed entrance providing an 'open visit' drop-in meeting area. (expandable in

good weather to external paved areas. Improved access to the hall is also included in the project.

- **Impact of the Project:**

The applicant has stated that the project will offer a better environment to build a stronger Village community. The project aims to provide additional facilities, which will make the building a part of local life as opposed to an occasionally used facility. Aycliffe Village has, in common with other communities an ever growing elderly population, it is hoped that the social benefit which can be offered as part of the proposed alterations in the way of age-related groups and activities will promote an increase in the quality of life for this age group and contribute to the proven associated health benefits.

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

Community consultation is ongoing at the present time, and results will be available before taking the project to a further stage. Some specific requests or needs have been provided from residents. These requests have been researched and identified as evidence for need of the proposed project.

As part of the research done as a committee, visits to other Village Halls have been made and compared their facilities and what they have in resident community groups and activities. These visits confirmed that to realise the true potential and achieve the aims there was a need to improve the facility.

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

The total project cost £48,815, of which the applicant has applied for £44,815 (92%). Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association will provide the remaining funding. Future revenue costs will be the responsibility of the Village Hall Association.

- **Statutory Approvals:**

Planning Permission and Building Regulation consent is to be applied for.

### **Recommendation from the Strategy and Regeneration Section:**

Subject to discussion and agreement by the Area Forum to progress the project proposal, the applicant will work with the Strategy and Regeneration Division to further develop the LIP application prior to it

being taken through Sedgefield Borough Council's decisions making process.

That the Area Forum considers:

- The project proposal and how it would meet the priority needs of the Area 5 locality.

**Material considerations:**

**Other applications received from Area 5:**

Applications approved by Sedgefield Borough Council to date:

Great Aycliffe Way & Nature Reserve	£183,505
Woodham Community Centre	£25,200
Middridge Village Hall	£76,485
Neville Parade Community Centre	£44,353
Newton Aycliffe Sports Club T/study	£5,875
Total	<u>£335,418</u>

Applications to be discussed at Area Forum:

Neville Parade Methodist Church	£18,471
Simpasture Park Improvements	£89,245
Moore Lane Pavilion	£25,089

Application considered by the Area Forum and being further developed:

Newton Aycliffe Sport Club	£252,685
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Applications under development:

Morrison Close Community Centre

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