

# Item 6a

AREA 5 FORUM

11<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

## Application - Neville Parade Methodist Church Hall

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:** Neville Parade Methodist Church Hall
- **Name of Applicant:** Neville Parade Methodist Church
- **Brief Description of Project:** The project aims to bring the small hall into a useable condition to encourage more community activities in the hall. This includes a new entrance porch, double glazing, suspended ceiling, accessible toilets, decoration and carpeting.
- **Requested from LIP:** £18,471 (88%)
- **Total Estimated Project Cost:** £20,875
- **What will the LIP be used for:**  
The applicant has requested funding for the double glazing, suspended ceiling and lighting, installation of accessible toilets and creation of a porch from the car park.
- **Impact of the Project:**  
The applicant has stated that the continuance of existing groups for young people will be safeguarded for a number of young people. The parent and toddler group will be encouraged to expand its services providing social interaction for children and parents and the luncheon club will continue to provide elderly members of the community with a

meeting place and a healthy meal at a reasonable price. The applicant also states that the use of the hall by members of the community will increase their social network and circle of friends. This will also contribute towards a greater sense of community spirit. The project also hopes to work in partnership with other agencies providing services to the local community, particularly amongst those not in education, employment and training.

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

The applicant has stated that a survey has been carried out amongst people on the fringes of church life. In August 2007, 50 surveys were distributed and 46% were returned all showing a clear need for the modernisation / refurbishment of the hall. Suggestions were also made for the types of activities to be provided. In December 2007, consultation was done with people living in neighbouring streets. 52 responses were given, these included the types of activities which are missing from the community and which the local people would support at Neville Parade. Discussions have also taken place with the neighbouring Neville Parade Community Centre. Agreement has been made to meet every three months to discuss activities, ensure no duplication is being made between the two organisations and to develop a complementary approach to local provision.

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

The total project cost £20,875, of which the applicant has applied for £18,471 (70%). The remaining funds will be from Church funds. Revenue costs will also be funded from the church's own funds.

- **Statutory Approvals:**

Requirement of Planning Permission and Building Regulation consent is to be confirmed.

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

That the Area Forum considers:

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

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 and explore a more detail predicted programme of use for the facility in order to maximise the overall impact of the project prior to it being taken through Sedgefield Borough Council's decisions making process.

**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:

Simpasture Park	£89,245
Aycliffe Village Hall	£44,815
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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