

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

Application - Eldon Community Centre

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 4 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 4 Forum has been allocated £456,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009. A total of £61,839 has been approved to date.

Project Background

- **Name of Project:** Eldon Community Centre
- **Name of Applicant:** Eldon Community Association
- **Brief Description of Project:**

The applicant has stated that the partnership committee would like to secure funding to provide a community centre for the residents of Eldon village. The people of Eldon have no building to have meetings or hold events, therefore the provision of a community centre would provide a building for all age groups of the community to meet and participate in social, educational and healthy activities. The building would be 25ft by 40ft in size, hence the low cost for a new build. Costs include access and car parking provision.
- **Requested from LIP: £115,308 (92%)**
- **Total Estimated Project Cost: £125,308**
- **Impact of the Project:**

The applicant has stated that a new community centre would provide a building for members of the community to use the facilities provided. The centre plans to hold youth activities reducing anti-social behaviour and promote a healthier community.

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

The applicant has carried out door to door questionnaires within the village to highlight the need for a community centre. The response shows that 96% of those questioned feel that there is a need for a community centre (50 of 52 responses). The types of activities requested were also highlighted and these will be fed into the programme of use for the new centre.

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

The total project cost is £125,308, of which the applicant has applied for £115,308 (92%). The remaining costs will be met by the local brickworks who will donate all bricks required and Neighbourhood Enhancement Programme monies will be used as the remaining match funding.

The issues of future financial sustainability of the centre will be considered during the full appraisal process.

- **Statutory Approvals:**

Planning permission and Building regulation consent requirements will be required for the project.

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 4 locality.

Subject to discussion and agreement by the Area Forum to progress the project, the Strategy & Regeneration Division will work with the applicant to resolve the above issues, and clarify any additional points raised through the Area Forum process. This will also include consideration of the management of the centre and volunteer capacity

Material considerations:

Other applications received from Area 4:

To be considered at Area 4 July meeting:

Vintage Vehicles Shildon
Jubilee Fields Community Centre

Under development

Shildon Peoples Centre

Shildon Railway Sports & Social Club

Projects endorsed by Area Forum and awaiting decision by SBC.

Projects Approved to date:

Hackworth Tennis Courts	£34,999
Shildon Scouts Memorial Field Technical Study	£4,113
Hackworth Park Pavilion Technical Study	£15,000
Shildon Civic Hall Stage Sound and Lighting	<u>£7,727</u>
	£61,839

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