



Agenda

Community Engagement Forum Extraordinary Partnership Board (Southern)

Venue: Hambleton Village Hall, 3 Station Road, Hambleton, Selby, North Yorkshire, YO8 9HS.

Date: Wednesday 6 September 2017.

Time: 6.00pm

To: District and County Councillors
Councillors M Jordan (Chair), C Lunn, J McCartney,
M McCartney, C Pearson, D Peart and D White.

Co-opted members
Jack Burbridge, Jack Davie, Fiona Conor, Steve Laurenson,
Gillian Ivey, Dave Perry, Kathleen Walton and Keith Westwood.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

A copy of the Register of Interest for each Selby District Councillor is available for inspection at www.selby.gov.uk.

Board members should declare to the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest in any item of business on this agenda which is not (in the case of Selby District Councillors) already entered in their Register of Interests.

Board members should leave the meeting and take no part in the consideration, discussion or vote on any matter in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Board members should also declare any other interests. Having made the declaration, provided the other interest is not a disclosable pecuniary interest, the member may stay in the meeting, speak and vote on that item of business.


If in doubt, Board members are advised to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer.

3. PARTNERSHIP BOARD REPORT – CRIDLING STUBBS VILLAGE HALL

To consider the following report and recommendations in relation to the funding application received for Cridling Stubbs Village Hall (pages 1 to 4 attached).

Gillian Marshall
Solicitor to the Council

For enquires relating to this agenda, please contact Alice Courtney, Democratic Services on 01757 292352 or email acourtney@selby.gov.uk.

Cridling Stubbs Village Hall		
<i>Partnership Board Report</i>		
Senior Responsible Owner (SRO)	Angela Crossland – Head of Customer, Communities and Partnerships.	
Document Author (if different from PM)	Jake Longhorn - Customer and Communities Project Officer	
Version Control	0.6	
Approved By	Angela Crossland – Head of Customer, Communities and Partnerships.	

1. Background

1.1 On 27th July 2017, the Southern Community Engagement Forum (CEF) Partnership Board put forward a recommendation to award £5,000 of CEF funding to the Cridling Stubbs Village Hall Committee to support building improvements and secure roof repairs. From previous information, and through discussion at the partnership board meeting, it was felt appropriate to review the recommendation to ensure any award of grant was within the constitution and the funding framework for the Community Engagement Forum, and to undertake a further level of due diligence to ensure that the grant could be appropriately awarded. This report outlines the process that was undertaken and provides recommendations to the CEF Partnership Board on the grant award and how to take the work forward.

2. Outline of Concerns

- 2.1 The CEF funding framework for all Selby District CEF Partnership Boards states the following:
- If an organisation has been given a grant they cannot apply for funding for the same application or project for another two years.
 - The application must meet at least two objectives in the Community Development Plan for the CEF area.
 - Funding cannot be provided for continuous work and it should not be expected that a CEF can continuously fund a project or scheme. Applicants should look to ensure their project or scheme is self-sufficient once they have received funding from the CEF.
- 2.2 In addition, there were concerns raised by officers that the application was to support remedial works that had already undertaken on the property but had been to a sub-standard. It was considered that there would need to be a further level of due diligence to enable the Board to fully consider the implications of supporting further funding.

3. Resulting actions

The following activity has been undertaken:

- 3.1 Confirmation of the Village Hall ownership status.
- 3.2 Liaison with North Yorkshire Trading Standards related to the works carried out on the property.
- 3.3 Meetings with Mr Colin Beddow, Chair of the Village Hall Committee
- 3.4 Committee governance and health check as part of the 'New Beginnings' community development support programme delivered by Selby AVS.
- 3.5 Internal discussions with Property Services and Legal Services.

4. Findings

- 4.1 It has been confirmed that the Village Hall is under the responsibility of the Cridling Stubbs Village Hall Committee.
- 4.2 North Yorkshire Trading Standards (NYTS) were alerted to concerns regarding the quality of the work on the hall and are continuing with ongoing investigations. As a result of these concerns, officers within the Selby District Council consulted with trading standards regarding their investigations relating to the contractor who carried out the works from the previous awards of CEF funding in 2015 and 2016.

The current committee were instrumental in raising appropriate concerns to NYTS for action. The committee have not however taken other steps towards reclaiming any money back from traders who completed the initial sub-standard work.

- 4.3 The committee is a new body of representatives from the village and have been proactive in seeking support from the CEF and from Selby District Council and AVS to review their current situation. They have taken up all support offered to date and are ensuring a clear and transparent approach with the Charity Commission.
- 4.4 The committee have met with Selby AVS and officers within Selby District Council.
- 4.5 Discussions with SDC Property Services would suggest that the property requires a conditions survey to truly understand the extent of investment that the committee will need to consider for the immediate, medium and long term longevity of the hall. Without this, the committee are unable to consider the extent of fundraising and investment required, and whether the property remains a feasible asset.

Legal Services have offered some information on how to support the committee with approaching the issue of reclamation of previously used funds.

- 4.6 Officers initiated discussions between the current committee members and AVS under the 'new beginnings' programme of support through which the new board will be offered support in relation to governance, finance, planning and in understanding better their role as trustees. Officers from SDC were present at the meeting and are in the process of supporting the group with informing the Charities Commission of activities that were performed under the previous committee membership. This will result in further investigations from this body into the previous management of the building.
- 4.7 Further to this meeting, officers enlisted the support of the councils own legal team in

understanding the options that are available to SDC. This has informed decision making.

5. Decision

- 5.1 In view of the above, it is recommended that the Partnership Board reconsider their original decision to support the grant award of £5000 related to the original application.
- 5.2 The decision from Selby District Council is not to award funding totalling £5000 to the Cridling Stubbs Village Hall committee for remedial works, at this time.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 Following investigations, officers at SDC make the following recommendations to the Southern CEF Partnership Board for consideration. These options have been discussed with the applicant in detail and full and proper explanation of the recommendations has been made. The applicants have understood and accepted the response and consider the recommendations to be fair.
- 6.2 Should the Southern CEF Partnership Board wish to further award a grant to the Cridling Stubbs Village Hall Committee, it is recommended that any grant conditions are strictly specific in the use of the grant. The grant would be monitored by the community support for the CEF board. The following conditions are considered to be appropriate. The Partnership Board will wish to consider the extent to which the CEF is prepared to support the below recommendations and the relevant grant amounts that would need to be awarded:

Option 1:

Conditions survey - An amount of funds could be awarded upon receipt of quotes for a conditions survey on the Cridling Stubbs Village Hall, by suppliers agreed upon with officers within Selby District Council. The resulting conditions survey must be shared with both the Southern CEF partnership board and officers in Selby District Council.

- 6.3 The recommendation from Selby District Council is that the Southern CEF partnership considers awarding an amount of funds to contribute to a conditions survey for Cridling Stubbs Village Hall. This will assist the applicant in planning for the future of the building and would provide much needed information as to the ongoing funds necessary to maintain the building as a community facility. This planning would be supported through the 'new beginnings' programme offered by AVS.
- 6.4 The applicant has expressed that such a survey would also support the ongoing pursuit of the previous contractor, and give significant support towards applying to other funding opportunities in the future. We would strongly recommend that the survey is commissioned from a known, reputable firm. SDC have provided a list of options from which to receive quotes. The committee is not in a position at present to offer a quote to the CEF and would need to bring back an appropriate quote to the Board for agreement. An extraordinary process of communication between the Board and SDC officers could then be undertaken to approve the quote and expedite processes.

Option 2:

Legal support – An amount of funds could be awarded upon receipt of quotes for legal support to the Cridling Stubbs Village Hall committee in relation to the pursuit of monies paid to the previous contractor responsible for the sub-standard works.”)

- 6.5 A further recommendation to the Southern CEF partnership board is that the Board could consider awarding funds for the committee to seek appropriate legal advice to pursue the reclamation of monies paid to the previous contractor. The amount awarded would be dependent on a quote provided by the village hall committee to the Southern CEF partnership board. An extraordinary process of communication between the Board and SDC officers could then be undertaken to approve the quote and expedite processes.
- 6.6 The outlined recommendations are considered necessary to ensure that the Partnerships Board is satisfied that there is a robust approach in place to justify the exceptional, further agreement of CEF funds to a project that has already been funded within the agreed framework. The recommendations do not rule out the Board's ability to consider further support to the committee, but show that there is a clear need to understand the longer term feasibility of the project. The village hall committee are aware of this approach and are also aware that this does not prevent them from pursuing funding for the hall from other avenues. The committee have been asked to seriously consider a fundraising plan for the building to ensure they have considered all support opportunities.