

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive Member for Leisure and Community for Decision 20 August 2021

Portfolio:	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Community Fund Application – Abshot Community Association
Report of:	Director of Leisure and Community
Corporate Priorities:	Leisure Opportunities for Health and Fun

Purpose:

This report presents an application for funding under the Council's Community Funding Programme.

Executive summary:

An application for Community Funding has been received from Abshot Community Association for the sum of £15,000 to contribute towards their project to replace the flooring of the Main Hall at Abshot Community Centre.

Abshot Community Centre remains a popular community facility, despite a fall in hall hire last year as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Its Main Hall is used for children's parties, the annual pantomime performance, mother and toddler groups, acting classes and exercise groups, among many. The Association leases the facility from Fareham Borough Council and within the Lease retains the responsibility for the maintenance of the flooring.

The floor of the Main Hall is currently in a very poor state due to its age. The surface is breaking up in several places, causing a health and safety concern.

The replacement of the flooring has been costed at £38,932.80 (including VAT). This includes the lifting and disposing of the existing linoleum flooring, preparation and levelling of the surface, and the fitting and heat welding of a new Polysafe Acoustic floor covering.

The Association investigated whether a sprung floor or wooden floor would be more appropriate, but these options proved not to be financially viable.

The Association's accounts of 2020 list a balance of £20,749 at the close of the year. This represents an increase from the previous year which is attributable to the

Association receiving £11,334 of central Government funding, administered by Fareham Borough Council, to compensate for the enforced closure of the Community Centre due to Covid-19. The Association is requesting £15,000 from the Community Fund towards this project, has a current funding application to the National Lottery for £5,000 and will cover the remaining amount from their own accounts. If the National Lottery application proves unsuccessful, the Sovereign Club, which uses the Community Centre premises, has agreed to cover any shortfall for the project.

Titchfield Common Ward Councillor, Sarah Pankhurst, has confirmed her support of this application. No views have been received from Ward Councillor Englefield.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

It is recommended that: -

- a) the application for £15,000 from Fareham Borough Council's Community Fund submitted by Abshot Community Association, towards their project to replace the flooring of the Main Hall of Abshot Community Centre, be approved; and
- b) the award is also subject to the monitoring of the project by Council Officers upon completion and no more than 2 months from commencement of the project, to ensure that the flooring has been installed to a suitable standard for a community facility.

Reason:

This application meets the Community Fund criteria for financial support for community capital projects.

Cost of Proposals:

The total allocation towards the project will be £15,000, which can be met from the existing budget for the Community Fund Programme.

Risk Assessment:

There are no risks associated with this report.