

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to the Executive Member for Leisure and Community for Decision

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Leisure and Community
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Community Fund Application – Abshot Community Association</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Finance and Resources
<b>Strategy/Policy:</b>	Community Engagement Strategy
<b>Corporate Objective:</b>	Strong and Inclusive Communities

#### **Purpose:**

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

#### **Executive Summary:**

An application for community funding has been received from Mr Gordon Coles, Honorary President of Abshot Community Association, for the sum of £3000.00 to use towards the purchase of a portable staging system for use at Abshot Community Centre.

Abshot Community Association is operated and run on a charitable basis and the centre is available for use and hire by the local community.

Maintenance and upkeep of the interior of the building is financed and provided by the Association and revenue is primarily sourced from the income provided by hall and facility hire and also functions and events organised by the association.

The Association previously owned a wooden stage at the Centre which was regularly used for pantomimes and other shows, including professional acts booked by the Community Association. Unfortunately, due to the wooden construction of the stage, this is now viewed as a fire and safety hazard and has since been dismantled and disposed of.

The stage has been greatly missed and many users have enquired whether it can be replaced. The Association would therefore like to purchase a fully functional and adaptable stage facility; with associated lighting and sound systems; for use by all users of the Centre. The system will be used for a wide range of activities including pantomimes, amateur dramatics and use by artists and disc jockeys, including acts that have been booked by Abshot Community Association and those that have

booked the venue for private functions.

The cost to purchase a new portable and size-adaptable staging system is £4011. The Association is requesting £3000 from the community fund towards the cost of this and they will fund the remaining £1011 from their own funds. The Association has recently purchased 150 new chairs for the main hall as well as a CCTV system at a total cost of £2500 and in addition to this they will also be covering the cost of stage lighting and a sound system.

Councillor Pankhurst is in support of this application. No response was received from Councillor Englefield.

**Recommendation:**

That the application for £3000.00 from Fareham Borough Council's Community Funding Programme, submitted by Mr Coles of Abshot Community Association towards the purchase of a portable staging system, be approved.

**Reason:**

This application meets the agreed Community Funding Programme criteria for financial support for community capital projects.

**Cost of Proposals:**

The total cost of this project will be £3000.00 and can be met from within the existing budget for the Community Fund Programme.

**Risk Assessment:**

There are no identified risks associated with this report.