

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive Member for Leisure and Community for Decision 10 March 2022

Portfolio:	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Community Fund Application – Titchfield Village Trust
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 the Titchfield Village Trust for £10,000 from the Community Fund towards their 'Project 2070' that focuses on replacing the roof tiles of the Titchfield Parish Room and installing solar panels on the roof of this community facility.

The Parish Room building is owned by the Parish of St Peter, Titchfield, and passed into community ownership in 1989. The Titchfield Village Trust took over the running of the building in 2019, merging the Titchfield Parish Room charity with that of the Trust. The Trust currently holds a lease on the property that expires in 2088. The Parish Room is a popular community facility in the heart of Titchfield Village, with over 20 regular hirers of the Room prior to Covid. These include the Rainbows, Women's Institute groups, Towns Women's Guild, the Embroiderers' Guild, various art and keep fit classes and children's parties.

The Parish Room was built in 1895 and the original roof is no longer fit for purpose. Following the frequent loss of tiles in stormy weather, a professional survey confirmed that all the tiles need replacing. In 2020, the Trust developed their Project 2070 to determine the works that needed to be undertaken to ensure the Parish Room remained of benefit to the community for the next 50 years. The essential works that were identified through this project were the stripping of the existing roof panels and re-covering with like-for-like replacements, the provision of insulation between the roof rafters, the installation of 3 rows of solar panels on the south side of the building (out of the sight of the road), the replacing of the guttering and the replacing of the paving by the front door of the building.

As the building is within the Titchfield Conservation Area, all plans have been approved by The Council's Planning department and carry conditions.

The Titchfield Village Trust carried out a tendering exercise for these works, to ensure they could identify contractors with the necessary expertise and secure best value for money. The most competitive quote received for the works came to £100,637 including VAT plus £15,496 for the solar panels, making a total of £133,246, which included a £5,000 contingency.

The Trust has raised £103,159 to date towards the project, from successful applications to the Earl of Southampton Trust, the National Lottery, Veolia Trust, donations, fundraising and allocation of reserves. Hampshire County Council is currently considering an application from the Trust for £20,000 towards the project from the Community Buildings Capital Fund.

The group is requesting £10,000 from Fareham Borough Council's Community Fund to meet their target.

At the close of April 2021, the account for the Parish Rooms listed a balance of £16,403.60. In addition, the Titchfield Village Trust account itself listed £27,840. The Trust has allocated £10,000 of these Parish Room reserves and £12,000 of the Titchfield Village Trust reserves towards the project. As of February 2022, the account in which the Trust has accumulated the funding towards the project listed £91,159.07, with a further £10,000 to be received from Veolia when the project fully commences.

Both Ward Councillors, Councillor Mrs Hockley and Councillor Harper, are fully supportive of this application.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

It is recommended that:

- i) the application for £10,000 from Fareham Borough Council's Community Fund submitted by the Titchfield Village Trust, towards their 'Project 2070' that focuses on replacing the roof tiles of the Titchfield Parish Room and installing solar panels on the roof of the facility, be approved and that
- ii) the funds received from Fareham Borough Council's Community Fund are used solely towards the costs of the solar panels and their installation.

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 £10,000, which can be met from the existing budget for the Community Fund Programme.

Risk Assessment:

There are no risks associated with this report.