

Item: 4

Community Development Fund Sub-committee: 2 September 2019.

Application Number 0/5/8/69.

Proposed Stronsay Community Association.

Upgrading of Stronsay Community Centre.

Report by Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider an application from Stronsay Community Association for assistance towards upgrading Stronsay Community Centre.

2. Recommendations

The Sub-committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That Stronsay Community Association has applied for assistance from the Community Development Fund towards upgrading Stronsay Community Centre, for use by the local community and visitors to the island of Stronsay, at a total estimated eligible cost of £82,656.

2.2.

That, in March 2002, Stronsay Community Association secured grant assistance from the Community Development Fund for the New Millennium, namely a grant of up to £63,517.87, amounting to 40.3% of eligible project costs, towards creating additional parking, extending the facility to include a games/fitness room and creating toilet facilities at Stronsay Community Centre.

2.3.

That Stronsay Community Association is contributing £5,000 of its own resources towards the project.

2.4.

That Stronsay Community Association has applied for match funding amounting to £20,000 from Cooke Aquaculture and £16,400 from Stronsay Development Trust towards the project.

2.5.

That messages of support have been received from the undernoted groups and individuals:

- Moncur Memorial Church.
- National Farmers Union Orkney.
- Stronsay Community Council.
- Stronsay Craft Trail Group.
- Stronsay Development Trust.
- Stronsay Drama Group.
- Stronsay Junior High School.
- Stronsay Games Club.
- Stronsay Parent Council.
- Stronsay Silver Darlings.
- Stronsay Sprites.
- Stronsay Toddler Group.
- Two local residents, who use the facility.
- Visit Stronsay Group.
- Voluntary Action Orkney.

It is recommended:

2.6.

That a grant amounting to 49.9% of total eligible costs, up to a maximum sum of £41,256, to be met from the Community Development Fund, be offered to Stronsay Community Association towards upgrading Stronsay Community Centre, subject to the full funding package being secured to enable the project to be completed.

2.7.

That powers be delegated to the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Solicitor of the Council, to conclude an Agreement, on the Council's standard terms and conditions, with Stronsay Community Association in respect of the funding, detailed at paragraph 2.6 above.

3. Background

3.1.

Stronsay Community Association was established in 1954 and is a registered charity (SC020186). Stronsay Community Association's main objective is to manage and safeguard the local community centre and provide facilities for recreation and social purposes for the local community and visitors. The group is run by a board of 19 trustees local to the island of Stronsay.

3.2.

Stronsay Community Centre is an important facility for the island providing an important venue for both existing and new residents to enjoy various activities. The facility attracts all age groups within the island, with events and activities providing Stronsay Community Association with vital funds to maintain its upkeep. However, Stronsay Community Association believe that the facility can host a wider range of events and entertainment, as well as be more accessible to members of the community with mobility and communication issues.

3.3.

The Association recently undertook an exercise seeking feedback from current users of the facility, as well as looking at how the hall compared to other facilities in the North Isles and Orkney mainland. The results found that whilst the building was sound and had various rooms for hire, the interior was outdated and lacked new technology resources. A lack of storage space was also identified as a negative factor affecting potential use. As such, an investment in the facility to address the negative factors has been proposed by Stronsay Community Association.

3.4.

Relevant planning permission for extending Stronsay Community Centre has been applied for with a decision expected imminently. Stronsay Community Association has successfully secured match funding from Stronsay Development Trust, as well as identified potential match funding from Cooke Aquaculture. The Association has raised sufficient funds to provide in excess of the required 5% contribution from its own resources. This has enabled the Association to progress to the stage of applying for the final funds required to deliver the project.

4. Project Proposal

4.1.

Stronsay Community Association wishes to carry out upgrades to Stronsay Community Centre. The project will improve the facility, providing additional storage space and enhanced technology and facilities for the various users. This will increase the appeal and sustainability of the facility for years to come.

4.2.

Works include the following:

- Building an extension, attached to the current kitchen, for additional storage.
- Purchase of enhanced staging and associated equipment.
- Internal redecoration of community centre.
- Purchase and installation of enhanced lighting and new sound system.
- Installation of phone line for internet access.
- Purchase of sports and recreation equipment.
- Purchase of conference equipment.

4.3.

The project costs, which have been determined by way of quotations, and proposed funding arrangements, are outlined below (inclusive of VAT as Stronsay Community Association is not VAT registered):

Project Details.	Cost.
Building costs for extension.	£42,000.
Internal redecoration and phone line installation.	£8,825.
Purchase of new equipment.	£31,831.
Total.	£82,656.
Project Financing.	Amount.
Community Development Fund (49.9%).	£41,256.
Cooke Aquaculture (24.2%).	£20,000.
Stronsay Development Trust (19.8%).*	£16,400.
Own Resources (6.1%).*	£5,000.
Total.	£82,656.

* Confirmed

4.4.

Community Development Fund and Cooke Aquaculture grants are the two remaining funders to be confirmed. Stronsay Community Association has applied to Cooke Aquaculture and have been provisionally awarded the request amount of £20,000, subject to a successful decision from the Community Development Fund.

4.5.

Stronsay Community Centre is owned by Stronsay Community Association and will continue to be promoted and maintained by the Association members once the project is complete.

5. Project Appraisal

5.1.

The proposals put forward in the development plan, which accompanies the application, outlines the intention to upgrade Stronsay Community Centre, providing a facility which is welcoming and accessible to all members of the community, as well as visitors to the island.

5.2.

Letters of support in relation to this project have been received from the following groups and individuals:

- Moncur Memorial Church.
- National Farmers Union Orkney.
- Stronsay Community Council.
- Stronsay Craft Trail Group.
- Stronsay Development Trust.
- Stronsay Drama Group.
- Stronsay Junior High School.
- Stronsay Games Club.
- Stronsay Parent Council.
- Stronsay Silver Darlings.
- Stronsay Sprites.
- Stronsay Toddler Group.
- Two local residents, who use the facility.
- Visit Stronsay Group.
- Voluntary Action Orkney.

5.3.

The Community Development Fund and its predecessor, the Community Development Fund for the New Millennium, have supported a wide range of development projects at community centres, including:

- Firth Community Association towards the upgrading of Firth Community Centre and surrounding area.
- Graemsay Community Association towards the upgrading of Graemsay Community Centre.
- Sandwick Community Association towards the upgrading of Sandwick Hall.
- Deerness Community Association towards the upgrading of Deerness Hall.

5.4.

With regard to Stronsay Community Centre's application, the following is an assessment and evaluation against each of the approved assessment and evaluation criteria:

5.4.1. Evidence of need

- Stronsay Community Association visited similar community halls comparing facilities. The Association also conducted a community consultation via a questionnaire and social media polling. These exercises helped shape the main elements of this project.

- A considerable number of letters of support have been provided, from both regular and occasional users of the facility, as well as some local residents. These letters outline the importance of the facility for their respective group, as well as outlining their support for the proposed project.

5.4.2. Achievability

- Stronsay Community Association is run by a volunteer committee of 19 people, who represent a wide demographic within the island and possess a wide range of skills and experience to carry through the project. This includes people involved in the education, tourism, agriculture and care sectors.
- Some members of the Association were involved in the previous Community Development Fund for the New Millennium project. The Association also applied for match funding from Cooke Aquaculture and the Stronsay Development Trust. As a result, members bring experience of managing a project and liaising with multiple funders.

5.4.3. Sustainability

- The enhancements to Stronsay Community Centre will increase the capacity of the facility, ensuring continued and, hopefully, increased use by the local island and visitors. This will assist in the sustainability of the facility.
- The Association has sourced cost-effective items (for example, low energy lighting) to help lower running costs and reduce the strain on financial resources.

5.4.4. Serving the local public and having lasting benefits

- The enhancements will provide benefits to existing and future user groups of Stronsay Community Centre. For example, the new staging will allow groups such as the drama club to encourage new members and provide more local productions. Also, the purchase of sports equipment will provide more physical and social opportunities to the island residents.
- It is also intended that the enhancements will provide better opportunities for educational and training courses to be provided. This will provide enhanced social and economic opportunities to local people who participate.

5.4.5. Opportunities provided or upgraded

- The proposals seek to enhance the existing community asset, Stronsay Community Centre, through provision of new and enhanced space and facilities which have been designed to be as cost effective and beneficial as possible to all potential users.
- The enhanced facility will also provide new opportunities for community participation, education, and recreation within the island.

5.4.6. Enriching quality of life

- The enhancements will have a positive impact on the quality of life for the local community and visitors to the area as well as providing a welcoming and stimulating environment. This will provide more people with the opportunity to participate in activities and events, thus reducing social isolation.

5.4.7. Value for money

- Project costs have been carefully identified through completion of competitive quotes for the various equipment and works referred to within this project, ensuring best value for money.

5.4.8. Partnership funding

- Additional funding has been applied for from Cooke Aquaculture and Stronsay Development Trust.
- The funding from Cooke Aquaculture will potentially lever in external money to Orkney.
- This demonstrates a strong effort to secure as much match funding prior to approaching the Community Development Fund.

6. Links to Council Plan

6.1.

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan strategic priority themes of Thriving Communities and Quality of Life.

6.2.

The proposals in this report relate directly to the following priorities:

- Priority 3.11 – We will review and develop Empowering Communities Project to create a sustainable model which will enable and empower communities in the delivery of services and projects in their community.
- Priority 5.6 – Continue to support Community Associations and Community Schools.

7. Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities of Strong Communities and A Vibrant Economy.

8. Financial Implications

8.1.

In July 2016, a further £1,000,000 was allocated to the Community Development Fund, with £100,000 ring-fenced for Community Councils, leaving £900,000 remaining in the new allocation.

8.2.

A total of £380,541 has been allocated from the 2016 tranche of funding to date.

8.3.

Any award to Stronsay Community Association in respect of this project would be met from within the Fund, referred to at section 8.1 above, of which a budget of £333,000 per annum has been agreed for the period 2016 to 2019.

9. Legal Aspects

9.1.

There are no legal constraints to the recommendations in this report being implemented and the relevant powers are contained in section 20 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

9.2.

If grant assistance is to be provided by the Council, a legally-binding agreement will require to be entered into between the Council and the recipient setting out the terms on which the funding is being provided.

10. Contact Officers

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