

Village Hall Refurbishment

Background

Annual boiler servicing and water inspections have recently taken place at Clipstone Village Hall. Both independent inspections identified defects demonstrating that the heating and hot water systems are inefficient and at the end of their working lifetime. Parts are no longer available and the heating and hot water systems require replacing as a priority.

Heating controls at the village hall are difficult to operate as a fault frequently renders the scheduling screen blank. Earlier in 2023, attempts have been made to improve the controllability of the heating with the use of Hive, however on the installation day the engineers were unable to proceed due to the structure of the hall heating system.

Additionally, in connected to plumbing system, the current village hall toilet facilities are outdated and in need of modernisation. The cubicle partitions are decaying, and several minor leaks in the toilets plumbing have been repaired by the hall Caretaker in the last 6 months.

These developing issues hinder the village halls potential to serve as a comfortable and sustainable location for community use. There would impact to hall availability and therefore multiple community groups, clubs and ad-hoc users should the heating and hot water systems fail completely.

Proposed Solution

Council should consider proceeding with a combined village hall refurbishment initiative to install new toilet facilities alongside an energy efficient heating and hot water solution. This approach maximises benefits in terms of hall user experience, the control of the system, energy usage reductions, potential down time of the hall facilities and Councils ambition to work towards carbon neutrality.

Heating and hot water system design options should be sought to replace the current heating system with an improved energy rated solution that meets the building's needs.

Quotations to renovate the toilets with modern, accessible features and ecofriendly elements (such as water saving technologies) may be sought.

The proposed solution effectively addresses current challenges and positions the village hall well for future use by the community.

Funding Opportunities

Within Councils reserve and 3-year project plan, £30,000 has been allocated to Village Hall Upgrade works between the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 financial years. Approximately £23,500 will remain in this budget on completion of current projects.

Nottinghamshire County Council's Local Communities Fund is open for grant applications until 24 November 2023. The Local Communities Fund is a discretionary financial contribution awarded by

Nottinghamshire County Council to support the delivery of projects that help to deliver the strategic aims of the County Council and the Local Communities Fund. It is intended to contribute to improvements of facilities or purchase assets that support community access and improve health and well-being. Eligible organisations can apply for one-off Capital grants up to a maximum of £20,000 per organisation in any funding year. Applications for Capital funding should have in place at least 50% match funding and should show how the proposed project. Further information is available here: [The Local Communities Fund \(LCF\) | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

Under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, contributions can be sought from developers towards the costs of providing local community and social infrastructure. Newark and Sherwood District Council holds S106 funds which are for use within Clipstone. The District Councils S106 grant scheme is open to all community-based organisations that operate on a not-for-profit basis, and as such there are sections of S106 money the Parish Council may apply for funding from towards a village hall refurbishment project.

Additionally, other grant and funding opportunities may be available to the Parish Council.

Benefits of proceeding

- A controllable heating system which can be programmed to meet hall user needs
- A hot water system fit for purpose and free of defects
- Energy efficiencies in line with Councils desire to work towards carbon neutrality
- Refreshed, modern accessible toilet facilities providing an enhanced visitor experience
- Increased attractiveness of the village hall for future use and community events – making it a more desirable venue and giving the potential to increase bookings
- Bringing the hall to a modern standard
- Reduced energy usage, at a time when the current energy deal has come to an end and energy costs have increased substantially

Recommendations

It is recommended that Council proceed with obtaining quotations for a village hall refurbishment to include new toilet facilities and an energy efficient heating and hot water solution.

It is recommended that an application to the NCC Local Communities Fund Capital Programme is made.

It is recommended that an application for s106 money is made.

It is recommended that further funding opportunities be investigated and applied for as is appropriate.