

**REQUEST FOR CAPITAL GRANT FROM BOROUGH GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

Organisation	Borough Green Village Hall
Project	Replacement of Heating System
Cost	£27,798.80
Grant requested at 25%	£6,949.70
Details	<p>The existing heating system in the hall has been given an 'At Risk' notice by a Corgi engineer.</p> <p>Quotations have been sought for a replacement system that would be more efficient, cheaper to run and have less impact on the environment than the existing system.</p> <p>The hall is an important and popular venue for hire, suitable for a wide range of local groups, but without suitable heating, the hall would not be usable during the winter period. This could be disastrous for the many organisations that rely on the local meeting space and seriously detrimental to the hall itself which relies on income from hirers to meet it's overheads.</p>
Officer's Comments	<p>Chief Planning Officer: I am of the opinion that a formal planning application will not be required for the replacement boiler and, assuming the installer will self-certify the works, it will not require Building Regulations approval.</p> <p>Chief Leisure Officer: The hall provides for a wide range of community groups including amateur dramatics, youth club, dance classes and the Women's Institute. These activities are clearly under threat if the works are not progressed as adequate heating is essential.</p> <p>Chief Finance Officer: The project cost is based upon the lower of two quotations. There is an unusually large difference between the two quotations. Therefore, the quotations may not represent a like for like comparison. The objective of getting best value for money may not be met if the quotations presented are not for the same specified work.</p> <p>The applicant has supplied the accounts for the Village Hall for the year to the 31/12/07. These indicate that the organisation recently had the financial resources to fund this scheme without a grant from the Council.</p>
Local Member Comments	<p>Cllr David Evans Having been associated with this Hall for 40 odd years and served on its committee when the current boiler was installed I fully support this application. Feedback from one of its major bookers (Borograds) indicates the hall would not be suitable for performances for most of the year without heat. This must also apply to many other users. This Hall is a valuable community asset used by thousands of residents.</p>

	<p>Cllr Sue Murray I support BGVHMC application for Capital Grant Aid regarding replacement of boiler and radiators. The Hall is a very important part of village life and is used by a wide variety of users both within the village and those outside the parish.</p> <p>I can confirm, having attended a number of events at the Hall since the boiler was condemned, that it is very cold and if the heating system is not replaced the Hall will lose bookings/revenue and will gradually deteriorate.</p> <p>Cllr Tony Sayer As treasurer of Plaxtol Village Hall, I am aware that Village Halls are rarely able to cover their full costs in the long term, and heating boilers are probably the largest one-off cost that Village Halls have to deal with. A Grant at 25% of costs means the village can cover 75%, which suggests good financial planning. Clearly there is a need for a new boiler, but how old the existing one? And did they have a maintenance agreement for it? A condition you might make is that they must take out a maintenance agreement (regardless of guarantees) because then it will be maintained properly and get maximum life.</p>
Borough Green Parish Council Comments	<p>Hazel Damiral Clerk to Borough Green Parish Council This application is supported by the Parish Council which has pledged a grant of £5,000 towards the project.</p>