

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: New Communities Portfolio Holder 10 March 2009
AUTHOR/S: Executive Director / Corporate Manager (New Communities)

ARTS CAPITAL GRANT AID 2008-2009 SWAVESEY VILLAGE COLLEGE

Purpose

1. To recommend capital grant aid of £22,740 for Swavesey Village College, which has submitted an application and satisfies the existing grant criteria.

Background

2. Since 1958 the pupil roll at Swavesey Village College has grown from 250 to 1200.
3. Swavesey Village College is located at the heart of the village and opens its doors to the local community to make full use of facilities. The Village College serves thirteen parishes. The College wishes to create a high specification performing arts space for the Swavesey area; a unique venue, presenting professional and amateur performances to take place in this growing area of the district. The addition of a dedicated arts venue will allow existing and new societies to flourish and encourage existing groups to grow and expand current activities.
4. Within the immediate area there are a number of community-based arts groups including RADSOC (amateur dramatics), the Swavesey Camera Club, the local history society, the Tensing group, dance classes for children and adults and a significant number of extra-curricular arts activities for young people. These societies and groups are supported by an Arts Development Manager, who has been employed by the Village College since 2005, as part of the Dual Use Arts Strategy with South Cambridgeshire District Council. The Arts Development Manager also organises the Academy a popular musical theatre holiday activity for young people, and has facilitated recent arts projects, including the Orchestra in a Village residency with the London Mozart Players and the Swavesey Festival. These were all very popular and demonstrate a high demand for good quality participatory arts activity.
5. 5. The College has limited space currently for these groups and activities.
6. Students respond positively to the provision of high quality facilities in out of school hours and any new facilities would be used for a wide range of arts activities, supported by the local arts development manager.
7. Swavesey Village College through Meridian has been appointed as provider of the secondary school at Northstowe.

The Proposal

8. The County Council are providing a new school hall. The sum requested from South Cambridgeshire District Council would comprise 2.2% of the total cost of the project. Whilst this is a small contribution it makes a significant difference in guaranteeing community use for professional standard arts facilities and a continuing commitment to the dual use arts strategy. The venue will be used for hosting professional touring productions – through Arts in Cambs on Tour - for local people including Northstowe residents.
9. The Village College wish to create a high quality venue that can be used for creating original productions and hosting visiting presentations. The new facilities that the College wish to install with the support of South Cambridgeshire District Council include:
 - a. Retractable (bleacher) seating for 250
 - b. A semi-sprung floor suitable for dance
 - c. Cinema viewing equipment
 - d. Stage curtains, lighting and sound equipment
10. The building programme is as follows:

Date	Actions
Feb 2009	Planning Permission submitted.
Currently	Planning processes (ongoing since 2005) with Cambs County Council, Mouchel Parkman and consultations with contractors.
April 2009	Formal equipment specification process, tender process.
Summer 2009	Start building.
Summer 2010	Completion.
Autumn 2010	Formal opening ceremony.

Justification

11. This proposal is in keeping with the District Council's policy on the development of arts facilities in villages, linked to the dual-use arts strategy and supported by a local arts development manager. No previous award of this kind has been made to Swavesey. Comparable awards have been to Linton Village College (£35,000 in 2005-2006) and Sawston Village College (£50,000 in 2003–2004).

Considerations

12. The College has successfully negotiated with the County Council the provision of a new hall space of 400 square metres with associated facilities. Key arguments used to support this were surrounding the lack of space for 1200 students.
13. The planning process began in 2004 and is approaching the commencement of building work starting on site, with a total build budget of £1.8m.
14. For purposes of developing the most effective usage plan for the space, the Arts Development Manager will convene a committee of local community leaders to form a management group.

15. In addition to the positive impact the new facility will have on the current Swavesey Village College community, the development of a purpose built arts space will be useful in serving the future growth of the area.

Total Capital Expenditure

16.	Total cost of equipment	£ 200,000
	+ Construction costs – Hall and associated buildings	£1,832,000
	+ Planning, preparation and associated fees	£ 250,000
	Total costs of project	£ 2,282,000

Total Capital Income

17.	Cambridgeshire County Council Capital Programme (Confirmed) Includes £250k consultants fees and has been increased by £32k to fund the control room.	£2,082,000
	Swavesey Village College (Commitment to release unused contingency funds in the project budget – to be confirmed)	£ 21,000
	<i>South Cambridgeshire District Council (this application)</i>	£ 50,000
	Charities and Trusts	£ 79,000
	Swavesey Arts Appeal Fund (Sponsorship and private giving)	£ 50,000
	Total Income	£2,282,000

Management arrangements

18. Swavesey's recent Parish Plan identifies a community need for more involvement in the college's sports and community spaces. A Management Committee with representatives from local groups will direct the community use of the space. A representative of the Management Committee will be co-opted onto the SVC Governors Community Committee. The Arts Development Manager will continue to work closely with the college to maximise the use of college space for the community.

Implications

19.	Financial	Swavesey Village College have requested £50,000. The proposal is that, subject to approval, £22,740 is granted from this financial year 2008-9 and a further request for £27,260, is considered in 2009-2010.
	Legal	None
	Staffing	None
	Risk Management	None
	Equal Opportunities	The proposed arts centre will provide a positive benefit to some of the district's most vulnerable residents.

Consultations

- 20 Consultations included Cllr Sue Ellington for the District and Cllr Mandy Smith for the County. Both members support this development at the Village College.

Effect on Corporate Objectives and Service Priorities

21.

Work in partnership to manage growth to benefit everyone in South Cambridgeshire now and in the future
The proposed arts centre meets the planning objective for arts services and facilities in new communities and in developing community cohesion and engagement close to major growth sites.
Deliver high quality services that represent best value and are accessible to all our community
The proposed arts centre will provide high quality, accessible arts services in a most efficient and effective way.
Enhance quality of life and build a sustainable South Cambridgeshire where everyone is proud to live and work
The proposed arts centre will play a key role in delivering quality of life services and help provide a sense of place, support volunteering and sustain community infrastructure.

Recommendations

- 22 An award of £22,740 towards the cost of arts facilities at the new Swavesey Village College arts centre is recommended.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: Capital arts grant application from Swavesey Village College; notes of meetings with College Bursar, local members and the arts development manager; building plans.

Contact Officer: Andy O'Hanlon, Arts Development Officer
Telephone: (01954) 713343