

APPLICATION FORM**WRG COMMUNITIES CHALLENGE**

FOR WREN REFERENCE ONLY

Date Received:

WREN Reference:

IMPORTANT

Please note that your application should not exceed 4 pages of A4, including this sheet. Please answer all the questions on the form. Applications that exceed this limit will not be considered.

You should also send 3 accompanying photographs of your project site or current facilities together with an OS map showing where your project is sited.

When you have completed your application form please sign the declaration on page 4 and send **three** copies to WRG Communities Challenge, WREN House, Manor Farm, Bridgham, Norfolk NR16 2RX to arrive no later than **30 March 2007**.

Please note that e-mail and fax applications will not be accepted.

WRG COMMUNITIES CHALLENGE APPLICATION

Organisation:	Little Eaton Parish Council.		
Contact Name:	Simon Downing		
Contact Address and Telephone No	Cuckoo Wood Farm, Morley Lane, Little Eaton, Derby. DE21 5AH 07976 371642 01332 833651		
Project Title:	Little Eaton Village Hall Project.		
Project Address:	St Peters Park, Vicarage Lane, Little Eaton, Derby. DE21 5EA		
Local Authority: County and District Council details	Derbyshire County Council, Matlock, Derbyshire.	Nearest WRG Landfill Site and distance to site:	Derby T/S, Raynesway, Derby. 5 miles
	Erewash Borough Council, Town Hall, Ilkeston, Derbyshire.	Project duration:	9 months
		Approximate start date:	February 08

Project Description:

Please provide the details of your project. Details should include status of current facility (if appropriate) together with work to be undertaken, reason for work and what funding is required for.

A new village hall for Little Eaton. This is not a new project.. Little Eaton Community Association was formed in 1987, a major part of it's rationale being to provide a new community facility. This required obtaining a suitable plot of land for the building and raising of funds for its construction. Despite several set backs such as a suitable site adjacent to the proposed new village school being sold by the County Council for housing, the Parish Council, now in conjunction with the Community Association, have secured land for the construction of a new village hall. Funds have been pledged by key stakeholders and this application is part of an on-going process to raise money to build a multi-purpose village hall, designed to meet the future needs of the community.

Public consultation has been a key element in developing the current proposal demonstrating the need and informing the design and facilities it will provide. Households, clubs, groups and local businesses have taken part in surveys. These consultations indicated that the building must be multi-purpose, flexible in its use, able to accommodate meetings or groups ranging in size from 5 to 150. At present, due to the lack of suitable premises, organisations such as the Scouts and Beavers have to meet outside the village. The surveys indicated that village sporting teams would like somewhere to host their opponents after matches and to run fund raising events. The proposed design is for a two-storey building adjacent to the existing sports pavilion, cricket and football field, tennis courts and bowling green. It will have the village's first dedicated disabled facilities, a mother and baby room and modern kitchen facilities. It will have stage and sound facilities for local drama and music activities. IT and internet connectivity will be provided for general use and also be part of the training provision which the centre will provide for individuals and groups. SMEs in the village indicated in their response to the survey, the need for local premises suitable for their training needs.

The current status with regard to community facilities is poor, consisting of just three buildings; the Church Hall which was built in 1841, it has limited disabled access and no car park of it's own. The OAP Hall, a 45 year old prefabricated building used principally by senior citizens, and the school hall which is not available during term time and then only at weekends. None can accommodate more than 60 people, or have proper facilities for the disabled or disadvantaged and rely on on-street parking. The current buildings have an increasing number of restrictions as to their use because of new regulations. The OAP Hall is near the end of its economic life, and could well be added to the list of community buildings, such as the Scout Hut, which had to be demolished, as it's prefabricated construction made it uneconomical to refurbish, the Womens Institute Building and Methodist Church Hall both sold for housing. It has been calculated that in the last 17 years over 50% of available buildings in the village have been lost for use by the community. All the groups contacted state that they will use the Centre and it will therefore be fully utilised, with the potential to expand the user base for uses and activities currently not available in the village, thus underpinning its long term financial viability.

A total build project is envisaged as a building contract of this nature is deemed easier to manage and control. Planning permission has been applied for and granted.. Full detailed plans are in abeyance.

Please detail how the general public will access your project: Include opening times, charges for use etc.

The Village Hall will be managed by a committee made up of stakeholders and users, who will be responsible. This committee will set the charges to be levied, which will be similar to those charged by other village halls. Hours of usage have been set in planning conditions as 7am till 11pm. Full details would be published in the village newsletters and be available on the websites, littleeatonvillagehall.com, littleeatonparishcouncil.com, and the Little Eaton Community Association website at beehive.thisisderbyshire.co.uk. 25 respondents from the club/group survey have indicated that they would be potential users, directly involving 1,000+ people and also indirectly involving another 2,000+.

Project Cost Breakdown: Provide details of each element of the project	Amount	Total Project Cost	£374,300.00
Total build project	£374,300	Amount Requested:	£250,000.00
		Third Party Funder:	
		Little Eaton Parish Council	£27,500.00
		Other Grants applied for	
		Little Eaton Community Association	£42,553.19
		Little Eaton W I	£17,021.76
		Little Eaton Parish Council	£64,725.05

Evidence of Consultation (Need & Appropriateness): *Include information on how the project was identified, how the project is fit for purpose and who has been consulted with.*

We have already indicated the current situation regarding the lack of community buildings and that these may further be reduced. This is now a matter of some urgency, and is having a pronounced effect on the clubs and groups, who now find themselves having to move outside the village or to other venues that are not ideally suited to their requirements and as a result losing members, making recruitment difficult and with the possible consequences that once thriving village organisations will cease to exist. Consultations and communication regarding the project by the organising committee has been extensive. Regular newsletters from the Parish Council and the Community Association are sent to all 1,150 households in the village informing of the progress being made. In addition surveys have been undertaken of individuals, and local businesses. 84% consider a suitable facility would be useful and most importantly, the 26 village groups and organisations that will be the prime users of the building, 96% of returns said the building would be of use. The building will be fully appropriate to needs of the users and the community, as its facilities and construction are based on their identified needs.

Sustainability & Maintenance: *Include information on how the project will address long-term sustainability and detail any maintenance proposals.*

The possibility that current facilities are going to be further reduced as new regulations and uneconomical maintenance costs become an issue, makes it very difficult for any club or group to realistically plan more than 3 years ahead. A village hall would bring some certainty to their operations, allowing existing groups to expand and new ones to form. Room for expansion and dual-use have been built into our Hall's plans. It is envisaged that organisations that have had to move away from the village would return and some that have disbanded reform. The results from our questionnaire lead us to believe this is the case. The project would therefore have long term sustainability as it has a significant number of core users and will be financially viable.

The building will be constructed so as to minimise maintenance and environment impact and has been designed to gain a good to excellent BREEAM rating.(Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method). As this new hall is sited adjacent to the existing pavilion, it will be built in similar materials. Maintenance of the building will be the responsibility of the management group. The use of modern building methods and materials will keep future maintenance to a minimum allowing lower running cost and ultimately lower hire charges, benefitting both the community and the environment.

Ownership: *Who owns the land or details of any lease/rental agreements, the duration of any agreements and the number of years outstanding.*

The Parish Council, a key stakeholder, owns the land on which the hall is to be built and will be donating it to the project. This means in effect the land is in perpetuity available to the project.

A new car parking area, which is specified in the planning consent for the new village hall, ERE/1105/0001, has already been built by the Parish Council. This would compliment the new village hall. It has been built to the latest standards, being porous asphalt on a sustainable urban drainage system (SUDS). Multi-use, it is capable of being partitioned off for other activities, i.e. the mobile youth facilities when they visit. Lighting is to the latest ENBS5489 standard (anti-light pollution).

Management of Project: *Detail long-term management of your facility together with information on who will be responsible for delivering and managing the project itself.*

During the construction part of the project, the staff of a locally based, specialist civil engineering, design and construction company will assist the committee in managing the project supported by our own quantity surveyor, designer and members from the major stakeholders will oversee progress of the project with weekly meetings. It is envisaged that we will have a total build project and therefore these meetings will be held with the management of the winning contractor.

On handing over the completed building, a management committee made up of stakeholders and hall users would be responsible for the management of the hall, including hire charges, usage/bookings and caretaking/janatorial duties.

Our survey of prospective users indicates our hall would be financially viable from the outset. However in its first years, financial support would be available from both the Parish Council and the Community Association, who have pledged to continue raising money in support of the new village hall.

Evidence of Value for Money: *What added value will the project deliver? This could include green building or green energy issues, use of recycled materials, opportunities for volunteering/job creation/training opportunities. This may also include providing socially inclusive facilities or the regeneration of derelict or disused sites.*

Little Eaton Community Association had previously prepared costings for new buildings. In 1999 the costs were £476k and in 2001 were £490k. These were single-storey, less floor area than the current proposal and included a smaller dedicated car parking area.

It is being built on a site previously unused and will be adjacent to the existing sports pavilion. It will be a two-storey building with the ground floor consisting of a storeroom, two multi-purpose committee rooms, which double up as changing rooms, and a toilet with disabled access. Stairs lead up to the back of the stage on the upper floor, which will contain the main hall, kitchen, toilets/cloakrooms, stage, all accessed from the main car park. It will be the first building in the village built to cater for disabled and disadvantaged people.

86% of dwellings are within 10 minutes walking distance. The new building will compliment the sports pavilion which was the last new community facility, built in 1966.

Costings are as follows. Upper floor 237sqm @ £1,150.00 per sqm - £272,550.00; lower floor 185sqm @ £550 per sqm - £101,750.00, giving a total building cost of £374,300.00. These figures were last revised in March 2007. Inflation on these figures is quoted at 8% annually and are VAT exclusive, the majority of which is reclaimable. The costing demonstrates how value has been obtained through partnership, good design and procurement procedures.

Feedback from the questionnaires reveals that most organisations consider that a new community facility will benefit their membership, help increase numbers and help fundraising. Being central in the village it will reduce the carbon footprint of these organisations. At present the Scouts and Beavers have to travel 1½ miles to their current premises. Guides and Brownies folded when their previous premises were declared unsafe.

Additional Information: *Please use this space to provide additional information relevant to your project which supports your bid.*

We have considered other options, looked at other venues with a view to refurbishment or expansion, these sites have been small, poorly situated with enclosed boundaries and lack dedicated parking.

Little Eaton is a thriving community and at a time when many villages have organisations closing due to insufficient numbers it is able to support over 25 active groups. In addition the village runs a sport and carnival week involving diverse range of supporters from individuals, sports and social clubs, through to local businesses. All have indicated that a purpose built community centre will greatly help their long term viability, now a suitable site, centrally located is available which will act as a focal point for all the community. The construction of a village hall before more existing buildings are closed is essential for the well-being of village life.

St Peter's Park sports field and the Sports Pavilion are extremely well used, but at the end of each event there is nowhere for teams to gather socially or to provide refreshments. Keep-fit clubs are currently handicapped by the small size of current venues. Since new Fire Regulations have come into effect, the Village School is no longer available to the drama and music groups for rehearsals and they now have to meet outside the village. Data from the 2001 census show the village has a higher proportion of 12 to 18 year olds and those over 65, than the county and national figures, and therefore there is a particular need to provide suitable facilities for both. The building used by senior citizens is coming to the end of its economic life and will soon not be available for use. The Parish Council is active in trying to restart the Youth Club, but is hampered by the lack of a suitable venue.

The building with its IT and internet connection will be suitable for training and education events. Virtually all local businesses indicated they would use the premises for training events, in addition it will be available for post 16 education and training by organisations such as ROWA, (Read On Write On) and the County Adult Learners Teams. To ensure the viability of the current proposal it's business plan has been based on the clearly identified needs and aspirations of the existing groups, who have in certain instances the infrastructure which will help deliver the successful outcome of the project.

ON BEHALF OF

(Enter organisation name)

Little Eaton Parish Council

I DECLARE THAT ALL THE INFORMATION AND STATEMENTS CONTAINED WITHIN THIS APPLICATION ARE TRUE.

NAME	POSITION	SIGNATURE	DATE