

Ref number:
083



Performance Reward Grant Scheme APPLICATION FORM

To be returned to:

wiltshirelaa@wiltshire.gov.uk

Area Board	Westbury	
Form submitted by (contact for all queries)	The Laverton Institute Trust Stephen Andrews stephenandmary1@btinternet.com 01373 824382	
Name of initiative	The Laverton Project – Phase II (a)	
Brief Description of Initiative	The Laverton Project sets out a phased approach to the total refurbishment of the Laverton Hall, Westbury. Phase I, which included provision of a lift for the disabled, has been completed and Phase II will commence shortly now that funding is available. Part of Phase II includes the refurbishment of the toilets and provision of a separate toilet for the disabled. Additionally a baby-changing facility is envisaged to be provided in the ladies toilet. Most other sources of funding are concerned with “flagship” or specific projects. (i.e. heritage projects.) More prosaic projects, such as this one tend to be discounted.	
Please put a cross against the ambition(s) that this initiative will support *It is only necessary to identify those ambitions on which you feel your bid will make a significant impact.	Building resilient communities	X
	Improving affordable housing	
	Lives not services	X
	Supporting economic growth	X
	Safer communities	
	Protecting the environment	
	Action for Wiltshire – combating the recession	X
	Improving outcomes for Children and young people	X
Amount of funding sought	£38, 168.00 + £6211 for fees/building permission	
What will this money be spent on?	The money will be spent on complete refurbishment of the toilets in the Laverton Hall. Both male and female toilets will be completely gutted. There will be a separate unisex disabled toilet created on the first floor complete with up to date emergency systems. The ladies toilet will also be separated from the current all in one configuration with the disabled toilet. Downstairs the gents toilet will also receive a complete makeover. Problems with rising damp, penetrating damp and condensation will also be addressed. New fixtures in all toilets will replace the 50 year old facilities that exist at the moment. A more detailed	

	<p>breakdown of the new specifications is contained within the tender report submitted with this application.</p> <p>All expenditure is capital expenditure.</p>
<p>Is planning permission required? Yes/No</p>	<p>No. However advice will be sought from the Conservation Department of Wiltshire Council about any Listed Building Permissions that may need to be obtained, hence the provision in the funding figure for this eventuality.</p>
<p>Have quotes been obtained? Yes/No</p>	<p>Yes. Please see attached quotes.</p>
<p>Note: Bids will only be considered if they help us to achieve our ambitions in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire. It is important that initiatives have a positive local impact, and that we are able to show success. In this section you are being asked to provide information about how your project contributes, and how you will measure that success. The level of improvement we expect to see will be proportional to the level of the bid: i.e. the more funding required, the greater the level of impact and improvement that will be necessary.</p>	
<p>Please describe how your initiative will support the ambition(s) indicated above, and summarise the action that will be taken</p>	<p>The Laverton Project will support the ambitions of the local Agreement for Wiltshire (LAW) in a number of ways, which are detailed below. The Laverton Hall was built in 1873 and was given to the Town by Abraham Laverton to act as a Community Centre and Educational facility. The Laverton Institute Trust was originally established in 1886 and is now a registered Charity (no. 270325). In 1977 the objectives of the charity were clearly set out as <i>“provision and maintenance of a community centre for the use by the inhabitants of Westbury – to be used for meetings, education, recreation and leisure”</i>.</p> <p>The Laverton Project was established in 2008 by the Laverton Institute Trust Management Committee to explore ways and means to increase usage of the building and facilities, secure funding and develop the building to its full potential as a community centre which will be available for use by all sections and age groups within the community.</p> <p>The building has not had, until recently, any substantial improvements made to it since the 1950s. Primarily the facilities did not cater for the needs of the elderly and infirm particularly for access to the main hall on the first floor where most of the community activities take place.</p> <p>The Laverton Project lays out a building improvement Plan over a number of phases to bring the building up to a</p>

contemporary standard. This phased approach has been adopted to enable improvements to be made as and when restoration funds allow.

Phase I of the project, which consisted of moving the Town Council Offices to another part of the building and installing a disabled access lift, has now been completed. This phase was financed through a Public Works Loan (£105k) since the primary beneficiary was the Town Council.

The aim of Phase 2 is to bring the function areas, public and access spaces and facilities throughout the majority of the building to a higher state of décor, equipment fit out and functionality to broaden the potential for multi-purpose use by all sections of the local community and our other target markets. This phase will be financed partly through a grant of £90 000 already awarded by Plain Action and partly through the Trust's own resources.

With regard to the LAW (Local agreement for Wiltshire) we can specifically relate the Laverton Project to the following ambitions:

- **Building resilient communities**
- **Lives not services**
- **Supporting economic growth**
- **Action for Wiltshire – combating the recession**
- **Improving outcomes for Children & young people.**

Building Resilient Communities

An important aim of the Laverton Project has been to re-enforce the original Laverton Institute Trust's objectives – to engage with and provide resources for the local community. It's hoped that the newly refurbished building will become a natural centre for community development and activity through a wide range of educational, information, social and leisure activities. In addition the building lends itself to use by local service providers for meetings, clinics and drop in sessions.

Lives Not Services

Following on from above, the Laverton is already proving to be a good focal point for the local inhabitants to access and engage with local information and services providers. Existing users include the CAB, Credit Union and NHS 'Stop Smoking' team. The refurbished building will offer an ideal environment and facilities for charities, support groups and

service providers to easily engage with the general public. There will be an active policy to encourage and increase this use of the building bearing in mind the Laverton Institute Trust's goals in supporting community development.

Supporting Economic Growth

Although the principal focus for the Laverton will be to utilise the building as a centre for community development, an important element also concerns itself with developing the venue areas for potential corporate use – meetings, conferences, training, exhibitions, trade shows etc. To a certain extent, we have a proven track record in this area and it is an intention to market this use of the building more extensively. It is felt that increased commercial use of the building will not only help in covering running costs but will raise the profile of Westbury as a centre for business, industry and commerce.

Action for Wiltshire – Combating the recession

Following on from the item above, it is hoped that the increased usage of the Laverton building by all elements of the local community – general public, groups, organisations, service providers, local and regional business will help to raise the profile of the town in a positive manner, increase awareness of the town's resources and capabilities, attract visitors and act as a focus for interaction and communication.

Improving Outcomes for Children & Young People

As already stated, the objectives of the Laverton Institute Trust are to encourage community development through the extended use of the building as a focus for activity & engagement. A sub aim of this goal is to increase contact with local children centres, schools, youth development units and other youth facing organisations to explore the possibilities and opportunities for using the Laverton for information, education, social and leisure activities. This views the Laverton as a resource to aid existing activity and initiatives. We are already aware of a positive interest from Matravers School, the local secondary provider to use the building as an out of school hours centre for arts activities. They currently have to travel to Corsham.

	<p>In addition, this application reflects several of the aims of the Westbury Area Community Plan:</p> <p>Pg 7 Education, skills and learning: The Laverton not only provides a suitable venue for a range of classes but will also house computers and IT equipment for use by the community (the community branch college in Westbury closed last year and the Laverton has acquired the IT equipment for continuing use by the public)</p> <p>Pg 19 Economy: Encourage wider business use on town centre and villages: The Laverton has already proved a suitable venue for a variety of business seminars, workshops and recruitment interviews for countywide companies. Upgrading of facilities will encourage more usage of this kind with benefits for the town</p> <p>Pg 27 Culture: The community plan identifies the need for more leisure facilities. The Laverton is already a popular venue for classes from art to fitness clubs and has housed photographic and art exhibitions. concerts and films. The enhancement of facilities will inevitably encourage more usage and attendance, thus creating an invaluable culture/leisure outlet for local people.</p> <p>However, there is still a requirement to refurbish the toilets and provide a separate unisex toilet for the disabled to complement what has so far been achieved and the facilities that are planned. As has been said most other funding sources are either unwilling or unable to provide funds for this type of improvement. It would, therefore, partly negate the good work that has so far been achieved if we cannot provide decent toilet facilities.</p> <p>This application concerns itself specifically with the works involved in completely refurbishing and improving the toilet facilities in the building. This is to meet the current and projected increase in volume of public usage, including improvement to associated disabled facilities.</p> <p>A full tender document with detailed specifications/costs prepared by our building surveyors Kings Sturge has been submitted with this application.</p>
<p>What makes this initiative a local priority (e.g. evidence from research and local support)</p>	<p>Research that has been carried out, for an earlier Business Plan, established the need for a large Community Hall in Westbury that could cater for the many and varied requirements of the Westbury Community. There are a number of meeting halls within Westbury but most are</p>

	<p>much smaller nor do they have the same same flexibility of facilities. There are two halls of similar size to the Laverton but they have perceived political affiliations making them unsuitable for all sections of the community. The Laverton Hall was, therefore, identified as the only venue that could provide what was required. At a recent Area Board Meeting held at the Laverton the feedback identified the Hall as being the best location for such events. Currently the Laverton is used by a diverse group of organisations including CAB, Youth Offending Team, NHS public health teams, Chamber of Commerce, Masons, Local Church group and Matravers School. Also for functions such as Tea Dancing, Folk Dancing, Fashion Shows, Keep Fit, Dance classes, Parties both adult and childrens, Photographic displays, Book launch and the recent Music Festival held Photographic and Art exhibitions over a two week period. Discounts are available to all Community/Activity/Membership groups within the BA13 area. Special rates are applied to local charities.</p> <p><i>NB.It is worth noting that since the venue has been re-opened to general community usage and prior to the planned (& funded) refurbishment programme that there has been a considerable increase in both enquiries and bookings for space and facilities comparing 2009/2010/2011 to date.</i></p>
<p>How will you know you have been successful?</p>	<p>By increased bookings and usage of the Hall which has already increased with the fairly modest enhancements already made.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will you measure the impact? (may have more than one measure) 	<p>We will be able to expand the usage of our main function room which is currently being used at approximately 13% of its capacity.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is your improvement target (s), and when do you expect to achieve this/these? 	<p>We hope to encourage those members of the community who have physical disabilities to be able to make full use of the Laverton Hall.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will you ensure that the improvement continues after the end of the initiative? <i>(this is one-off funding)</i> 	<p>The improvement will continue as it is a capital improvement that will remain in the building for many years. (Until further upgrades become necessary either through general “wear and tear” or by statutory requirement changes.)</p>

Who will benefit from this initiative?	There are a considerable number of old and infirm people who would now be able to use the other facilities of the Laverton Hall without being further disadvantaged.
Confirm no unfunded commitments from this initiative	I confirm that there will be no unfunded financial commitments arising from this initiative.
Will ongoing maintenance of premises/equipment be necessary?	No
What are the key risks to success and how will these be managed?	There are no risks to the success of this project. There are however considerable disadvantages to the potential success of the Laverton Hall if this project does not take place.
Who will manage the initiative	The Town Clerk through The Laverton Trust Management Committee

Signed:

Chairman of Area Board

Dated:

NB: It is the responsibility of the Area Board to ensure that:

- **bids are robust and well-founded**
- **public money is spent appropriately and in accordance with the details of the bid and with any conditions placed on approval by the PRG Panel**
- **the initiatives are managed well to achieve the benefits and that performance improvement is reported**