

Application for Financial Assistance (Historic Buildings Grant) from the Conservation and Heritage Fund – Audley's Cross Farm, Loggerheads (13/14015/HBG)

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £2,334 be approved for the reinstatement of timber windows at Audleys Cross Farm, Loggerheads subject to specific conditions set out below.

Purpose of report

To enable members to consider an application for financial assistance towards the cost of the reinstatement of timber windows at Audleys Cross Farm

Audley's Cross Farm, Loggerheads

This property is a Grade II Listed Farmhouse on Newcastle Road, Loggerheads. The Building at Risk Survey noted that 6 windows in the farmhouse had upvc windows installed by the current residents. The Council has been working with the owners to encourage the replacement back to timber. An application for Listed Building Consent to retain the windows as they are was refused in May 2013. The owners have got two quotations for the work and have applied for some help towards the cost on reinstating the windows to timber plus one other first floor window which is rotten.

Members will recall that in June 2012 the Planning Committee approved changes to the terms and conditions of the Conservation and Heritage Fund. One of the changes set out that funds should be directed towards encouraging the reinstatement of timber windows in buildings where upvc windows have been installed.

The cost of the work including VAT is over £11,000 of which all is eligible work. As the farmhouse is a Grade II Listed Building, the work is eligible for a grant up to 20% of the costs.

It is proposed that in addition to the standard conditions, a specific condition is added to any grant offer, that the windows should be replaced and the grant offer taken up within 3 months of the date of the decision to award the grant.

The views of the Conservation Advisory Working Party on this grant application are being obtained and will be reported to the meeting.

Financial Implications

There is sufficient funding to meet this particular grant application with approximately £17,000 within the Fund, allowing for commitments.