

**Applications for Financial Assistance from the Conservation and Heritage Fund for,
1) Smithy House, 4 Highway Lane, Keele (Ref: 15/16003/HBG) and
2) Churchyard wall at St Thomas Church, Mow Cop (Ref: 15/16004/HBG)**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the following grants are approved:-

- 1. £210 for the replacement of 2 timber windows at Smithy House, Highway Lane, Keele, subject to the appropriate standard conditions**
- 2. £3,834, for the conservation repair of the churchyard wall, St Thomas Church, Mow Cop, subject to the appropriate standard conditions**

Purpose of report

To enable members to consider two applications for financial assistance.

1. Smithy House, 4 Highway Lane, Keele

An application has been received from the owner of the property which is on the Council's Register of Locally Important Buildings and within the Keele Conservation Area. The application is for replacement of 2 windows. The windows are timber with a painted finish and will be replaced like for like. The total cost of this work is £2,100 including VAT.

The property has taken up two previous grants –one of £1,664 in August 2013 for repair to the roof, walls, downspouts, etc and a second of £297 in October 2014 for work to 4 of the timber windows. All of this work has been completed and the grants claimed.

The current works are eligible for grant up to 10% of the total costs which comes to £210.

2. Churchyard wall at St Thomas's Church, Mow Cop

The churchyard wall surrounds the church matches the stone in the church and is a curtilage structure to the Grade II Listed church. As the churchyard is classified as a "closed" churchyard, the Borough Council take on the responsibility of any future maintenance. The wall was poorly repointed in a hard cement mortar in the 1980's and this causing further degradation of the stone. The proposal is to repoint the wall in a hydraulic lime mortar to preserve the wall for the future.

The lowest quotation for the work is £19,170 including VAT. The work is eligible for grant up to 20% of the total cost which comes to £3,834.

The views of the Conservation Advisory Working Party on both applications are being sought and will be reported to the Planning Committee.

Financial Implications

There is sufficient funding to meet both grant applications with £33,000 in the Fund allowing for current commitments.