

DECISION REPORT – GRANT APPLICATIONS

Responsible Officer Gwyn Bevan

Email: Gwyn.bevan@shropshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01743 252482

Summary

This report considers applications for grant funding submitted to the Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook Local Joint Committee (LJC) for 2011/12.

After the last meeting on 7.7.11 £41,439 remained at the disposal of the Committee. On 21.9.11 the Committee granted Oxon Bowling Club £5835 under its delegated authority to support the development of a new Club House. At the present time available funds stand at £35,604

The applications now under consideration are set out in the report.

Recommendations

It is recommended to the Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook Local Joint Committee that the following decisions are made on the submitted applications:

1. The Old School Community Hall located adjacent to Christ Church, Shelton and Oxon, on the Welshpool Road are continuing their work to improve the facilities. There are currently twenty four community groups utilising the facilities many of which include young children. The proposal is to improve some of the outside storage facilities and the security of the external boundary so that children can be allowed to utilise all of the available external space for activities. It is recommended that the LJC consider approval of a grant of £5000 towards a total project cost of £10,733.
2. Gains Park Community Centre have recently undertaken extensive Consultation with the local community over the future of the Community Centre. This has resulted in a new Committee being formed with new trustees. Following this consultation the Committee have developed proposals for the refurbishment of the Centre which will lead to greater community use and its on-going sustainability. The Committee have applied for funding to undertake essential repair work and structural work to improve the kitchen, meeting room and storage facilities. It is recommended that the LJC consider approval of a grant of £25,000 towards a total project cost of £37,896.

3. The New Build, Shelton Hospital, Bicton Heath, Shrewsbury will be completed in the Autumn of 2012. This facility will service the needs of the whole of Shropshire. The Arts for Health Co-ordinator for the South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust is developing an arts strategy for the new building which will enhance the therapeutic environment to assist patients recovery. The Trust is aiming to commission over £50,000 of Art work being developed by local people to deliver this project and is seeking support from many local groups including the Arts Council. It is recommended that the LJC consider approval of a grant of £2000 towards a total project cost of £52,900.
4. The Beacon Cricket Club has its origins at the Beacon Pub, Copthorne and used to play at the Barracks. Two years ago it lost this facility and had to relocate to the Frankwell sports ground. The majority of its players are from the Bowbrook Copthorne and Radbrook LJC. The Clubs membership continues to increase as does it success. The Club are keen to develop its facilities to facilitate playing in higher leagues and develop younger members. This application is to improve the facilities of the pavilion particularly around the provision of an appropriate scoreboard. The facility is based in the Severn Loop LJC and owned by Shrewsbury Town Council. The application is for £5854. The two LJC's have agreed to split this cost. It is recommended that the LJC consider approval of a grant of £2927 towards a total project cost of £5840.

Summary.

Budget available	£35,604
------------------	---------

Applications;

Oxon Church Hall	5000
Gains Park Community Centre	25000
Shelton Hospital Arts	2000
Beacon Cricket Club	2927

Total	34927
--------------	--------------

Remaining budget	677
------------------	-----

Background

1. From 1 April 2009 Shropshire Council created 28 Local Joint Committees to operate across the whole of Shropshire. These LJC's are legally constituted decision making committees of Shropshire Council.
2. The LJC for the Bowbrook , Copthorne and Radbrook area has three members all of which are both Shropshire County Councillors and

Shrewsbury Town Councillors and hold equal voting rights. The Chairperson in consultation with the other Committee members and the Community Action Officer has a delegated authority to make decisions outside of publicised meetings if it is appropriate and timely to do so.

3. One of the main responsibilities of the LJC is to determine expenditure of the devolved budget. A budget of £35,604 remains for 2011/12. Expenditure against this budget is agreed by the Committee after consideration of decision reports with decisions determined by a simple majority.

Purposes of the funding

The funding devolved to the LJC can be used for a number of different purposes over the year. At the present time, the Committee has not allocated funds to any specific purposes but has indicated that it will receive applications from local organisations for eligible purposes. Funding by the LJC must comply with the general Financial Rules for LJC's. Applications must demonstrate compliance with the following criteria:

- Expenditure must be consistent with achieving the aims, objectives and vision set out in Shropshire's Sustainable Community Strategy, the Council's Corporate Plans and local Neighbourhood or Parish Plans.
- Expenditure must be for activity within the geographical area of the Local Joint Committee.
- Expenditure must benefit the wider community and should not be used to fund a group which restricts membership based on views, beliefs etc. For example, it would not be appropriate to make a contribution to a religious group but a contribution to say, improvements to a church hall which is open for bookings from the wider community would be acceptable.
- The budget must not be spent on mainstream council activities, but can be used to enhance mainstream activities.
- The budget must not be a displacement of existing council funding. For example, a service cannot be reinstated from the local budget if the council has cut funding for it in the previous 3 years.
- The budget should not be used to meet ongoing staffing costs of an organisation.

Decision-making procedure

4. The LJC elected Members will decide on applications for funding and their decisions will be taken in public, following the process below:
 - a written report by the Community Action Officer, setting out the details of applications received and recommending a course of action;
 - a brief verbal introduction to the applications, by the Community Action Officer, at the meeting;
 - questions by the elected Members of the officers and/or the applicants (if present);
 - elected Members take the decision.

A slightly different process will need to be taken if there are fewer than three elected Members present, as that is the number required to form a quorum.

Human Rights Act Appraisal At this stage the recommendations are unlikely to result in any implications for the Human Rights Act.
Environmental Appraisal
Risk Management Appraisal The Council needs to address the risk of legal challenge to decisions through procedural or other errors. This has been carefully assessed. There are no risks specifically relating to the applications.
Community / Consultations Appraisal
Cabinet Member Gwilym Butler
Local Members Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council Peter Adams, Peter Nutting, Keith Roberts
Appendices