



Committee and date
Burnell and Severn Valley
Local Joint Committee
25th June 2012

Item
10
Public

Responsible Officer Rachel Johnson
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1. Summary

In 2012 this Local Joint Committee had a total budget of £15,945 available to spend. This is made up of £15,000 from the LJC budget and £940 from Arts funding. Following a delegated decision the LJC had agreed to fund each parish council £1,000 towards their Jubilee celebrations with the final £2,234 towards this project coming out of the 2012/13. The LJC has also funded 4 community projects with a total value of £2195.

This leaves an uncommitted budget of £11,516.

2. Recommendations

Members are asked to consider the projects outlined below and agree the level of funding for each project. Full application details are in 3 (Any other Information) below.

Project Applicant	Project Description	Total Project Costs	Amount requested from LJC
Atcham Memorial Hall Management Committee	Car Park Illumination at Atcham Malthouse	£1085	£635
Condover parish council	Projector for use within the community	£400	£250
Berrington parish council	Replace fence at Cross Houses Community Centre car park	£3,000	£2,000
Acton Burnell, Frodesley, Pitchford, Ruckley and Langley parish plan steering group	Development of the parish plan	£1850	£350
Shropshire federation of Young Farmers Clubs	'Shropshire Young Farmers Clubs Build Challenge 2012'. To build a unique sustainable educational space and training venue in a woodland location.	£113,648	£2,500

The total value of the aforementioned projects is £5,735.

REPORT

1. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 1.1 All of the funding applications have been assessed against agreed criteria which will minimise any risks associated with these projects.
- 1.2 The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998
- 1.3 The proposals under consideration will improve the levels of community based and community driven activity in the LJC area.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 If all the projects are funded the full amount requested there would be £5,781 remaining in the 2012/13 budget

3. Any other information

3.1 Car park illumination at Atcham Malthouse

Project description: Our village hall is attached to Atcham bowling club and has a long narrow car park. Currently there are 2 small 150 watt bulbs at the entrance to the hall and no lights in the car park. We would like to install a 6 metre column complete with 250 watt sodium floodlight 6.5 metres from our village hall. This would serve to illuminate our whole car park and the main entrance into the hall. The project aims to improve safety, visibility and security. We have planning permission.

Need and Demand: Many users of the village hall and Bowling Club are elderly and have some mobility issues. Our day to day running costs are met by our 6 main regular hirers as well as the hall being used for functions, parties, fashion shows and concerts etc. The village hall committee was approached originally by the Flower Club who asked for lights because it was so dark and felt dangerous particularly when carrying things in our car park. With the Flower Club's support we have discussed this project with all the regular user groups and our plans represent the consensus of opinion.

Added Value: After heavy rain, water can collect in the centre of our car park, with new lights we will be able to dodge the puddles. Any lighting will hopefully encourage cars to park more considerately. Users of our car park will also be able to see, and feel safer particularly the elderly and infirm. We work hard to keep our regular users and this project will definitely increase customer satisfaction.

Total project costs: £1085

Amount requested from LJC: £635

3.2 Projector for use within the community

Project Description: The Parish Council requires to purchase a portable community projector. There is a need within the parish to be able to provide equipment which

enables presentations at local village events held at its four settlements, one village has a screen and projector the remaining three do not and a community need has been established by:

- The Parish Council to have this facility at both parish council meetings, annual parish meeting and public consultation meetings held in all 4 of the village halls.
- The two youth clubs who regularly meet in the parish at 2 of the village halls.
- Local WI events which take part in the 3 village halls.
- Village hall committees who hold events in the 3 village halls.

The Parish Council finds itself unable to fund the purchase of a projector but has donated two screens to the project, approximate value £150.00.

Need and Demand: Parish Council – Will be able to communicate more effectively with its residents it has the facility to project, Shropshire Council Consultation documents, plans etc. at meetings and reduce its costs in the production of hard copy presentation material.

Also no longer require hard copy planning documents from Shropshire Council and as a council identified as being within the top 24 in Shropshire who received the majority of planning applications approx 80 - 90 per annum this will result in savings for Shropshire Council in terms of officer's time, printing and postage.

Youth Clubs at Condover & Dorrington – Will be able to engage with their members by providing the screening of DVDs, youth educational material at their local Youth Clubs. This will reduce the need to travel to an alternative site which provides these facilities and make the clubs more sustainable offering a greater variety of activities and be more attractive to young people.

WI presentations and a variety of village hall events will be easier to stage with the addition of this equipment and no longer rely on presenters having to bring their own equipment.

Egs. Presentation/ screening of Jubilee Celebrations at 2 of our local village halls.
Screening of Olympic Celebrations and events at Youth Group events

Added Value: The purchase of a portable community projector will enhance presentations being made within the parish and improve community engagement and facilities at 3 of our 4 village halls.

It is believed that this will also result in:

- An increase in the number of bookings at the 3 halls and
- Presentations currently given will be enhanced by this facility being made available.

Total project costs: £400

Amount requested from LJC: £250

3.3 Replace fence at Cross Houses Community Centre car park

Project Description: The Cross Houses Community Centre car park has along fence that screens 6 properties along one of its perimeters. Recently the wind has caused considerable damage to the fence. The parish council has made the fence

safe but this work has led to other issues. Residents from the adjoining estate are beginning to use car park spaces that are needed by people using the Community Centre as they now have some access to their properties from the car park. With this project we would like to replace the entire length of fence with concrete posts and gravel boards which will need less ongoing maintenance.

Need and Demand: Our Community Centre is a vital resource that meets the disparate needs of all members of our community and those living in the surrounding area. Due to the size of the facility and our very full bookings diary all the available 40 car parking spaces are needed by users of the Community Centre. The parish council have been approached about the future plans for the fence by people in the adjoining properties and community centre users.

Added Value: Renewing the fence with the concrete posts and gravel boards will mean that the wind and weather can cause less deterioration in the future with only the panels needing to be intermittently replaced. The situation regarding residents using Community Centre car parking spaces would be resolved.

Total project costs: £3,000

Amount requested from LJC: £2,000

3.4 Acton Burnell, Frodesley, Ruckley and Langley -Development of the parish plan

Project Description: Acton Burnell completed their first parish plan about 10 years ago as one of the first to be completed in Shropshire. The action points highlighted in this document have in the main been addressed, meaning the current plan now lacks direction.

There is a need to update the existing parish plan in light of:

- Changing community needs.
- Available funding.
- Changes in local planning regulations.
- Changes in Government initiatives- with emphasis being placed on power being devolved to local levels.

The new parish plan will describe the communities vision for the future which will be attained through a variety of consultation methods including public events, questionnaires and specific targeting of harder to reach groups. A current action plan will detail how these developments can be reasonably achieved.

Need and Demand: Parish plans summarise local needs and outline how the parishioners, the parish council, Government (at all levels), and local service providers can act to deliver the residents needs expressed as actions.

Well researched and structured parish plans with actions highlighting how the parish priorities fit with wider Government priorities (including housing needs), are most effective at engaging their mainstream providers (local authorities). They are recognised as an effective means of interfacing with the local community and are valued by a number of public bodies.

The current parish plan has proved useful in the past but is now definitely requiring an update.

Added Value: Parish plans evolve over a period of time and reflect current/changing community needs in order to be useful documents which can be used to direct resources at achieving identified actions. A new parish plan will allow restricted funding to be targeted in line with community need. Planning policies/statements need to use robust evidence from communities input into the parish plan. The parish plan will allow the parish council to know that it is acting in accordance with the community's views.

Total project costs: £1,850

Amount requested from LJC: £350

3.4 SHROPSHIRE YOUNG FARMERS CLUBS 'BUILD CHALLENGE' To build a unique Sustainable Education Space and Training Venue in a Woodland Location.

Project Description: Shropshire Young Farmers 2012 Charity Community Project – 2012 Build Challenge aims to;

- Design, Publicise, Fundraise and CONSTRUCT A SUSTAINABLE, RURAL UNIQUE EDUCATION SPACE AND TRAINING VENUE within a woodland location (Cantlop Wood, Condover, Shrewsbury, SY5 7NN).
- A building to aid the outdoor learning of children and young people, and train Forest School leaders.
- To be constructed by volunteer members from sustainable materials including timber, strawbales and recycled tyres.
- 300+ members (aged 10 to 26) learning & utilising new skills, increasing knowledge, gaining life skills, working with the local community.
- A Planning Permission application is currently with Shropshire Council, decision due after the 31st May 2012.

Outcomes

- Shropshire YFC's ability to successfully manage their own sustainable building project.
- Improved partnership between supporters, local businesses and the community.
- Greater skills levels of individuals, transferrable skills, lifelong learning skills, and new skills specific to the project.
- Completion of a weatherproof sustainable building to provide forest education to children and adults in Shropshire. Provision of an indoor useable space for training of individuals and leaders.
- No detrimental impact on the biodiversity and natural environment. The project will improve or increase habitats which will increase wildlife diversity. Environmental sustainability of resources and integration within the natural environment.
- Welcoming and exciting opportunities for young people to integrate with a rural woodland location.
- Greater awareness from the location community of Shropshire Young Farmers aims, objectives and commitment to their local area. YFC Volunteers feel valued.
- YFC members have accomplished their Vision Statement, "Live Learn & Achieve", and are a credit to Shropshire YFC.

Need and Demand: From our perspective as Shropshire YFC we want to be able to give our members the opportunity to do something for the community of Shropshire, and this building will be used by numerous young people from all over the county, bringing our wide range of skills together with other local craftsmen. So often you hear about people being interested in sustainable and ecofriendly buildings, but there are very few opportunities to learn skills needed to build them, and be involved with them. There is a growing need to educate our current and future generations about how important it is to care for the environment, and the important role it has to play in our lives. Without this education we will see a continued depletion of the earth's resources and this will have a impact on their wellbeing. This project is needed to give the children and young people the opportunity to experience the different aspects of forest habitats as well learning about the wider environment, it will bring young people 'hands on' into the countryside which is an important aspect of their education. Visiting children, young families and forest schools operate in the forest with minimal facilities and shelter, ie tarpaulin, and rustic compost loo in the small store-shed. It is likely that other people considering building their own sustainable property will visit this new building to share ideas, discuss options, and learn from our experiences, in the same way that we have visited other straw bale construction buildings in Shropshire.

Added Value: A very unique education and training space IN the forest, with views out at all levels. We anticipate at least 300 Shropshire YFC members (aged 10 to 26) being involved in the project). A member from Wem YFC has designed the building and drawn up plans. At our Building Project meetings we have had around 40 members attending, keen to be involved, and already working through the ideas, plans, material acquisition, PR, fundraising, grant applications to name just a few. The building will give ample room for training around 20 people, eg First Aid, Forest School leaders. The building will benefit many young people, and children, from Shropshire, whether they visit just the once, or whether they attend for a few activities. This project gives the opportunity for young people to visit the forest, in any weather, and enjoy a new experience. The project encourages volunteering, education, social cohesion and positive activities, with everyone working together towards a common goal. A project which benefits others.

Total project costs: £113,648

Amount requested from LJC: £2,500

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Cllr. Gwilym Butler
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Local Members Cllr Claire Wild and Cllr Tim Barker

Appendices - None
