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## 1. Summary

In 2013/14 this Local Joint Committee had a total budget of £19,963 available to spend. This is made up of £15,000 from the LJC budget and £940 from the arts funding. £4,023 has been brought forward from the financial year 2012/13. At present, the LJC has a total budget of £15,893 remaining.

## 2. Recommendations

Members are asked to review projects LJC16.26 & LJC16.27 and suggest a level of grant award to each project at the LJC meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

## REPORT

### 3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

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

The LJC has received 2 applications for funding and the full project details are outlined below. Additional paperwork i.e. quotes; constitutions and accounts will be available at the meeting, on request.

### 4. LJC Grant Applications

#### A. Longnor Village Hall Car Park

**Project Description:** The overall aim of the project is to resurface the car park with stone chippings. This would make the car park much more user friendly as there have been some verbal complaints from hall users recently, especially in wet weather. Some users have stated how muddy their shoes become and how slippery the car park is. Longnor Village Hall are continuing to raise funds for a newer village hall and they do not wish to spend too much money on this project whilst there larger project is still continuing.

**Need and Demand:** The verbal complaints from users have meant that the village hall committee have had to act quicker than expected to make sure they do not lose block bookings and special occasion bookings, e.g. wedding parties etc. The committee expect that with a resurfaced car park making the hall look a more attractive prospect more block bookings will be made, which in turn shall help the overall fundraising objectives for the newer village hall.

The village hall not only supports users of the hall, the Church and School also use the car park and this project will benefit these groups too.

**Added Value:** The current risk of users slipping over is high. It is expected that by resurfacing the car park with chippings, it will make the risk of slipping less, and therefore the risk of liability will reduce on the committee should an accident occur.

**Total Project Costs:** £1,192 **Amount requested from LJC:** £792

## **B. Cound War Memorial refurbishment**

**Project Description:** The objective is to renovate the Cound War Memorial as it is currently in a poor condition and the names and other details have become unclear, and in some instances they are illegible. The mortar has also deteriorated and requires repointing.

**Need and Demand:** The memorial is made of Grinshill Stone and the best of local knowledge has had no refurbishment since its erection on October 1920. The stone has become rough and weathered, the inscriptions are also weathered and rapidly becoming illegible. The Parish Council have been advised by a local stone mason that the memorial will need cleaning, the stone redressing, re-cut all inscriptions and the mortar repointing.

The Parish Council have expressed an interest in obtaining a grant from the War Memorial Trust (WMT). The WMT stated that they'd only consider a grant if the parish Council sought a quote from an approved stone mason on the WMT approved providers list.

The memorial's curtilage is regularly maintained on behalf of the Parish Council by a self-employed contractor who keeps the grass and hedge cut tidy, the boundaries chains and oak posts are also painted and maintained. Recently some of these posts have had to be reinstated or replaced, resulting in a higher than normal expense to maintain the memorial during the past 18 months.

**Added Value:** With the approach of the centenary marking the start of hostilities in July 1914 the enhancement of the Memorial will be greatly appreciated by many of the families of those recorded on the memorial who are still in the area. Cound has a significant number of visitors to the village passing through whilst tracing their ancestors as well as walkers and cyclists. The proposed refurbishment will greatly enhance the village.

**Total Project Costs:** £3,990 **Amount requested from LJC:** £700

### **C. Pitchford Village Hall**

Pitchford Village Hall will soon be applying for a community IT grant. The purpose of the grant is to have facilities in the hall for the local W.I. who meets regularly at the Hall and their guest speakers who need a computer, projector and screen. The grant will also benefit the Parish Council whilst looking at Planning Applications online during meetings as these are no longer sent out as paper copies from the Shirehall. The grant will also allow the Hall to be opened up to the general public and used as a community internet café type resource.

In order for them to apply for this grant a 50% match fund is required. Pitchford Village Hall have requested that the money which the LJC gave them for the Parish Plan, £350, be allowed to be used as match funding for the Community IT grant that they are applying for. The Parish Plan Steering Group felt that the new Plan should be produced on a very tight budget as public expenditure was being squeezed all round. They were also helped considerably by Concord College who printed all the questionnaires and the final Plan and hosted some meetings and the launch party. As a result they have only spent £373.94 out of the £1100 provided by the LJC, the Community Council and the Parish Council.

The questionnaires for the Plan highlighted that some older people feel isolated and that all the villages felt the lack of a social centre. The Pitchford Village Hall Management Committee has taken the decision of trying to develop the Hall into more of a hub for the whole community. Increasingly, entertainment and information is provided to groups via Powerpoint presentations or computer graphics and the Village Hall should be able to get more bookings if they can offer modern equipment and Wi-Fi.

As spend had already been allocated in June 2012, the LJC are asked to agree this alternative use of allocated money to the sum of £350. No additional spend is being requested.

### **5. Financial Implications**

If these grants are awarded in full the total expenditure will be £1,492. There are sufficient funds in the budget to meet these grants. The amount left in the LJC budget should these grants be approved would amount to £14,401.

### **6. Any other information**

<b>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</b>
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<b>Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Cllr. Gwilym Butler</b>
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<b>Local Members Cllr. Claire Wild and Cllr. Tim Barker</b>
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<b>Appendices</b>