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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 £15,193 remaining. The LJC also has an unused admin budget of £253 which can be added to the above, totalling £15,446 left remaining.

2. Recommendations

Members are asked to review projects LJC16.27 to LJC16.40 and suggest a level of grant award to each project at the LJC meeting on 10th March 2014

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 13 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. Atcham Parish Council – Street Lighting

Project Description:

The Parish Council is responsible for 6 street lights in Atcham. The project entails upgrading the 3 street lights in Malthouse Lane and steel column light on The Glebe to dimming LED lights. This will light the road and footways more effectively and save money on energy, maintenance and reduce Carbon Dioxide emissions by stopping the carbon dioxide warming up the atmosphere and contributing to global warming.

Need and Demand: The two lights on Malthouse Lane which are attached to poles are very dated and fail to light up the road effectively; they need extensive repair work to them. New brackets and LED light fittings will be installed.

A further light on the corner of Malthouse Lane, by the entrance to The Malthouse, is in good condition but would benefit from upgrading to an LED fitting.

Collectively, replacing the light fittings on Malthouse Lane so that they are all LED will light the road more effectively and be more cost-efficient and environmentally friendly. In the evening, people frequent places such as The Mytton and Mermaid, Malthouse and the bowling club so improved street lighting along Malthouse Lane will improve their safety, as well as improving visibility for vehicles.

The light on the corner of The Glebe/Malthouse Lane is a steel column and the light fitting will be upgraded to LED. This will have the same benefits as upgrading the lights on Malthouse Lane. A further benefit is that there are two very dated lights attached to 2 houses on The Glebe which need to be removed due to concerns over their wiring. Replacing these two lights is too costly. However, by upgrading the light on the corner of The Glebe this will light the road better and compensate for the loss of light from the two lights being removed from the houses.

Project benefits are reduction of high running costs through provision of very low maintenance, efficient LED lights with lower CO2 emissions and reduced energy costs. The project is needed due to rising electrical and maintenance costs, cost of spare parts and existing lighting being ineffective.

The Parish Council has consulted with 3 lighting contractors and Shropshire Council's street lighting team. Local people were given the opportunity to attend Council meeting at which the project was discussed and flyers put through doors inviting people to comment.

Added Value: Improved lighting will benefit everyone in the village and the Parish Council will benefit from the savings made which will allow them to spend the precept in a more efficient way.

The annual savings are estimated to be £52.99 per lamp, which with 4 lamps is £211.96. It is projected that by year 11, the cost of the lamps will have been recovered through these savings.

These improvements will improve the environment and long-term sustainability of the lighting and the cost of running it will be reduced. As the lighting has a long warranty, this will greatly reduce the number and cost of repairs needed; the current lighting needs extensive repairs so this is a major cost saving long-term. This will reduce pressure on the Council's budget and hence the precept.

Total Project Costs: £2,100

Amount requested from LJC: £1,050

b. Condover Rescue Kennels

Project Description: We are a sub-group of the Retired Greyhound Trust and we set ourselves up in the summer of 2006 as a rescue group not just for greyhounds, but

also for lurchers. We aim to rehome as many of these dogs as possible and to raise awareness of the plight of ex-racing greyhounds who when they have finished their racing career are simply surplus to requirements.

Currently there is a serious shortage of facilities within our geographic area suitable for the rescue of pregnant bitches or bitches with young puppies.

This grant application is to support the erection of two quietly located, purpose built, puppy units. Both individual units will include suitable accommodation which is secure, heated/insulated and with outdoor private gardens/play areas.

Need and Demand:

During 2013, through Moorlands Kennels we have rehomed 190 rescue dogs.

We are often contacted to take pregnant bitches or bitches with young puppies. Whilst we would always try and respond positively, we just do not have any suitable facilities so we are often forced to say no.

Added Value:

Our rescue dogs are only homed after we have thoroughly checked potential applicants.

All homed dogs are spayed/neutered, flea'd, micro chipped, wormed and has had a full vet health check.

Establishing these new facilities will help avoid healthy dogs and puppies being put down.

Total Project Costs: £5,030 Amount requested from LJC: £3,030

c. Atcham Malthouse Bowling Club

Project Description:

To provide Water Supply and drainage to the clubhouse. Currently Water is carried to the clubhouse from the adjacent toilet. Drainage currently runs to ground. This project is the start of our refurbishment of the clubs facilities.

Need and Demand:

The current premise is due a complete refurbishment to enable us to maximise this refurbishment the water and drainage is essential. Once the refurbishment is completed, we hope to be able to draw in more bowlers from the local area with better facilities, thus increasing the membership and sustainability of the club.

Added Value:

It is believed that by installing the new water and drainage it will attract more users of the bowling club. It will also mean any members we currently have will not be put off staying in the future too.

Total Project Costs: £625 Amount requested from LJC: £300

d. Berrington Village Hall

Project Description:

This project is part two of a multi phased modernisation project to upgrade Berrington Village Hall in to a modern, sustainable and accessible community asset. Phase one was completed in 2010 when a new kitchen was installed. This phase of the project will install a new disabled toilet and will replace the existing out-dated men's toilets and upgrade the female's toilets up to an acceptable standard.

At present there are zero toilet facilities for our disabled village hall users. This has a detrimental effect not only for our existing users but on our ability to offer events to anyone within our community who is disabled.

The Village Hall committee also wish to modernise the men's toilets with new urinals, cubicles and wash basins and will install new facilities for disabled users. Finally, we wish to upgrade the female toilets as the existing provision is unacceptable for our users.

As part of this project we will require some external work – Altering ground levels to side and rear elevation; taking down existing toilet wall to the side elevation, removal of urinal slab and the breaking up and carting away of the existing floor slab; new drainage connections into existing manhole for disabled toilet and a new manhole for the men's toilets.

To maximise the benefit of these changes, new foundations will be built, plus walls to two sides and a new roof installed to meet current building regulation standards.

To make the toilets accessible, internal work will involve the breakup of existing floor slab and replacement of new floor at level access from the main hall without the need of ramps and the diversion of existing heating pipes in a floor duct in new floor.

The toilets will require new cubicle partitions, vanity units and WC ducts, white sanitary ware and include easily cleanable partitions/doors. Slip resistant flooring, skirting and capping plus tiling to basins.

The disabled toilet will be a standard 'Doc M Pack' with the requisite fittings and fixtures in a typical disabled facility.

All building work will fully meet ambulant disabled needs and the completed to DDA Compliance standards.

Need and Demand:

The population of Berrington is 1,059 (2011 Census Key Statistics, ONS) and the village hall is the only community facility within the local community where the public can meet for functions, parties and events. There is no shop, school or public house and so the village hall is at the forefront of our community.

The building itself is over 75 years old and while large enough for functions for around 120 people, it is in desperate need of modernisation to bring it up to scratch

for modern societal needs. There is now an expectation within society that when a public function is put on those facilities are adequate and meet the needs of users. Sadly, at present we can't say that is the case at the Village Hall.

Phase one of the project (the new kitchen, new flooring & new central heating) had been completed through a mix of grant support and via work from the local community. The toilets though remain a major issue and written and verbal evidence suggests that potential users of the hall have been put off from using the facility due to the state of the toilets.

With a population that has a mean age of 38, we are committed to continue to engage with our parishioner's and put on shows and events that excite and engage all parts of our community, both young and old.

At present our footfall numbers suggest we have 1289 visitors (some will have been more than once) per year – with 65 bookings, including:

- Local shoot
- Children's' parties
- 60th Birthday celebration
- A regular ballroom dance group
- Zumba classes
- Charity fund raisers
- Italian Night
- Skittles Evening
- Car boot and table top sale
- Harvest Supper
- Parish Council Meetings
- BBC - filming at the church

We hope that as part of this refurbishment and commitment to the village hall numbers will increase to over 2,000 as a consequence of the work. We expect this to increase as the Village Hall Committee will be hosting a more regular series of social events once the work is complete, including family-friendly evenings on the first Friday of every month for all members of the community and beyond!

The Village Hall committee are also committed to modernising the way we use social media and communicate with our community. Should the work take place we are keen to explore new areas for social media and to better publicise the new facilities to re-engage those who would not visit due to a lack of adequate toilets.

Added Value:

As stated already we hope to get more of our local community involved in being village hall users. This will not only have a positive community impact upon the village, but it will also help the village hall grow and become more sustainable in future years.

Whilst we are already able to put on events for our community, by improving the various toilets and access to the facility, we will be able to open events up to new parts of our community that we are currently unable to cater for.

Total Project Costs: £33,530 Amount requested from LJC: £3,450

e. Condover Foxes Football Club

Project Description: “Condover Foxes” is currently playing in division 2 of the Greenhous Shrewsbury Sunday Football League and are a long established village football team with a history going back at least to 1929.

The LJC grant application is to secure the balance of funding needed to supply the team with a new football strip.

Need and Demand: Our last new strip was purchased in 2009 and we are currently playing in a second hand strip which was kindly donated by a fellow Sunday football club.

Whilst for many reasons organised village football is increasingly under pressure, our club remains viable.

We currently have 24 players signed on between the ages of 17 and 46, with the vast majority directly associated with the village of Condover.

Added Value: Our players would really appreciate a quality new football strip, rather than the clubs currently available kit offerings.

Hopefully it will go some way towards us securing promotion this season!

Total Project Costs: £643.44 Amount requested from LJC: £387.00

f. Condover Parish Plan

Project Description:

The current community led parish plan was published in 2009 and is now requires updating. In the past the parish plan has directed the Parish Council in its response to development within the parishes as the documents have provided guidance on residents’ needs in terms of both socio-economic; educational; health; leisure and environmental issues.

The action list which arose has in the main been addressed where possible and as a result the current action plan now lacks energy and direction. (See latest updated Action Plan 2013 as presented at the Annual Parish Meeting in May.)

The Parish Council now recognise that there is a growing need to update the parish plans in light of:

- Communities needs
- Available funding
- Changes in local planning regulations and drivers; particularly in terms of housing needs

- Changes in Government initiatives- with emphasis being placed on power being disseminated to local levels

The updated parish plans will include a vision for the future, an expression of the majority of residents' views and a current action plan detailing how these developments can be reasonably achieved.

The Community led plan will also assist in the delivery of a Neighbourhood Light development strategy plan; which assist in updated the SC SAMDev response and Place Plan and highlight housing need within the Parish.

Need and Demand:

Parish Plan summarise local needs and outline how the community, the Parish Council, Government (at all levels) and local service providers can act to deliver the residents' identified 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 more 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 plans have provided direction in the past but are now recognised by the Parish Council as requiring an update for the reasons given in No 10 above.

Added Value:

Parish Plans must 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 those identified actions.

Parish Council funding and Shropshire Council funding is restricted and needs to be directed at locally identified priorities as per the Parish Plans.

Similarly planning policies/statements etc need to meet locally identified needs as per Parish Plans.

The Parish Council needs to demonstrate that it is acting in accordance with local views; needs etc as per Parish Plans.

Total Project Costs: £7,200 Amount requested from LJC: £3,100

g. Coundmoor Village Hall

Project Description:

Coundmoor Village Hall is one of the most active village halls in Shropshire. Every month we put on events for our community, whether it is a "Noggin & Natter" night once a month, or entertainment through singing or dancing in a venue that provides a licensed bar, home cooked food and a big community welcome

Our village hall is unique in many ways, particularly the floor covering which is carpet. However, this flooring (which was originally provided by a generous donation) now needs replacing as time has taken its toll and it is looking its age.

Need and Demand:

The evidence is clear, as an extremely diverse village hall (providing meeting hall, licensed bar, Pilate's classes and general entertainment venue) which provides a facility for the residents of Cound, Evenwood, Kenley, Harnage and Cressage, wear and tear takes its toll.

Added Value:

A new floor covering will help to enhance projects already on-going such as the new storage facilities, decoration and kitchen improvements.

Total Project Costs: £2,950 Amount requested from LJC: £1,500

h. Stapleton Village Hall Movies

Project Description:

We are a small rural village hall and now a registered charity and so all of our money comes from making our own money through fundraising. We are trying to raise funds for a new kitchen, whilst paying every day overheads e.g. Electric, Insurance etc. We feel that purchasing this movie equipment would enable us to progress with raising funds as well as being a big asset to us and other villages in the area.

Need and Demand:

The equipment would benefit all groups in the area e.g. W.I, Youth Club, After School club etc. it would benefit all age groups from pre-school to the elderly.

Added Value:

The Project will hopefully attract greater use of our village hall bringing in more people for different users, e.g. keep fit, line dancing, film nights etc.

Total Project Costs: £1,055 Amount requested from LJC: £855.84

i. Cressage Village Hall Kitchen Renovation

Project Description:

As this area does not currently meet health & safety requirements for preparation and serving of food it is not used for these purposes which restricts hall use and hiring. The area needs complete renovation in order to eliminate the damp and condensation. The ceiling of the flat roof will be replaced with a false ceiling incorporating the necessary insulation. The walls will be treated for the damp and

the storage cupboards will be replaced. A new water heater will be installed and new work surfaces suitable for preparing food will be installed. The floor will be levelled and new non-slip flooring laid. The aim is to provide a kitchen to the standard required to enable us to hold a food hygiene certificate.

Need and Demand:

Organisations such as the Women's Institute are unable to provide refreshments or prepare food for functions in the kitchen in its current state. We are at present unable to hire the hall out for parties or receptions which require catering prepared on the premises. The consequence of this is that we are losing valuable revenue to keep the hall viable. We have a letter of support from the WI and the Guiding Association who both use the hall on a regular basis. The hall is also used by recreational groups such as Tai Chi and Tai Kwando, the Church, and Gardening Club. Comments collected in March 2010 for the Parish Plan suggestion box include "We need a hall that the community wants to use and to encourage people to want to hire it for private functions"

"The kitchen should be updated and professionally redesigned to make maximum use of space"

"The kitchen could do with professional approach to utilise the space available. Make more use of upper wall space. More efficient and economical method of water heating"

These comments were also included in the completed Parish Plan 2012 where it was confirmed under proposals to consider that the facilities of the Village Hall be brought up to date.

Added Value:

We recently had a joint grant from LJC/Awards for All/Veolia Environmental Trust to replace toilets incorporating a new disabled toilet and ramped main entrance. This new project will build on the refurbishment of the village hall and making it a facility of which the village and surrounding area can use and be proud.

Total Project Costs: £10,812.23 Amount requested from LJC: £5,000

j. Dorrington Village Hall Stage

Project Description:

Dorrington Village Hall is a popular and well used facility. The Main Hall has significant potential for group and audience related events that require staging for performances.

The current equipment is no longer fit for purpose and urgently requires replacement. The principle users of the staging include the local primary school, dance and exercise teaching as well as amateur dramatics.

Need and Demand:

The following users of Dorrington Village Hall require a stage:

Dorrington C of E Primary School - 40 children at least once a month
Gill Hamer: Shropshire Zumba – 40 adults at least once a week
Cathy Griffiths: Diana Griffiths School of Dance – 50 children at least once a week
Stephanie Morgan: Circuit & Physical Training – 30 adults at least once a week
Dorrington Players: Amateur Dramatics – 40 adults once a year
Weddings & Private Functions – 80 adults once a month

In effect this equates to over 300 users of the Hall that require a stage to enhance the facility on a regular basis throughout the year.

Added Value:

The current staging is not fit for purpose and could represent a health hazard, so any new staging would reduce this risk to the users. The requirement of a stage is fundamental to any performance or activity where teaching is carried out. Finally the stage has real value to the current users and potential users of a unique and highly regarded community facility.

Total Project Costs: £3,500 Amount requested from LJC: £3,000

k. Friends of St John's Church, Hughley – Poppy Project 2014

Project Description:

2014 is the centenary of The Great War. In remembrance of this event, and the sacrifice made by the young men of this area who failed to return home, we would like to mount a commemorative exhibition in the summer of 2014. The project will include members of the three parishes of Church Preen, Hughley and Kenley. The exhibition will take the form of several boards composed of photographic images of poppies, in Photomontage, together or interspersed with information about the soldiers who took part from these three parishes and including quotes from the war poets such as Shropshire's Wilfred Owen. We have approached the school that have expressed an interest and will hopefully contribute some of their own work to the exhibition.

We envisage this as a three parish community activity; there will be a series of workshops to be held in the village hall in the spring of 2014 and supervised by David Griffith a local artist. The completed work will be on display in Hughley church during the summer of 2014 on the church's recently acquired exhibition system.

We also hope to have an evening of Music or poetry following the opening of the exhibition as a tribute to those who have died in all conflicts and to create a strong community spirit.

Need and Demand:

We are a rural community and though small in number have historically been united through the different parishes. We would like to build on this community spirit and at the same time commemorate the centenary of the 1st World War. We have a thriving village hall and local school which along with the three village churches provide the sense of community much as would have been in place during the early 20th century. We wish to create an inclusive creative event which includes members of the three parishes who will all have different interests and experiences to contribute. The project will encompass all ages from primary school aged children through to too many who may have experienced service in the 2nd World War.

Added Value:

- Engender a community focus through collaboration across the three parishes
- Stimulate intergenerational activity
- Provide considerable contribution in kind through the work of the voluntary organisation and delivery of the project.
- To build on the established links between the school and the church this was achieved through a voluntary art project in 2013.

Total Project Costs: £333.48 Amount requested from LJC: £333.48

I. Berrington Parish Council – Street Lighting

Project Description:

The project entails replacing one column with a new column and LED lamp with photo cells to provide part night lighting and installing photo cells in the remaining 17 lights to provide part night lighting saving 30% on the Parish's Electricity cost.

Need and Demand:

The one light in Lower Cross is defective and in urgent need of replacement. The new lamp will be an LED lamp with photo cells saving 70% on energy costs.

The remaining lamps will have photo cells installed to provide part night lighting saving 30% on electricity.

The Parish Council has held meetings with lighting contractors and Shropshire Council's street lighting team. Parishioners were given the opportunity to attend the Council meetings at which the project was discussed and flyers put through doors inviting people to comment. Comments were received in favour of part night lighting, there were no objections.

Added Value:

The Parish Council will benefit from the savings made on energy bills which will allow them to spend the precept on items other than street lighting.

Total Project Costs: £1,598 Amount requested from LJC: £799

M. Pitchford Village Hall – Internet for all

Project Description:

The project will enable people and other non-computer owners to access the internet. The project will also broaden the range of activities the village hall can be used for e.g. sporting events, special interest groups.

The project will also enable all members of our community to use the village hall as an internet café where they can do online shopping, and/or skype with friend and family.

There is an absolute need for these activities and a community grant would enable the village hall management committee to move ahead with the project in the next three months or so. If the costs have to be met from village hall revenue, it will take some years to accumulate the funds.

Need and Demand:

In the modern world technology is rapidly developing, for example NHS are moving towards telehealth and telecare. Older people (for whom this is particularly applicable) may not have computers at home and it would be admirable in due course, if they could be offered access to the internet in the village hall to access these services.

Pitchford Village Hall is the only community asset in the whole of Acton Burnell Parish Council area and the recent parish plan survey highlighted the fact that many residents, particularly the elderly, feel isolated by the lack of transport. It was also believed that a more vibrant community centre would benefit the entire village. We estimate that by having Wi-Fi in the village hall it will encourage more bookings and therefore make the village hall more viable.

The Village hall is used as a meeting place for the local W.I and on a regular basis they have expressed a desire for up-to-date equipment so that they can book speakers who need a projector and laptop etc.

Acton Burnell Parish Council also meets at the village hall. Planning applications are now only emailed to the parish council clerk and whilst Councillors can see the applications online in their own homes, it would be helpful if they could access them online to clarify queries which may arise during debate.

Added Value:

The Village Hall Management Committee intends to start a regular, monthly soup lunch aimed at particularly at the more elderly members of our community. This should be a good time to introduce the internet to people who are not currently users. Similarly, the committee is currently trialling a monthly social evening and being able to show a major sporting event on such an evening would make the events even more popular.

Total Project Costs: £1,195 Amount requested from LJC: £645

5. Financial Implications

If these grants are awarded in full the total expenditure will be £23,450.32 There are insufficient funds in the budget to meet these grants. The LJC will need to decide which applications to approve and reject to ensure the budget is not over-spent.

6. Any other information

None