



Committee and date
Underdale, Monkmoor and
Abbey Local Joint Committee

1st December 2009

7.00pm

Item No

8

Public

UPDATE REPORT ON PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE FOR UNDERDALE, MONKMOOR AND ABBEY 2009/2010

Responsible Officer Kevin Malone

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Summary

This report provides Members with an update on the progress made on those projects funded by the Underdale, Monkmoor and Abbey Local Joint Committee

New Applications for Funding

The Committee are asked to confirm grant approval or rejection and any terms and conditions for the applications as detailed below:

	£
A. Provision of funds to assist 1 st Robertsford Scout Group to replace dilapidated furniture and make their hut fit for purpose.	840.36
B. Provision of funds to assist Pre-school Learning Alliance staff to facilitate Messy Play Days.	1,020.00
C. Provision of funds to assist the Richard Onslow Court Residents Group in purchasing a computer, printer and web cam.	1,500.00
D. Provision of funds to assist Shrewsbury Abbey and St Peters, Shrewsbury in setting up a Toddler Group in St Peter's Church Hall, Monkmoor Road, Shrewsbury.	2,500.00
TOTAL	5,860.36

Report

Background

1. The Committee has a budget of £40,000 for the 2009/10 financial year. This must be spent to improve service standards, support the delivery of parish plans or to provide grants to local voluntary organisations.
2. Prior to this meeting the Committee has approved funding to the total of £6,000 and ring-fenced a further £5,000 for the Underdale, Monkmoor and Abbey Community Committee, leaving **£29,000** available for new projects.

1st Robertsford Scout Hut Refurbishment, The Elms, Belvidere, Shrewsbury (Grant applied for £840.36)

3. The 1st Robertsford Scout Hut is currently home to four groups – Scouts, Beavers, Cubs and Guides, with around ninety 5-16 year olds meeting every week for social, educational and recreational activities. The Shrewsbury and Severnside Boxing Club meet at the hut twice a week along with several other groups who use the hut on an ad-hoc basis such as the local Youth Band for practice, a local relaxation class, a cycling club and the Council as a Polling Station. The Scout Hut is situated at the rear of The Elms behind the Shirehall.
4. The Scout Group would like to carry out two major projects, firstly to refloor the hut and secondly to replace dilapidated furniture such as tables and chairs.
5. To refloor the hut the cost will be in excess of £3,000, the group currently have balances totalling £1,800 and as the work is urgently needed on grounds of health and safety the Scouting Association have agreed to match fund the contribution.
6. The group would like to purchase six folding tables and twenty-four folding chairs which will help to accommodate other groups who wish to utilise the local facility and along with the reflooring help to maintain the hut as “fit for purpose”.

Messy Play Days, St Peters Hall, Monkmoor Road, Shrewsbury (Grant applied for £1,020)

7. This project will consist of three messy play days to be held in the Monkmoor area. The range of activities are suitable for pre-school children up to eleven. The activities which are found to work best are painting, playdough, face painting, ice and sand play, water and making things with card, glitter and glue. If funding is allowed the events will run free of charge during school

holiday periods when there is often a lack of things to do for children.

8. Events have previously been well attended and feedback positive, therefore four members of staff will facilitate each event.

Richard Onslow Court Residents Group (Grant applied for £1,500)

9. Richard Onslow Court is a sheltered housing scheme consisting of forty flats. The residents would like to purchase a computer, printer and web cam with the aim of offering greater access to information and services. At the moment if residents wish to access a computer they have to travel to the library in Shrewsbury Town Centre or The Lantern. The equipment would be situated in the residents lounge and would be accessible to all residents.
10. Having a computer on site would enable residents to be in regular contact with family members, would help in searching for holiday accommodation and would give residents the opportunity to take up new hobbies and learning opportunities.

Toddle In, Shrewsbury Abbey and St Peters, Shrewsbury (Grant applied for £2,500)

11. Shrewsbury Abbey and St Peters would like to set up a weekly term-time gathering for pre school children and their carers, it is proposed to hold these on Wednesday mornings at 9.30 and 11.30 and the sessions would be open to those of any faith. Two to five volunteers would be involved in the project.
12. The aim of the group is to offer a friendly and safe environment where children can develop social skills and express themselves through musical activity. At the same time the group will offer support to the carers of pre school children using a comfortable venue where carers can meet with those in similar circumstances.

Updates are provided below on work completed to date.

Grant to give Energy Saving Advice to the people of Underdale and Monkmoor

13. Shrewsbury Friends of the Earth working with Marches Energy Agency were granted the sum of £4,317 to distribute low energy light bulbs and give information on energy efficiency to residents in the Underdale and Monkmoor area.
14. The group have taken part in two training courses, printed 6,000 information leaflets and have a permanent display of low energy light bulbs at the Wildlife Trust Centre. In the forthcoming weeks the group aim to visit school Christmas Fairs to give energy saving advice as well as continuing to visit homes to meet people face to face.

Through the Doorway to Healthy Living

15. Through the Doorway to Healthy Living were granted the sum of £3,300 to provide weekly activities and opportunities for people to adopt and maintain a healthy lifestyle and promote positive mental health and wellbeing.
16. This project had encountered a number of problems with regards to identifying suitable venues and finding tutors, however I am pleased to report they have now started the first of the funded courses this being the belly dancing class which is going from strength to strength.
17. The group hope to start the Extend sessions very soon, this comprises of a weekly chair based exercise session for older people and those with physical disabilities or sensory impairment. A taster session has recently been held at the MIND offices in Abbey Foregate, which was well attended and if the venue becomes available then a full 10 week course will be run in the future.
18. Further updates are expected with regard to the above courses and the proposed weekly yoga session.

Shrewsbury Music Therapy Unit Trust Fund

19. Shrewsbury Music Therapy Unit Trust Fund was granted the sum of £2,000 to help the Fund carry out its work with children and adults with severe learning disabilities and behavioural problems. An update was received in October and is shown below.
20. The sum of £157.50 contributed towards session fees for five Severndale School children for seven weeks between 7th September and 23rd October. £32.50 contributed towards the additional subsidy for two blocks of five sessions which commenced on 8th September and 13th October, in which one Severndale child participated. £1,276.36 has been spent to date and a further update will be given early next year.

Remaining Funds

21. Below is a breakdown of all funding applications received and approved since the start of the 2009/2010 Local Joint Committee.

Total available funding: £40,000

Total agreed funding to date £11,000

Total remaining funds £29,000

22. Should the current bids be approved, the sum of **£23,139.64** will remain available to fund future bids.

Future Bids

23. Bids for future funding are still required and should be addressed to:

Kevin Malone or Fiona Howe at Shropshire Council, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury SY2 6ND

Email: kevin.malone@shropshire.gov.uk or
fiona.howe@shropshire.gov.uk.

Telephone: 01743 252131

24. The Local Joint Committee will receive regular updates on the progress of the projects that have been funded.

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

Human Rights Act Appraisal

The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998

Environmental Appraisal

None

Risk Management Appraisal

In determining these recommendations the Council has considered reputational risk and the course of action minimises this risk.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

Consideration has been given to the public opinion expressed at the previous Local Meeting

Local Member

Shropshire Councillors – Miles Kenny, Jo Jones, Tony Durnell

Appendices

None