

UPDATE REPORT ON PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE EASTERN SHREWSBURY LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

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Summary

This report provides Members with details of new funding applications and progress made in respect of projects previously funded by the Eastern Shrewsbury Local Joint Committee

Recommendations

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 the Abbots Wood Caring for People Group to purchase various promotional materials to help promote the group professionally and be able to build on involvement from other groups and organisations. There is no contribution from the applicant.	1,439.21
B.	Provision of funds for the installation of two composting toilets and cubicles, one for each of the two Monkmoor Allotment Garden Association sites. The applicant is also contributing £1,619.15 of their own funds.	14,572.35
C.	Provision of funds to assist with the refurbishment of the kitchen facilities at Crowmoor Baptist Church to help to serve and make the building widely available to the wider community. The applicant is also contributing £500 of their own funds.	5,898.12
D.	Provision of funds to Disability Arts in Shropshire to help with the establishment of an improvisation music club to encourage disabled and non disabled people to work together. The	4,680.00

	applicant is also contributing £1,500 of their own funds.	
E.	Provision of funds to Severndale Specialist School to contribute towards the cost of establishing a community arts project called Knowing Me, Knowing You. The Shropshire Partnership Equalities Forum has also been asked to make a contribution of £1,000 towards the project.	1,450.00
F.	Provision of funds to the Belvidere Supported Housing Therapeutic Gardening Project to help the development of the tenants who have enduring mental health needs. Bromford Support is also contributing £100 towards the project.	870.00
G.	Provision of funds to the Upton Lane Residents Group for the purchase of a laptop computer and other equipment to enable residents to develop social skills and to help them with an art based project that they are planning. Bromford Housing is also contributing £225 towards the project.	985.72
H.	Provision of funds to Heaths Houses Darby and Joan Club for the purchase and installation of an Entertainment System to help residents of the sheltered housing scheme and the wider community to hold social activities. There is no contribution from the applicant.	955.00
I.	Provision of funds to Disability Arts in Shropshire to establish a series of Belly Dancing classes to continue an existing project which promotes health and fitness. There is no contribution from the applicant.	1,240.00
J.	Provision of funds to the Hive Music and Media Centre to enable them to run a project called Changing Tracks which will use musical activities to engage with young people regarding their alcohol use and misuse. There is no contribution from the applicant.	5,000.00
	Total Funds Applied For	37,090.40
	Funds Available	23,140.00
	Balance	-13,950.40

Report

1. Background

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 Prior to this meeting the Committee has approved funding to the total of £29,177, leaving **£23,140** available for new projects.

2. New Applications for Funding

2.1 Getting to Know Us – Abbots Wood Caring for People Group (Grant applied for £1,439.21).

- 2.1.1 Abbots Wood Caring for People Group has been established for over 2 years and comprises of local residents with learning disabilities within the areas of Monkmoor, Underdale and Abbey and with links to people from other areas.
- 2.1.2 The group is strongly supported by Shropshire Council, West Mercia Police, Severnside Housing, Enable and support workers from other local day care centres. The group comes together on a monthly basis to discuss local issues relating to their area and to develop projects for the group.
- 2.1.3 The group also act a Hate Crime reporting Station for their area.
- 2.1.4 To help raise awareness of the positive work that the group has achieved and plans to deliver, the group are seeking funds to help purchase a pull up banner, a display board and other promotional materials to help promote the group when they are attending local events.
- 2.1.5 The group have planned many projects and activities for the next 12 months and these promotional materials would help to promote the group professionally and encourage other people to join in with their activities.

2.2 Composting Toilet Systems – Monkmoor Allotment Garden Association (Grant applied for £14,572.35).

- 2.2.1 The Monkmoor Allotment Garden Association manages two allotment sites (separated by a busy main road with no safe crossing point). There are currently 107 plots in total (64 on one site and 43 on the other) with a waiting list of people wishing to take on a plot.
- 2.2.2 There are no toilet facilities on either site but the Association's records over the past 10 years show an increasing number of elderly people taking up a plot and there is an increasing number of children and families who also regularly visit the allotments.
- 2.2.3 The Association wishes to construct two composting toilets and cubicles (suitable for wheelchair users, people with mobility issues and for able bodied people) on each of their two sites. These facilities (which use the very latest composting techniques) will be able to cope with an average of 100 uses each per day.
- 2.2.4 Installation of the toilets will make a significant contribution to water conservation and pollution reduction on the sites when compared with traditional alternatives. They will also be educational in that they will raise awareness of environmental issues and health and safety.

- 2.2.5 Finally, the project will remove some of the barriers to disabled users and families with young children using the sites.

2.3 Crowmoor Baptist Church Kitchen Refurbishment (Grant applied for £5,898.12)

- 2.3.1 The Church works very closely with the local community in a great variety of ways. Over the past 12 months it has held fortnightly light lunches, mainly for senior citizens and has held a brunch and afternoon tea.
- 2.3.2 These and other vents have attracted large numbers of people – for example the brunch attracted 130 people, a curry evening over 100 and the light lunches typically attract between 20-40 people on a regular basis. A holiday club for children held last summer attracted up to 80 children.
- 2.3.3 The local community also hire out the church buildings for their own events such as birthday parties, community group meetings etc. at nominal rates. Catering is often required for the various events and meetings.
- 2.3.4 Unfortunately the kitchen facilities are over 20 years old and are no longer fit for purpose – for example the oven is so old that spare parts cannot be sourced to maintain it.
- 2.3.5 The applicant has bid for funds to buy replacement equipment (oven, larder fridge, dishwasher, sink etc.) and the renewal of the kitchen floor in order to bring the kitchen up to modern standards and to allow them to cater for more events in a safe and efficient way.
- 2.3.6 The applicant believes that bringing young and old people together to eat good, nourishing, well cooked food is a great way to build a healthy and thriving community. It would also help to provide a safe environment in which to attract older and lonely people to gather, meet and interact with each other.
- 2.3.7 The applicant understands that the LJC funding rules stipulate that expenditure must benefit the wider community and should not be used to fund a group which restricts membership based on views or beliefs.

2.4 Music Access Music (MAM) - Disability Arts in Shropshire (Grant applied for £4,680)

- 2.4.1 DASH will be starting a monthly free improvisation music club (MAM) at the DASH space. This group will be open to all, with a particular relevance for disabled people.
- 2.4.2 The aims are:
- To develop a group of people interested in free improvisation music
 - A social opportunity for disabled and non disabled people to work together

- A space for non musicians and musicians to work together and develop a common language
 - An opportunity to work with experienced music improvisers
 - An opportunity to have fun.
- 2.4.3 MAM will provide an opportunity for people of all abilities to work together using improvised music as the key. There is no need to be able to play an instrument or read music, just an interest in listening and working together.
- 2.4.4 The club will be open to all people, but is particularly interested in the creation of an inclusive setting, where disabled people know that they are not just welcome, but at the heart of it.
- 2.4.5 The funding will pay for the purchase of musical instruments as well as the cost of musical tutors for the classes.
- 2.4.6 DASH is regularly asked to provide different activities for disabled people and music is the most common of these. There are many barriers to disabled people participating in music, but free improvisation removes these barriers, due to the openness and self structuring of the group work.
- 2.4.7 Many younger disabled people are being housed within sheltered housing schemes in the area (e.g. Heaths Houses and Porchfields). These residents have raised the issue that many of the activities and clubs are for older people or children and that there is a lack of activities for their age group (20 - 50 years). MAM will be promoted to these residents with the help of the Community Regeneration Officer as a fully accessible activity, held within a fully accessible venue. MAM will develop the skills of the participants and also provide vital social interaction.'
- 2.4.8 This will be a pilot which will be evaluated to develop the continuance of MAM.
- 2.5 Knowing Me, Knowing You, Severndale Specialist School (Grant applied for £1,450)**
- 2.5.1 Severndale Specialist Schools is planning a community arts project called "Knowing Me, Knowing You", in conjunction with Belvidere Secondary School.
- 2.5.2 The project will 'buddy' up some of Severndale's students from years 3, 4, 5 & 6 (age 7-11 years) with students in Year 7 or 8 (age 11-12 years) at Belvidere Secondary School and aims to have students meet up on 3 different days, over a 2 week period:
- Day 1 - Severndale will hold a day where the students will meet up and meet their 'buddy' and then hold some dance workshops delivered by a visiting professional aimed at developing social interaction skills where they can get to know each other and build friendships.
 - Day 2 - Students meet up with an Artist (and a member of staff) to go into the local community to find places of interest, where photographs can be

taken. To then return to school where students can help choose 4, which would be put onto canvas. At the same time some other students will be in the community with video cameras and a teacher trained in the use of ICT, taking footage, which will later be edited into a short film, with added effects, using existing school equipment and ICT expertise. Additional students to work with local dance group to create and rehearse a routine.

- Day 3 - Students to return to school, with the artist and ICT teacher, to paint the canvases. The Severndale students and their mainstream 'buddy' will be supervised in the completion of the canvases. At the same time, other students will be editing their video footage.

2.5.3 The additional students will be working with the local drama group to practise and then perform their routine, in the Drama Studio at Severndale School. The works of art will go on permanent display within the local community and a booklet to be made to be delivered to the local community showcasing the work of the arts project.

2.5.4 Severndale School will also involve other students with a day's workshop with a local dance group to create a routine, which they will then be performed in the Drama Studio at Severndale for the local community, including elderly residents from Richard Onslow Court & selected local figures.

2.6 Belvidere Supported Housing Therapeutic Gardening Project (Grant applied for £870)

2.6.1 The applicant is requesting funds to enable the group to purchase a storage shed, equipment and seeds to develop the project. The group will be supported by Bromford Support and the Rehabilitation & Recovery Services.

2.6.2 Many of the Belvidere Supported Housing residents have not had the opportunity to develop a garden or vegetable patch or the chance to see things grow and flourish – skills which will stand them in good stead for when the time comes to live independently in their own home.

2.6.3 The Therapeutic Gardening Project benefits include allowing the tenants of the scheme to increase their social interacting skills and develop their awareness of healthy eating and promote cookery skills utilising fresh home grown produce.

2.6.4 Although initially supported by Bromford Support and The Rehabilitation & Recovery Service it is hoped that the project will become Service User led with minimal supervision.

2.6.5 It is envisioned that the gardening club will also grow vegetables. This produce will then form the basis of a healthy eating programme including cookery sessions.

2.7 Upton Lane Residents Group (Grant applied for £985.72)

- 2.7.1 The Upton Lane Residents Group provide support to develop daily living skills, promote independence and encourage personal development. They also provide group workshops and meetings to encourage social skills and to pass on learnt skills to the residents to build good neighbourhood relationships. The residents within the supportive housing are there on a short-term basis and once it is felt that they can live independently they actively need to search online for properties.
- 2.7.2 The residents have said they would like a computer to enable them to access information, search for jobs, social network, develop CVs etc. Three of the residents have attended a meeting of the Monkmoor Residents Group and have undertaken to do minutes and develop a logo for that group.
- 2.7.3 In addition to the laptop, the residents are asking for funding for a Wii console, which will provide the opportunity for residents to interact and develop social skills. To cover costs the residents have agreed to contribute towards the running of the laptop for each session and an amount for printing.
- 2.7.4 At the moment, if the residents wish to access computers they would need to travel to the library at either Shrewsbury town centre or The Lantern to access a computer. Due to the issues facing the residents this is an insurmountable barrier and intimidating. Having a computer on site would allow the residents greater freedom to access services.
- 2.7.5 The Wii would help the service users develop social skills, whilst the laptop would provide a vital source to find information, job search and health information etc.
- 2.7.6 The residents already hold fortnightly meetings at which they discuss ideas and suggestions which will interest and help the development of the people living in the sheltered housing. The group also runs informal cookery sessions and craft sessions. They are currently planning an arts project which will involve members of the community. The laptop will help with that project.

2.8 Heaths Houses Darby & Joan Club (Grant applied for £955)

- 2.8.1 Heaths Houses is a large Extra Care Sheltered Housing complex. It comprises of 88 flats and studio apartments within the wider community of Abbey Foregate.
- 2.8.2 Heaths Houses has an active social club. Activities are planned by residents but are open to both residents and the wider community. The social club (Darby & Joan) have applied for funds to provide a large widescreen TV and a DVD player, which they believe will enhance the scope of activities available to residents including:
- The provision of a monthly film night

- The promotion of healthy living through using a Wii games console (games such as bowling and tennis)
- Encouraging people to gather in the community lounge to watch TV during the week and/or on special occasions.

2.8.3 Although Heaths Houses mainly has an elderly population, it also caters people across a wider age range.

2.8.4 The current TV is quite small and therefore can only be watched by small numbers of people – and people with limited vision can have difficulty in seeing the screen. It is hoped that the introduction of a much larger TV screen and Wii console will encourage larger groups of residents to come together for social engagement and activities.

2.9 Belly Dancing at DASH (Grant applied for £1,240)

2.9.1 Through the Doorway to Healthy Living obtained funding from the LJC last year to run a pilot project consisting of 10 weekly Belly Dancing classes which were attended by up to 10 local residents per class.

2.9.2 At present there is a core of 7 residents who attend the classes regularly and who have expressed great interest in the classes continuing as the sessions provide a vital opportunity for the residents to exercise in a fun way and participate in social interaction.

2.9.3 The applicant is seeking funds to allow the classes to continue, and to pay for promotional flyers. The class attendees currently pay a charge of £3 per session which contributes towards the cost of room hire and tutor fees but for the sessions to continue the group need additional funds to cover the balance.

2.9.4 The applicant is hoping that the number of attendees will increase so that the group eventually becomes sustainable and self funding.

2.10 Changing Tracks - the Hive Music and Media Centre (Grant applied for £5,000)

2.10.1 The project will use music to engage young people regarding their alcohol use and misuse. Changing Tracks is an existing project run by the Hive based in Shrewsbury and Oswestry.

2.10.2 Alongside the 2 musicians in the project, a dedicated alcohol worker will work with in the project to deliver information, advice and signpost young people to the most appropriate services as well as being on hand for one to one support where needed.

2.10.3 The project will consist of a mix of music making and alcohol awareness and harm reduction activities. It will also serve as a referral pathway for young people.

2.10.4 The project will consist of 2 hour long, weekly workshops over an 11 week period. The equipment for the project has already been acquired through the Changing Tracks project.

2.10.5 The project will engage with 15-20 young people (from the Abbey, Monkmoor and Underdale areas) who will be expected to attend each session as the creative and alcohol awareness work will develop throughout the project. The young people will be expected to work towards a creative output such as a performance or recording.

2.10.6 The applicant is requesting funds to cover the cost of the 2 musicians/workshop leaders, the alcohol worker and some consumables (e.g. CDs, guitar strings etc.).

3. UPDATES ARE PROVIDED BELOW ON WORK COMPLETED TO DATE.

3.1 The table below provides a list of funding applications, and their value, approved by the Local Joint Committee to date during the current financial year.

Project Name	Value (£)
Disability Arts in Shropshire – Open Day	1,000
Upton Lane BMX Club	5,000
Underdale, Monkmoor & Abbey Community Committee	5,000
St Peter's Church – Toddle In Group	2,500
Pre School Learning Alliance – Messy Play Days	1,020
1 st Robertsford Scout Group – Scout Hut refurbishment	840
Richard Onslow Court Resident's Group – Computers Connecting Families	1,500

3.2 Due to the significant number of bids for funding received for this particular meeting, and the fullness of the meeting's Agenda, there will be no updates on the above projects until the Local Joint Committee's next meeting on 12 May 2010.

4. Remaining Funds

4.1 The table below shows the funding position as at 29 January 2010.

Total available funding	£40,000
Total agreed funding to date	£16,860
Total remaining funds	£23,140

- 4.2 Should all of the current bids be approved, the Committee's budget would be overspent to the sum of **-£13,950.40**. The Financial Regulations governing Local Joint Committees explicitly state that LJC's cannot commit more than their current year's budget allocation.
- 4.3 Therefore it is clear that the Committee will not be able to approve all of the funding applications shown at the start of this report from this year's budget.

5. Future Applications

- 5.1 Future applications for funding are encouraged 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 or 01743 272876
- 5.2 Information relating to this Local Joint Committee, together with electronic copies of the application form and Committee Reports can be found at
<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/communityworking.nsf/open/EA48349699F3EBDE802575B30036BD06>

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

N/A

Human Rights Act Appraisal

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

Environmental Appraisal

Environmental appraisals will be carried out as necessary.

Risk Management Appraisal

The Council addresses risk of legal challenge through the correct application of the LJC Constitution.

Cabinet Member

Councillor Gwilym Butler – Portfolio Holder for Community Working and Customer Services.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

None

Local Member

Councillor Tony Durnell
Councillor Jo Jones
Councillor Miles Kennyl

Appendices

None