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FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Summary

The report provides the Committee with details of funding bids that have been received since its last meeting on 15th July 2010, along with details of the bids already supported by the Committee in the 2010/11 financial year. The Committee are requested to agree a budget contribution towards the projects set out in paragraph 2.

Recommendations

- A) The Committee are asked to consider the funding applications outlined in paragraph 2 and agree the proposed budget allocations for projects a – c.
- B) The Committee are asked to consider the level of grant funding they wish to allocate to project d.
- C) The Committee requested additional information to help them assess applications e and f. The additional information is listed below. The Committee are asked to recommend approval of these projects and to suggest a level of grant support they would like to allocate to these projects.
- D) The Committee are asked to consider commissioning the purchase of a Vehicle Activated Sign outlined in paragraph 2(g).

1. Background

The Committee had a budget of £34,000 for the 2010/11 financial year, together with a carryover of £2,531.95 from its 2009/10 budget, giving the Loton and Tern LJC a budget of £36,531.95 available in the 2010/11 financial year.

The grants listed below have been approved by the Committee:

Project Description	Amount Requested £
West Shropshire Flower Club – To run workshops to allow community groups to learn how to do their own flower displays	575
Shrewsbury Squash Club (Uffington) – Upgrade of squash courts and installing new insulation in club headquarters	3,250

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Astley Village Hall - Installing new damp proofing system	5,000
Upton Magna Parish Council - Digitisation of 1777 Sundorne Estate document	750
Bicton Parish Council - Restoration of Bicton village pool	1,640.59
Total committed	11,215.59

The Committee therefore has **£25,316.36** remaining in its 2010/11 budget.

This must be spent to improve service standards, support the delivery of parish plans and/or to provide grants to local voluntary organisations and also meet the grant criteria set out by the Loton and Tern LJC.

2. Applications Received

The following applications for funding have been received and are recommended for approval:

a) Withington Village Green Committee – New equipment for village green

Project Outline: Withington purchased the Village Green in 2007, and since then regular events have been organised there. These include a Fun Day in May, Village Fete in June, Cricket competition in September, and Bonfire and Fireworks in November. The events are well attended, but there is no natural shelter on the site should the weather be poor, and equipment such as chairs and tables has to be hired or borrowed for the events.

This project aims to purchase a tent, gazebo, folding chairs and tables, a picnic table and benches and gas barbeque for use at the village green events. The tables and chairs will also be used at Withington parish room.

Total Project Cost: £2,514.86

Amount Requested from LJC: £2,264.86

Additional Information: The project is supported by Withington Parish council. The equipment which is purchased will also be available to neighbouring events to hire, while the benches will be placed in the village green area.

Recommended Grant Award: £2,264.86

b) Alberbury Village Hall – Improvements to toilet facilities at the hall

Project Outline: Alberbury Village Hall is situated in the centre of the village and is very much the 'hub' of the local community.

The hall is well used at both weekends and during the week and is the venue on a weekly basis for voluntary groups such as the WI, Quilters, Monday Club, Young Farmers and Weeds United as well as being used for social events and private hire activities. However like many village halls it is in need of modernisation.

The village hall management committee compiled a 'wish' list of the improvements in order of preference and to investigate how the work could be funded. At the top of their 'wish list' was the replacement of all the old single glazed windows and doors with up to date UPVC double glazed units. There will be a saving on heating costs; it will be much

more comfortable for those using the hall in cold weather and the noise levels from the very busy road will be reduced. The project also includes the replacement of taps in the toilets to reduce the water bills of the hall.

Total Project Cost: £7,872.00
Amount Requested from LJC: £2,572.00

Additional information: The project is supported by Alberbury Parish Council. Two quotes have been received for both elements of the work, but the village hall management committee would like to use the same contactor who installed the windows to install the new front doors. The preferred contractor for the tap installation is also a local contractor.

Recommended Grant Award: £2,572.00

c) Westbury Ladies Rounders Club – Purchase of new equipment and league fees

Project Outline: Westbury rounders team is part of a local league and contains members from Westbury and the surrounding area. The team has been running for a number of years but requires new equipment to meet league standards. The team also works with local children to provide them with opportunities to take part in rounders games during the summer.

Total Project Costs: £504
Amount Requested from LJC: £400

Additional Information: The application is supported by Westbury Parish Council

Recommended Grant Award: £400

Application d is recommended for approval, but the Committee need to decide on the level of grant support they would like to allocate to the project.

d) Bicton Village Hall – Refurbishment of entrance hall

Project Outline: Bicton Village Hall was built in the 1960's. Membership of the Club is currently around 800+ with people paying a nominal sum which covers the running costs of the hall on a day to day basis. However, the building is tired and in need of updating. The cost of refurbishing the building is considerable and the hall committee have decided to upgrade the hall in phases.

The current phase of work is focused on improving the halls entrance. This project will complete the main entrance area which will be redesigned to incorporate an inner doorway to cut down heat and any sound loss, with a suspended ceiling and non slip flooring to meet health and safety requirements. A new loft ladder will be installed into the roof along with new lighting, and new notice boards will be installed. Completion of this phase will considerably enhance this important area of the hall and encourage more and more people to use the facilities at the hall.

Total Project Cost: £6,561.65
Amount Requested from LJC: £5,000

Additional information: The project is supported by Bicton Parish Council. Matched funding of £1,561.65 has been secured from the village halls own funds. Quotations have been received but a considerable amount of the work will be carried out by tradesmen who live in the village at a nominal cost, and a group of committed volunteers who will

help with general tasks during this refurbishment in order to keep costs down to a minimum.

A representative from Bicton Village Hall will attend the meeting to answer questions the Committee have on this application.

The Committee requested additional information to help them assess applications e and f

e) Shropshire Angling Federation – Oxon Nature and Fishing reserve

Project outline: The Oxon pool site is situated within Bicton parish. It is a 6.9 acres site of woodland which includes a 3 acre pool. The site is owned by Shropshire Council but is leased to the Shropshire Angling Federation on a nine year lease. The site isn't used at the moment and is overgrown and not accessible to members of the community. The Anglers plan to repair the site, and to create approximately 35 fishing pegs some of which will be disabled access. A new pathway will be created through the site so members of the public can access the site and also use the bird hide at the pool. Two new car parks will be created as well. The overall aim is to get the site opened up to the public.

The project is supported by Shropshire Council's Countryside Unit and the Shropshire Wildlife Trust has provided details of how the work can help improve the diversity of wildlife of the site.

Originally the anglers approached a company to undertake the work, but the cost was approximately £40,000. Instead they have separated the work into 4 separate sections which they hope to carry-out through their own members and small grants. They are looking to apply to the Loton and Tern LJC for the first phase of work, which involves the development of the footpath through the site, at a cost of approximately £5,000. The four sections of the project work will cost a total of £29,000.

Total Project Cost: £29,912

Amount Requested from LJC: £5,000

Additional Information: While Shropshire Council owns the site, they are unable to commit Countryside Services funding to the project. The Shropshire Angling Federation has raised £19,912 towards the project, and is also applying for a grant of £5,000 from the Grass Roots Grant. The application is supported by Bicton Parish Council.

The Committee asked for the following information to help them make a decision on this application.

Does the Shropshire Angling Federation have Public Liability Insurance for the site?

The Shropshire Anglers Federation including the Shrewsbury Management Committee have a total of three policies that cover all aspects of its management of the Council's waters as well as member clubs to a total Public Liability of £5,000,000. We can bring copies to the meeting on 14th October 2010.

As Oxon Caravan Park will benefit from the improvements have they been approached to contribute to the project costs?

They were approached verbally by the Federation Chairman in the initial stages with a negative reply. The caravan park did offer access over their land and to sell day tickets to their customers on the Federations behalf. Now is probably the time to approach them on a more formal basis as some of the caravan park residents can now see the benefits of the project.

Amount of grant – The request is for £5,000 what could be achieved with a smaller grant?
When the Federation started on this project it was obviously seen as a fishing venue but it very soon became evident that it is far more a nature reserve with a minimum of fishing pegs. The extent being 75% nature reserve and 25% fishing. However it is the fishing income that is funding the work. In view of the overall cost of the project, the £5,000 would be most welcome, but the Federation would be grateful for whatever contribution the Committee feel able to grant.

Representatives from the Shropshire Angling Federation will be attending the meeting to answer any questions raised by the Committee about this project.

f) Nesscliffe Village Hall – New stage lighting

Project Outline: Nesscliffe Village Hall is a well used facility within the Nesscliffe parish. The hall is used by a variety of groups in the village which help to contribute to its daily running costs. However additional repairs and upgrading of the hall needs to be met by additional fundraising. Theatre shows are one of the main ways the hall raises funds.

This project is focused on upgrading the stage lighting system at the hall. Currently when productions are put on at the hall a system has to be borrowed from the local Young Farmers Club – this equipment is itself old and not easy to use, or energy efficient. The village hall committee would therefore like to purchase and install stage lighting at a cost of £4,000. This includes lights, dimmer switches, a control panel and the fitting of the system.

Additional information: One initial quote has been received from a local company called Starlight Theatre services, who have supplied similar equipment to other village halls in Shropshire. The hall are requesting the LJC to fund the full cost of the lighting, but would look to contribute to the project from their own funds or undertake additional fundraising to help fund this project.

The Committee requested additional information on this project including details of the exact cost of the work and whether matched funding could be provided by the applicant.

The applicant is looking to slightly revise their application. They will be providing a detailed quote from Starlight Theatre Services based on total project cost of £3,000. They anticipate being able to raise £1000 of matched funding for the project from their own funds and the Young Farmers Club, but are **requesting a grant from the LJC of £2,000**

A representative from Nesscliffe Village Hall plans to attend the LJC meeting and answer any questions the committee has about the project.

g) Purchase of Vehicle Activated Speed Sign – commissioned by the LJC

Total Project Cost: £3,120 per sign (£60 per week x 52), plus £500 per site

Amount Requested from LJC: Full cost would need to be met by the LJC, but costs of transporting the sign between sites would be met by Shropshire Council.

Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) are used in Shropshire to help reduce speeding on rural and urban roads where there are designated speed limits. The signs are activated when vehicles break a designated speed limit and warn the driver to slow down. Currently Parish Councils have been able to apply for VAS signs to be installed in their area, and

these requests have been assessed by Shropshire Council. The signs are paid for on a sliding scale, depending on how much over the average speed cars are travelling. At the higher end of the scale Shropshire Council pay the full costs; where the average speeds are at or below the designated limit the parish councils have to meet the full cost of the signs being installed.

Signs have been installed across Shropshire (including some in parishes in this LJC), however the Shropshire Council budget does not allow for all requests for signs to be met, and parish council budgets are not always able to meet the cost of purchasing a sign.

It has therefore been proposed that Local Joint Committees could purchase a VAS to be shared across the parishes within their LJC. The cost of the signs are £3,120 per sign (£60 per week x 52), plus £500 per site where the signs are to be installed. Each site would need to be subject to a suitability test to see if the sign could be installed. Signs would need to be at each site for a minimum of 2 weeks and a maximum of 6 weeks.

The Committee are asked to discuss this proposal and decide if they would like to put forward this LJC to purchase a sign. Some parishes in the LJC are on the waiting list for VAS signs, while others have already had them installed.

The Committee need to consider the budget commitments that purchasing a sign and installing it at sites across the LJC would bring to the 2010/11 budget.

A similar proposal is being considered by the Longden, Ford and Rea Valley LJC and there could be a possibility of sharing costs between the LJC's.

Future Bids

3. Applications for future funding are encouraged throughout the Local Joint Committee area. The Committee have adopted new funding guidelines for projects, and projects should obtain details of the guidelines from the Community Regeneration Officer. It is also possible for LJCs to join together and pool budget resources to support projects and schemes that have a collective local area benefit. All funding applications should be addressed to:

Mathew Mead at Shropshire Council, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury SY2 6ND

Email: mathew.mead@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 252534

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 Human Rights Act 1998.

Environmental Appraisal

Risk Management Appraisal

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

Community / Consultations Appraisal

Cabinet Member

Gwilym Butler

Local Members

Councillor John Overall, Councillor David Roberts

Appendices