

Responsible Officer

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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 30th September 2010. 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 – d.
- B) The Committee are asked to consider the level of grant funding they wish to allocate to project e.
- C) The Committee are asked to review application f and if in support of the project to suggest a level of grant support they would like to allocate to this project.
- D) No grant offer be made to project g, as this applicant has already received a grant from the LJC in the 2010/11 financial year.

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
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
Withington Village Green – Purchase of new equipment	2,264.86
Alberbury village hall – new windows and doors	2,572.00
Westbury Ladies Rounders team – 2011 fees and equipment	400.00
Bicton Village Hall – Refurbishment of entrance hall	5,000.00
Shropshire Angling Federation – Oxon Nature reserve improvements	5,000.00
Nesscliffe Village Hall – New stage lighting	2,000.00
Bowbrook Archers – New targets for use at Withington	600.00
Total committed	29,052.45

The Committee therefore has **£7,479.50** 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 since the last LJC meeting and are put forward for the Committee to consider. Copies of the full application forms are available from the Community Action Officer. Please note if all the applications were funded at the requested level this would exceed the current budget.

a) Parochial Church Council, Astley - Ancient Bell at St Mary's Church, Astley

Total project cost: £7,000

Amount requested from LJC: £1,500

Recommended grant award: £1,500

Project details: The Parochial Church Council knew that they faced the need for some renovation of the church bell and commissioned a report from John Taylor & Co Bell Foundry who were recommended by the Lichfield Diocese as an appropriately specialist restorer. What they did not know until that report was that the bell at Astley was cast c1270. Further research has shown that this bell is probably the oldest and largest intact bell (two at Withington were cast at the same time but are smaller) in the whole of the Lichfield Diocese and one of the very few bells in the UK dating before 1300.

The bell is an ancient piece of Astley heritage. It has rung out over the village and the surrounding area for nearly 750 years. However, it is now showing its age and requires essential restoration work to prevent irreparable damage in the future. The applicant has supplied a report from expert bell restorers who have examined the Bell which sets out in detail the remedial work required.

The applicant is also in discussion with the Heritage Lottery about a grant towards the project. The Lottery have requested that, if they are to provide financial support, that the project will provide a full heritage interpretation of the ancient bell and church so that residents and visitors can properly appreciate the importance of this site for the history of the area. The applicants are proposing to develop printed heritage interpretation material available in the Church, exhibition boards with photographs and a church/bell website with photographs and interpretative material.

Additional Information: The project is also supported by the local primary school at Hadnall who are proposing to run a project for the school children on the history of the bell and the church, as well as bringing all the children to Astley when the bell is brought down to ground level to see and touch it. This will be only the second time that the bell has been brought down to ground level in its 750 year life.

The project is also supported by Astley Parish Council and The Church Buildings Council.

Funding Information: Matched funding for this project has been secured already from the Wynnstay Farmers (£75), Millichope Foundation (£100), PCC (£500 in kind) and Astley Parish Council.

b) Uffington Village Hall – New Hall Furniture

Total project cost: £2,566.00

Amount requested from LJC: £1,900

Recommended grant award: £1,000

Project Outline: Uffington Village Hall was recently upgraded through a lottery grant, and is now a modern hall with good facilities. However, the hall currently only has old style metal and plastic chairs which are not in keeping with the new hall. The village hall committee would like to purchase a new set of chairs that can be used by groups hiring the hall.

Additional information: The new modern chairs will be more comfortable to use than the existing chairs and will help make meetings at the hall more hospitable and the hall more attractive to private bookings.

The application is supported by Uffington Parish Council.

c) Upton Magna Parish Council – Support for 2011 Village Fete

Total project cost: £1,860

Amount requested from LJC: £1,360

Recommended grant award: £500

Project Outline: Our village fete has been going for a number of years now, and each year gets better. With more local people coming through our gates. In excess of 700 people attending in 2010.

This is the main village event of the year and brings the whole village together preparing the field, helping on stalls and car parking duties etc. This show helps us stay together as a team and share in a great community spirit. The LJC helped us last year and with their help we put on a great show

Additional information: Costs are:

Whitchurch Dog Display	£ 250
Owl man display	100
Gazebos (x2)	550
Banners	210
Children's Entertainer	250
Rosettes for dog show	250
Additional seating	250
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	1,860

d) Westbury Parish Council – New notice board for Vennington and Vron Gate

Total project cost: £528.00

Amount requested from LJC: £528.00

Recommended grant award: £250.00

Project Outline: Provide an enclosed notice board to serve the hamlets of Vennington and Vron Gate. The present notice board is essentially a piece of board on two posts and totally unsatisfactory.

These are active communities with their own chapel and Vron Gate holds an annual show with a large attendance.

Additional information: The parish council has received a formal request to provide a covered notice board. Individuals have also asked for one. It has proved difficult to pin notices on the existing board and they are still ruined by rain. Individuals have also asked for one as provided at Yockleton.

e) Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride – New booking software and office equipment

Total project cost: £9,929.88

Amount requested from LJC: £1,000

Recommended grant award: Grant to be awarded, with level of grant to be agreed at LJC meeting.

Project Outline: Shrewsbury Dial a Ride is a not for profit organisation offering a reliable, friendly, caring minibus based service to people who can not access public transport. We operate 5 days a week covering the area within 10 miles of Shrewsbury town centre. We have a membership of over 500 elderly and disabled people, who live across the whole of the area. We run a door to door service using specially adapted vehicles with low steps and passenger lifts which can easily accommodate a wheelchair. Our well-trained, friendly drivers and escorts are available to help less mobile passengers on and off the vehicles if required. We can

even supply a wheelchair if the passenger doesn't normally use a wheelchair but feels that using one would be easier.

The service can be used for anything to do with daily living such as shopping, visiting family and friends, GP and hospital appointments, attending clinics, leisure and pleasure pursuits, fitness clubs, theatre and cinema trips, day centres, over 60's clubs and visits to local garden centres.

We offer a priority booking system for medical appointment and wheelchair users who are unable to transfer.

At weekends we have a regular programme of day trips to tourist attractions and visits to pubs and restaurants for Sunday Lunch.

All our members welcome the freedom and independence that our service, with its specially adapted minibuses, can give them.

Shropshire Council allows us to accept concessionary fare passes which means that most of our passengers travel free.

We operate on a very small budget with grants from Shropshire Council and Shropshire PCT making up just under 50% of our running costs. The rest of our income is from fares, donations and fundraising. This means that we have to look for alternative funding when we want to develop our service.

We have 5 part time office based staff and 34 volunteer drivers and escorts

We are asking all the LJC's in all the areas that we provide a service to, for a contribution to the costs of upgrading our computers and software. This will allow us to develop our service and give us the capacity to offer trips to even more of the people of Shrewsbury.

Additional Information: We are currently unable to meet the demand and consequently an average of 30 registered users can not travel each week.

We receive requests for trips from all across our area of benefit and our volunteers do their best to meet the need but unfortunately it isn't always possible. Currently the daily runs are scheduled using a very basic software package running on very old computers which means that we can not provide our service in an efficient and effective way.

If we had better computers and software we could combine more trips and meet our current need and offer a service to even more elderly and disabled residents of the area.

f) Fitz village hall – Porch and entrance to hall

Total project cost: £5,128 Tbc

Amount requested from LJC: Tbc

Recommended grant award: To be discussed at LJC meeting

Project Outline: Over the last 4 years Fitz village hall has undergone a significant upgrade of its facilities. This includes a new meeting room; upgrade of the toilet

facilities and a new kitchen area. This has seen the number of community and private bookings increase significantly.

To build on this work the village hall committee would like to install a new porch at the hall. This will provide separate access to the smaller meeting room at the hall, and also protect the existing door from wind and rain. Currently this door suffers from damp problems and this improvement work will solve these problems.

Additional information: The quote for £5,128 is from a local contractor Dave Pugh, who was the contractor the village hall committee used for their previous building project. They would like to use this contractor so have not requested quotes from other contractors.

Full details of this application will be submitted at the LJC meeting

g) Shrewsbury Squash Club – Refurbishment of changing facilities

Total project cost: £7,409.50

Amount requested from LJC: £2,200

Recommended grant award: It is not recommended to award this project a grant at this time, as the applicant received a grant of £3,250 earlier in the financial year.

Project Outline: The Squash Club was founded in 1973 when Shrewsbury Rugby Union Football Club arranged a loan to enable the Squash Club to build self contained and serviced Squash Courts.

Over the years, the Club has produced many players representing Shropshire and, in addition to its playing traditions, has funded charitable tournaments to enable the Club to donate significant sums to local Charities.

However, since the formation of the Club, the popularity of Squash as a sport has ebbed back and forth with the result that it has occasionally been difficult to fund essential maintenance programmes to keep the accommodation up to the standards expected by fastidious squash players and to maintain Charitable donations.

In addition, the drastic rise in fuel costs have eroded meagre annual savings originally set aside each year for the essential tri-annual court refurbishment.

The Club has an honourable tradition of fielding four teams in the County Squash leagues and also in hosting County and Inter-County tournaments; it has taken the initiative in promoting racquetball as an extension to squash players skills and to extend the opportunities to play both squash and racquetball to greater numbers of players.

Since creating this initiative the Club has been instrumental in forming and assisting to run a County Racketball League which is proving to be very popular.

It is essential both from the Health & Safety point of view and the straightforward business of playing squash and racquetball that courts and facilities are maintained to a high standard.

The current showering facilities have declined in standard to such a point that it is considered that the showers are less than ideally hygienic and also, due to wear over thirty years, have become a Health and Safety risk having lost any semblance of anti-slip quality. Two attempts to apply slip patches and matting into the shower trays resulted in failure and, indeed, the matting proved to be extremely unhygienic.

Additional information: There is no “quick fix” in respect of showering and changing facilities and we have been advised that stripping out and replacing wall and floor surfaces and showering equipment is not only the sensible but also the essential option.

Accordingly, it is intended to strip out and replace the showering facilities completely and refurbish the adjacent changing room.

This represents the fifth phase of the original 6 phase development plan to be carried out as funding permits within the current and next financial year.

The Complete phases are:-

1. Insulation of Roof spaces.
2. Repair, refurbishment and redecoration of Courts,
3. Replacement of heating system with more energy efficient equipment.
4. Replacement of existing windows with new Category “A” uPVC windows.
5. Refurbishment of Showers.
6. Remedial redecoration throughout.

Phase 3 has been postponed until much further research has been carried out on our inability to access alternative fuels and our dependency upon electricity

3. Future Bids

Applications for future funding are encouraged throughout the Local Joint Committee area. The Committee has funding guidelines for projects, and applicants should obtain details of the guidelines from the Community Action Officer. It is also possible for LJsCs 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