



Committee and Date

Loton and Tern Local Joint Committee

1st March 2012 at 7pm

Item

10

Public

**LOTON AND TERN LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE
FUNDING APPLICATIONS REPORT**

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1. Summary

In 2011/12 the Local Joint Committee has a total budget of £21,598 available to spend. This is made up of £17,000 from the LJC budget; £1,118 from the arts funding which has been transferred to the LJC and £3,480 carryover from this LJC's 2010/11 budget.

Following the November meeting of the LJC the Committee had allocated £11,465.18 to projects, leaving **£10,132.82** to be allocated in this financial year.

The LJC Committee will normally only consider funding upto a maximum of £2000 per project, and for projects of over £350 the Committee will give priority to applications that have 50% or more of matched funding. Projects of less than £350 can be 100% funded. The Committee can also commission additional services themselves.

Any underspend in the 2011/12 financial year can be carried forward into 2012/13 but only if it is allocated to a specific project or spending priority.

2. Recommendations

- A. Members are asked to approve applications a-e at the recommended level of funding listed in the report.**
- B. Members are asked to consider projects f-h which have been submitted since the planning meeting on 2nd February. Committee members are asked to suggest what level of grant funding, if any, they wish to allocate to these projects.**
- C. The Committee are asked to consider their funding priorities for 2012/13 and ring-fence any underspend from 2011/12 to these projects.**

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.

4. Financial Implications

In 2011/12 the Local Joint Committee has a total budget of £21,598 available to spend. This is made up of £17,000 from the LJC budget; £1,118 from the arts funding which has been transferred to the LJC and £3,480 carryover from this LJC's 2010/11 budget.

There is £10,132.82 remaining in the 2011/12 budget which is sufficient to fund all the projects contained in the report at their requested levels of funding

a) Bicton PCC – Pointing of Bicton Churchyard Boundary Wall

Total project costs: Range from £4,000 to £8,050 plus VAT

Recommended grant award: £2,000

Project outline: The roadside boundary wall of Bicton Church is constructed of natural stone from the Alberbury/Cardeston area. The wall dates from 1885 and forms part of the church boundary and forms an important feature within the village.

The lime mortar bonding with the stones has deteriorated to the point where stones are falling away. There is also a concern that the larger capping stones at the top of the wall could become unsafe and fall. Whilst emergency repairs have been carried out in the past it's important that a more structured repair is carried out, not just from a Health and Safety point of view but to conserve and protect this wall for future generations in Bicton.

The PCC has obtained quotes from three masonry companies, but each one suggests a different approach to the work. Some consider it best to do the work in stages, while others suggest carrying out the work all in one go. The PCC and Parish Council will hold meetings with the contractors ahead of the LJC meeting and report back on the quote and contractor they would prefer to use for this work.

Matched funding for the project would need to come from the PCC and Parish Council, as funding from English Heritage for Churches, does not extend to exterior walls such as this one.

b) Astley Village hall – Weather Proofing Astley Village Hall

Total project costs: £9,657.00

Recommended grant award: £2,000

Project outline: The purpose of this project is to preserve the village hall by essential external repairs to stop water ingress through wooden windows that are

rotten, guttering that is leaking and through areas of external rendering that are damaged by a previous damp problem.

The rising damp repair project was a major success in improving the internal aspects of the hall; this project is now required to avoid damage to work already completed and deterioration of the building.

There is a secondary issue that the committee proposes to deal with at the same time, the suspended wooden floor was treated and polished during a renovation project in 1998 and is now in need of refinishing and sealing in order to complete the internal redecoration following the damp course replacement.

When this project has been completed the hall can be considered to have had significant renovation that should see the amenity assured for the foreseeable future.

The main activities:

Replace wooden windows and doors with UPVC double glazed windows and doors of a similar design and colour.

Patch up the external rendering as required, repair leaking guttering and paint external walls and woodwork.

Sand and reseal the suspended wooden flooring in the main hall.

The village hall, built in 1928, was deteriorating due to damp. In 2010 the damp course was replaced, this was a major improvement; the internal environment is significantly improved making the hall a much more acceptable venue for functions and activities. However it is now apparent the original wooden windows have deteriorated with areas of rotten wood allowing water ingress to the walls, the rainwater guttering is leaking and due to the original damp problem there is damage to the external rendering.

In order to preserve the building these issues must be dealt with.

The suspended wooden floor is very worn and requires sanding and resealing. Although this is not related to the damp issues it would improve the hall considerably and the hall would then be in good condition.

The previous damp rectification work has made the hall more attractive to potential users and we have seen an increase in bookings since the work, this project will further enhance this trend and enable the committee to offer a first class venue for hire. The amenity would then be in serviceable condition for some years.

Replacement UPVC windows and doors to main hall	5457.00	
External repair, repainting and gutter repairs	1700.00	
Internal floor sanding and resealing	2000.00	Budget price based on £20 per square mtr.
Contingency	500.00	
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	9657.00	

Project Funding: List anticipated project income or grant funding (including LJC Grant applied for) and any contributions in kind.	£	Confirm status of funding eg: Secured/unconfirmed/ applied for etc
LJC	2000.00	Applied for
Awards for All	7657.00	Applied for
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDING (should equal total project costs)	9657.00	
Please confirm how much funding you are seeking from the Local Joint Committee?	2000.00	

c) Montford Bridge Millennium Green – Replacement fencing

Total project costs: £482.50

Recommended grant award: £350

Project outline: The millennium green in Montford Bridge is a piece of open land identified as being important to the parish, as a piece of countryside and as the location of the remains of Shrawardine Castle. It's used for recreation, dog walking, children's games and community events, and is maintained and looked after by the community on a voluntary basis.

Fencing around the green is in need of replacing. The existing fencing has become worn and rotten, and no longer forms an effective fence around the millennium green. The cost of the work is £482.50.

The grant request is for £350, with the millennium green group matching this with £132.50 cash.

d) Westbury Senior Citizens Fitness group - Support for course activities

Total project costs: £1,924

Recommended grant award: £576.00

Project outline: Westbury Senior Citizens group meet each week at Westbury village hall, to take part in exercise classes run by a fitness instructor. The courses help to keep those taking part fit and healthy, and are also a good way of socialising each week. The hire of the hall, and the fees for the instructor are currently paid for by member subscriptions, but due to reduced numbers of people attending the sessions declining the group are having to use their savings to pay for the sessions. This application is requesting £576 to help meet the costs of running the courses, and to encourage more people to join the group, so that each sessions become self-sustaining through member contributions.

e) Withington Parish Council – Jubilee 2012 celebrations

Total project costs: £700

Recommended grant award: £350

Project outline: The purpose of the celebration is to bring all elements of the village together for a fun and enjoyable day to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. This would serve to enhance community cohesion (LJC guideline 4) The main planned activities are sports, treasure hunt, fancy dress, village street party on the Village Green, music concert and the lighting of the registered Jubilee bonfire. A steering committee is up and running and the planned jubilee beacon is registered. There has been and will be considerable volunteer staff time to set up and deliver the celebrations. The village has a number of marquees/tents in case of inclement weather which will enable the event to go ahead.

A number of village groups are actively involved in the steering group. The need is to provide a variety of activities to involve a full range of age groups from the village and further develop community cohesion. It is hoped there would be a lasting social benefit to the village especially our more vulnerable groups.

Hire of music group(s)	£200
Hire of Bouncy castle	£40.00
Sports/Fancy dress Prizes	£40.00
Food items/hog roast/bbq etc	£100.00
Photographic record of the event	£ 20.00
Fireworks + insurance	£300.00
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	£700.00
Project Funding: List anticipated project income or grant funding (including LJC Grant applied for) and any contributions in kind.	£500.00 £
Parish Council	£200.00
	Gifts in time, room hire, Pony and trap and the loan of additional marquees are already confirmed
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDING (should equal total project costs)	£700.00

f) Bomere Heath Village Hall – Revitalise the interior of the village hall

Total project costs: £3,308

Grant requested from LJC: £3,000

Project outline: The aim is to improve the internal furnishings of the village hall which have not been replaced for over 25 years.

The trestle tables are the originals from the 1930's and have become unsafe and beyond repair as they have been patched up over the years. The round tables have become difficult to assemble due to bent legs and the veneers on the surface are

damaged and now unhygienic for food serving. We would like to replace these with lighter, easy to clean tables.

The carpet in the Red Room at the rear of the hall is now very stained and worn and has been in constant use since 1996. We would replace this with a new one.

We are applying for new tables and carpets as we wish to ensure that the internal furnishings remain functional, safe and appealing. It is becoming too difficult to keep repairing the old trestle tables which are preferred for weddings and the round old tables are no longer providing suitable alternatives despite the fact they are younger in age.

The hall has recently had to borrow equipment from the Wale room across the road and it was fortunate that they were not in use there. We want to ensure that our clients have access to furniture that is easier to manoeuvre, safe and attractive in appearance and the current furniture is sadly of these things. With respect to the carpets, despite regular cleaning they are beginning to present as an eyesore and a number of comments have been made.

The village hall works hard to maintain the appearance and upkeep of the building to ensure that our clients do not move venues, particularly the Wale room. We also strive to keep the rents as low as we possibly can so that groups stay with us and that the hall remains an integral part of community life.

Quotes for the carpet have been gained from Carpet Right and Shropshire carpets and range from £1,986.07 to £1,278.00, and average out at £1,632. The preferred supplier of the tables is Office Furniture Online, who will charge £93 per table x 15 = £1,395. The hall would also like to order a storage trolley for the tables at a cost of £281. The total costs are therefore £3,308.

The village hall are requesting a grant of £3,000 and will provide matched funding of £308.

g) Yockleton Village Hall – Renovation of halls kitchen

Total project costs: £4,000

Grant requested from LJC: £2,000

Project outline: Yockleton Village Hall is a small village hall in Yockleton used by a variety of community groups for meetings and functions. The hall is over 70 years old and so is in need of modernisation in order to maintain the fabric of the building and make it attractive to groups booking the hall.

This project is designed to upgrade the halls kitchen. A new oven, extractor unit and replacement units and washing are required to bring the hall upto modern standards. Work is also needed to make the kitchen water tight.

Through the upgrading of the kitchen facilities the hall hopes to make itself more attractive to groups and functions that want to serve hot food as part of their meetings. The current facilities do not allow this and its felt this needs addressing if functions are to be attracted to use the hall and increase income from private bookings.

A recent public meeting discussed the idea of building a new village hall in the community, but the population of Yockleton voted strongly in favour of maintaining and modernising the existing hall. The new kitchen facilities would be the first step in this modernisation process.

The hall's Committee are asking for a grant of £2,000 towards the costs of this project and would match fund this from their own funds.

h) Uffington Village hall – New access to the hall and upgrade of kitchen

Total Project costs: £3,550

Grant request from LJC: £3,550

Project Outline:

New Pedestrian Access to Highway

The Management Committee would like to provide a new pedestrian access from the village hall car park to the highway. This would take the form of a gravel or concrete path with handrail and landing stage by the kerb. A barrier would also be installed at the kerb side to prevent hasty access to the road. The proposed location is already regularly used by the community as it provides the shortest pedestrian route to and from the village hall. As the site is a grassy slope, this precedent is presenting many risks to the users. Reports of slips and falls have already been reported to the management committee.

Additionally the village is suffering the effects of overspill car parking from the newly refurbished pub, along the main road through the village, which is presenting serious problems for the residents. Improved access to the village hall car park will encourage more use by patrons of the pub.

New Cooker for kitchen

The village hall underwent a major refurbishment approximately 3 years ago: at the time funds were limited and insufficient to complete the new kitchen with an appropriate size cooker for the facility. However a suitable gap was left in the kitchen units to accommodate a larger cooker at a future date. The Committee would now like to complete the intended kitchen installation with a larger capacity cooker to better serve the needs of hall users, particularly private party functions, and community social events.

New Pedestrian access to highway

The village are fortunate to have a thriving newly refurbished pub, The Corbett Arms. However their car park has limited capacity, which results in overspill parking along the main road through the village. This creates many problems, not least of which is the safety of home owners trying to enter and leave their driveways when their view is blocked by a long line of parked cars on the verges and roadside. The road is quite narrow in the first instance and additionally there is a high incidence of speeding drivers travelling through the village despite the recent reduction in the speed limit to 30mph. Also, the verges which have been lovingly maintained and planted up with daffodils by the community, will eventually be totally destroyed by the indiscriminate parking currently in operation.

In addition, the proposed route of the new pathway is already being used by pedestrians as it provides the shortest route from the village hall car park to cross the road, for visitors to the Church, homes, and the local community using the hall. This has already resulted in slips and falls, as the site is currently a grassed embankment.

New Cooker

A new larger capacity cooker will encourage greater use of the hall for large catered events and will add to the existing income stream, which will contribute to the ongoing the financial sustainability of the facility. The committee feel that this is an area of potential revenue which is not being fully utilized and intend to set up a web page to further promote use of the village hall.

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

Draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2011/12 – 2013/14, Appendix 5. Report to Cabinet 13th January 2011.

Locality Working Local Joint Committees. Report to Cabinet 9th December 2010.

LJC application forms for the projects listed.

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Gwilym Butler

Local Member

David Roberts, John Overall

Appendices

None