



<u>Committee and date</u> Ludlow and Clee Area Local Joint Committee 27 July 2010	<u>Item No</u> 10 Public
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COMMUNITY CHEST FUNDING APPLICATIONS 2010/11

Responsible Officer Richard Thomas
Email: richard.thomas@shropshire.gov.uk Telephone: (01743) 252725

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Local Joint Committee has a funding allocation of £49,000 for 2010/11 and the additional underspend of £24,090 carried forward from 2009/10 giving a total allocation of £73,090 for the current financial year.
- 1.2 At the last meeting the Committee approved funding applications totalling £5,578.48. The Committee now has a balance of £67,511.52 available for allocation.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the applications for funding be considered as detailed overleaf.
- 2.2 That the applications be considered in accordance with the Committee's updated grant awarding criteria, including:
 - Consistency with the aims, objectives and vision set out in the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy, its Corporate Plan and/or Local Neighbourhood or Parish Plans.
 - Demonstrating how the project will use the funding provided to make a difference in the local area.
 - Ensuring that an activity is within the geographical area of the Local Joint Committee.
 - Benefiting the wider community and no funding being used to fund any group that restricts membership based on views, beliefs, etc.
 - Will not be used principally to meet ongoing staffing costs of the organisation/body making the application.

(a) **Morning Star – The Nazarean Order of the Essene UK**

The Nazarean Order has applied for funding in the sum of £4,563.90 towards educational aids for use in the set up and facilitation of an educational training facility for the South Shropshire Community and nationally to inform people about the origins of Christianity.

This application is not consistent with the criterion requiring there to be an obvious community benefit to the LJC area as the training facility is intended to be national as well as local.

The Committee is recommended to refuse this application.

(b) **Nash Parish Hall – Table Tennis Table and Storage**

Nash Parish Hall Management Committee is seeking funding of £977.98 out of a total project cost of £1,222.98 for the purchase of two new table tennis tables and some modification to an area in the Parish Hall for their storage.

No additional information has been supplied on potential usage which makes an informed assessment problematic. Further, the requisite quotations have not yet been supplied.

The Committee is recommended to defer consideration of this application pending receipt of further information.

(c) **Nash Parish Hall – Replacement of Three Windows in the Parish Hall**

Nash Parish Hall Management Committee is seeking funding of £1,404.12 out of a total project cost of £1,749.12 for the replacement of three old timber windows with UPVC windows to match the existing in the hall.

Applicants are normally expected to provide three quotations when supplying bids of this type. Unfortunately, the requisite quotations have not yet been supplied

The Committee is recommended to defer consideration of this application pending receipt of the necessary quotations

(d) **Titterstone Cleve Heritage Trust – Autumn Country Crafts and Wild Food Fayre**

The applicants are applying for LJC funding of £786 towards an Autumn Country Crafts and Wild Food Fayre with total project costs of £1,686.60. TCHT is a largely self sustaining Charitable Trust and any revenue generated is used to cover its expenses for materials, building rental and to continue a programme of events.

The event is the third in a series of celebrations of traditional rural crafts and country skills that promotes both field and kitchen skills that were once common in rural communities. Attendance has doubled in recent years and last year's event attracted a gate of circa 500.

The £2 adult entry fee is made to offset the costs of the event but has not in the past covered the cost of the event and in 2009 the event was subsidised by TCHT.

The Committee is recommended to approve funding of £786 towards the Titterstone Clee Hill Heritage Trust's Autumn Country Crafts and Wild Food Fayre on 25 September 2010.

(e) **Appletree Theatre Company – Castle Connections**

An application has been submitted by Appletree Theatre Company for funding in the sum of £1,993 towards a total project cost of £29,493 for a social enterprise project entitled 'Castle Connections'. It has been designed by, and will be driven by, young people and will give them the opportunity to research the heritage of the Castle and its surroundings, leading to public performances in the Castle to bring the history to life through drama and music.

The young people will also be given training to undertake long-term tasks such as historical guides and conservation. A DVD capturing the activities throughout the project will also be created by the young people and will be shown to other peer groups.

An analysis of the project costs show the largest proportion will be applied to professional artists' fees as well as the purchase of specialist sound and video equipment. This is not entirely consistent with the Committee's criteria.

Further funding is requested to purchase equipment. Given that the equipment will presumably be owned by the theatre company, whose work is not limited to projects in the area of the LJC, the local benefit derived from its use will be short-lived.

The Committee is recommended to refuse this application.

(f) **Special Music Projects, St Laurence's, Ludlow**

The applicants are applying for funding in the sum of £740 towards a total project cost of £1,090 towards the repair of the historic organ in St Laurence's church, Ludlow.

The Georgian organ is now unique in the UK, built in 1764 by John Snetzler, one of the most renowned organ builders of his time. It is used not only in the day to day worship in the church but also for many secular occasions such as

the Ludlow Festival, schools and for civic services and by local groups such as the Ludlow Choral Society and Ludlow Young Voices.

The unique nature of this application obviates the normal requirement for three quotations of the work. The regular organ builder who has worked on this organ can undertake the work and is familiar with its idiosyncrasies. It is not considered prudent to insist on quotations from other organ builders in these circumstances.

The Committee is recommended to approve funding of £740 towards the work on the historic organ in St. Laurence's, Ludlow.

(g) **Homegrown, 'Opportunities on your doorstep'**

This is a cross LJC application to all LJC areas that would be beneficiaries of this project: Craven Arms, Cleobury Mortimer, Bishops Castle, Church Stretton and Ludlow. It is a small scale, local project that aims to deliver a day event for 15/16 year old learners [Year 11] in four south Shropshire schools offering hands on practical demonstrations and activities delivered by local businesses. The aim will be to give the young people a flavour of the sort of skills needed within a range of work sectors e.g. a craftsperson demonstrates a traditional building technique. The event will be open to be attended by other providers such as Entry 2 Employment and The Foyer.

The event has been planned in partnership with Shropshire Youth, Ludlow College and the AONB all of whom sit on the HomeGrown management group.

The Committee is recommended to defer consideration of this application for further information to be obtained [the number of young people who may benefit from the project, what schools are to be involved, the project outcomes and clarification on some of the project costings]

(h) **Ludlow Assembly Room [LAR] – Boiler Replacement**

Ludlow & District Community Association [LDCA] are applying for funding in the sum of £22,044.41 towards a replacement boiler for the LAR. The current boiler is over 20 years old and is far from energy efficient and is increasingly subject to breakdown. This is a substantial sum and LDCA has given no indication in its application to the pursuit of any funding from any other sources.

The breakdowns result in Health and Safety and comfort issues for customers, damaging PR and a loss of income. The last breakdown over the usually busy Christmas period resulted in a loss of over £20,000 income.

The Committee is recommended to fund or part fund the cost of a replacement boiler for Ludlow Assembly Rooms.

(i) **Caynham Church - heating**

St Mary's Parochial Church Council is seeking £2,000 funding from a total project cost of £2572.07 towards the repair of leaking pipes and zoning heating for Caynham Parish Church.

At present there is no evidence of any extensive use of the church other than its religious services and it is not consistent with the Committee's criterion for wider community benefit.

The Committee is recommended to refuse this application

(j) **Knowbury Church – Restoration**

Similar comments apply to this application as those detailed at paragraph (i) above. Funding in the sum of £6,000 is being sought towards repairs to the church roof, redecoration of the interior and repairs to the church organ [£2,000 towards each element]. The estimated total project costs are detailed as £17,000, £10,000 and £15,000 respectively.

The community use of this church is limited to the usual Sunday congregation and local weddings, baptisms and funerals.

The Committee is recommended to refuse this application.

(k) **Friends of Whitcliffe Common – Replacement Geology Board.**

This application by the Trustees of the Friends of Whitcliffe Common is seeking funding of £1,087 towards a total project cost of £1,287.50 for the design, manufacture and siting of a Geological Teme Trail Board at the Dinham entry to Whitcliffe Common.

The replacement board will give information on the rock faces and the Ludford Bone Beds which are part of the Whitcliffe and are of national importance. The Whitcliffe Common is visited annually by over 30,000 people who enjoy the variety of walks in the area together with the most photographed view of Ludlow towards the Ludlow Castle.

The Committee is recommended to support this application and approve funding in the sum of £1,087 towards the replacement Geological Board at Whitcliffe Common.

(l) **Ludlow Harmony – Ladies' Barbershop Choir**

The applicant is seeking funding of £1,200 [the total project cost] towards the purchase of a keyboard, digital voice recorders and learning materials for the Ladies' Barbershop Choir, 'Ludlow Harmony'. The restricted membership of the Choir in that it is a ladies only choir is not consistent with the Committee's general criteria regarding membership. The intention of the Choir is to

develop its repartee and sing at venues throughout the community although no evidence of future performances has been provided with the application.

Given the restricted membership and the lack of supporting evidence to illustrate any planned performances by this choir the application appears to be premature.

The Committee is recommended to refuse this application.

(m) **Clee Hill Rugby Football Club**

This is a revised application to that submitted to the meeting on 25 May 2010 which related to an application for the construction of pitch side sponsorship barriers and boards. Following discussion at that meeting the initial application was deferred to enable Officers to discuss with the applicants how their bid could be reconstructed to provide a lasting community benefit.

The revised application relates to funding support for a changing room conversion and refurbishment project and forms part of a much larger scheme of improvements, including pitch levelling and drainage. The pitch levelling and drainage part, however, is the subject of another funding application from the Community Fund.

The total cost of both projects is estimated at £46,320. But the £13,000 relating to 100 man days voluntary labour is shown as both a cost and a contribution in both of these individual applications.

As far as the application for the changing room conversion and refurbishment is concerned, if this contribution is deducted from the scheme cost of £29,297, the total cost of the first stage of the project amounts to £16,297. For the total scheme, the work on which grant assistance is sought, then totals £33,320.

The current changing facilities are accommodated within a converted portacabin which after five years use is now in need of refurbishment. In addition to this unit, the club has had donated to similar units which it intends to join together in order to increase the capacity to provide four changing rooms, two separate shower areas, associated space to house heating units for the showers, referee changing area, male and female toilet facilities for players and spectators, medical/first aid area and meeting/social area.

The finished unit will be a single storey building which will be covered with an apex roof and be discreetly sited behind a substantial hedge and painted sympathetically green to blend with the surrounding foliage. This development will require planning permission and, although the club has a planning consent, this now needs to be amended.

There can be little doubt that the project to provide improved changing facilities, with or without the levelling and drainage works, will substantially improve the current facility and enable greater community use of club

facilities. At the last meeting, members indicated in principle support to the project but did not give an indication of the amount of the contribution towards the total cost. However, given the scale of the project, members are recommended to make a contribution towards the costs of the stage 1 works of, say, £6,500.

The Committee is recommended to support this application in the suggested sum of £6,500 towards the cost of stage 1 works.

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
Risk Management Appraisal
Community / Consultations Appraisal
Cabinet Member Councillor G Butler
Local Members Councillors R Huffer, Mrs T Huffer, M Taylor-Smith and Mrs R Taylor-Smith
Appendices Nil