

**2011/12 FINANCE REPORT, INCLUDING UPDATE ON FUNDING REQUESTS
FOR CONSIDERATION****Responsible Officer** Corrie Davies

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1. Summary

- 1.1 This report considers the devolved funding allocated to the St Oswald and Llanymynech Local Joint Committee (LJC) for the period 1 April 2011 up until 31 March 2012
- 1.2 A total of £25,061 has been devolved to the committee to fund projects in the local community served by the LJC for 2011/12.
- 1.3 Prior to each LJC, a planning meeting takes place to discuss applications for funding and agree recommendations.
- 1.4 Ten applications have been received for this reporting period. These were considered at the planning meeting held on 17th of January 2012. The recommendations from the planning meeting feature in this report, and are put forward to the LJC to be held on the 7th of February 2012.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the LJC considers the applications received, and awards funding to those organisations and their projects as recommended in this report.
- 2.2 In view of the reduced funding available, that the LJC considers whether it wishes in future to prioritise and or invite project proposals which address particular themes or know priorities in the LJC area.
- 2.3 Applications for funding were considered at the planning meeting 17th of January and recommendations totalling £7000 are now put forward to the St Oswald LJC for consideration. These are as follows:

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| C1 | Packet Boat Duchess Countess Trust | £700 |
| C2 | Knockin Assembly Rooms | £1000 |
| C3 | Llanymynech Parochial Church Council | £1400 |

| | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| C4 | Trefonen WI | £200 |
| C5 | Maesbrook Village Hall Committee | £1500 |
| C6 | St Mary's Church, Kinnerley PCC | £1400 |
| C7 | Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council | £800 |
| C8 | Bryn Offa Parents Association | Defer |
| C9 | St Mary's Church, Knockin PCC | Defer |
| C10 | Qube- Dial a Ride | Defer |
| | TOTAL | £7000 |

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|--|----------------------------------|--------------|
| | 2011/12 budget | £ 25,061 |
| | Total of recommendations 7/01/12 | £ 7000 |
| | Spend to date in 2011/12 | £ 18,026 |
| | Grant funding to be returned | £300 |
| | Balance remaining | £7335 |

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 In determining this recommendation the Council has considered reputational risk and the course of action minimises this risk.
- 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

- 4.1 The funding devolved to the LJC can be used for a number of different purposes over the year. At the present time, the Committee has not allocated funds to any specific purposes but has indicated that it will receive applications from local organisations for eligible purposes. Funding by the LJC must comply with the general Financial Rules for LJC's.

5. Background

- 5.1 From 1 April 2009 Shropshire Council created 28 Local Joint Committees (LJC) to operate across the whole of Shropshire. The LJC's are legally constituted decision making Committees of Shropshire Council
- 5.2 The LJC for St Oswald and Llanymynech wards has membership from Shropshire Council (4 members) and parish councils (6 members) all with equal voting rights.
- 5.3 The St Oswald and Llanymynech LJC is responsible for the award and expenditure of the devolved budget. The amount available to the LJC in 2011/12 has reduced as a result of Shropshire Council budget decisions, and

a review of locality working in Shropshire. The amount has however been supplemented by the transfer of funding previously available for community arts projects in to the LJC budgets, and some under spend carried forward from 2012/11. This is the final year that any carry forward of under spend will be permitted.

- 5.4 Following full council on the 23rd of June 2011 it is recommended that Community Action Officers are given delegated authority to determine urgent and time sensitive matters in consultation and agreement with the Local Joint Committee Chair and/or Vice Chair. Details in this instance can be circulated with other members of the panel to obtain a consensus. This will obviate the need for additional meetings and allow for applications to be agreed between meetings if they are urgent
- 5.5 The total amount available to St Oswald and Llanymynech LJC is calculated as follows:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Total LJC electorate as at August 2010: | 6,757 |
| Budget based on this electorate | £15,500 |
| Plus apportioned allocation of community arts budget | £1,151 |
| Plus carry forward of under spend | £8,410 |
| TOTAL budget for 2011/12 | £ 25,061 |

- 5.6 The value of recommended projects put forward in this current round total £7000 leaving a remaining carry forward balance of £335 due to the return of a previous grant.

6. Additional Information

- 6.1 A summary of applications received has been compiled and included below.

6.2 Duchess Countess Trust

- 6.2.1 The hull of the community trip narrowboat, 'the George Watson Buck', is in need of below waterline maintenance- cleaning, rust prevention, re-blackening and anode inspection. Trust volunteers are able to undertake this work. However, the absence of a dry dock facility mean that the only option available to carry out this essential work is the hire of a crane.
Total project costs £1800, funds required £1400 with £400 match funding secured.

- 6.2.2 Need and Demand – The trip boat, together with Llanymynech Wharf Visitor Centre is a popular attraction and is essential to the Llanymynech Heritage Area experience. The Boat operates from Easter until October for 'on demand trips' and bookings are taken throughout the year for various groups from schools, children's organisations and adult organisations e.g. WI, special interest groups. The boat has wheelchair lift so is accessible to all and plays a huge part in the package of larger events in the area. The Duchess Countess is aimed at maximising visitors to the Llanymynech Heritage Area and is a key aspect of our local tourism offer.

6.3 Knockin Assembly Rooms

6.3.1 This project has been submitted by Knockin Assembly Rooms in order to implement a further stage of hall refurbishment. The hall will be painted to ensure it is easily manageable to keep clean and a wipe down. The original floor boards will also be stripped back and re-sealed. The hall is used throughout the year for many activities, monthly events including luncheon club, over sixties, various types of dance classes, I.T group, Parish Council meetings, dog agility and obedience, youth club, badminton and church meetings. In addition to community functions it can be hired out for private parties and social activity. **Total project costs £2,067, funds required £1000, with £1066.92 match funding secured.**

6.3.2 Need and demand – This request is part of an aspiration to improve the offer to users and will support community sustainability. The facility is used for regular events and activities and is an important aspect of this rural community. The hall is currently cleaned three times a week to keep presentable to all types of users. Particular attention has been given to the walls to be maintained in a more sustainable way to reduce cleaning costs in general and to ensure a clean and presently village hall for all hirers.

6.4 Llanymynech Parochial Church Council

6.4.1 This application had been submitted by Llanymynech Parochial Church Council. The overall purpose of the project is for the conversion of the movement of the parish clock, situated in the tower of St Agatha's Church, to automatic winding. The clock was presented to the Civil Parish of Llanymynech by the maker, locally born engineer Richard Roberts, in 1845 on the understanding that one of the dials would be visible from the quarry. The conversion equipment will be additional to the existing mechanism and will ensure that the movement operates as it was originally designed. Over the years the costs associated with the maintenance of the clock have been paid jointly by Carreghofa Community Council and Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council. Llanymynech Parochial Church Council is the sole custodian of the clock. **Total project costs £3,915; funds required £1,915 with £2000 match secured.**

6.4.2 Need and demand –Conversion of the clock winding will minimise safety issues associated with a lone person climbing the ladder to access the clock chamber and carrying out the winding task. On a number of occasions over the past four years the weights have become jammed in the weight duct due to surface wear. This has resulted in the need to carry out difficult remedial work. Lastly there are fewer fit and able people available and willing to climb up to the clock chamber every few days. The clock plays its part as a parish clock and within the original heritage of the quarry.

6.5 Trefonen Woman's Institute (WI)

6.5.1 This application has been submitted by Trefonen WI. The project will provide a group of 12 participants to learn batik, silk painting, felting, machine

embroidery or machine stitched fabric landscapes. The activity will take place on 2 days and employ services of a local textile artist. The project will broaden skills in the community, sharing expertise and increasing opportunities for entering shows. Trefonen WI has a successful history of participating in local and country art/ craft shows and the programme every year includes opportunities for extending these skills. The project will give an opportunity for learning and practising new art and craft skills, essential for moving times. It will be a local project supporting community people and organised locally.

Total project costs £ 697, funds required £ 372 with £240 donated by artist and £84 self funding.

- 6.5.2 Need and demand – A need has been identified in the group for additional expertise to allow members to explore and expand their artistic and creative talents. Participants in the programme will share their new skills with the whole group and will invite the local community via the usual local advertising to attend demonstrations and workshops in the future. Trefonen WI makes use of all the skills available in their membership but the artist who will lead the group has expertise that will enrich the group's abilities and support with future sustainability. It will enrich life of participants and these with whom they share. These skills will be passed via mothers and grand mothers to families and the community, improving access to local arts activity.

6.6 Maesbrook Village Hall Committee

- 6.6.1 This application has been submitted by Maesbrook Village Hall to enable them to purchase and replace windows in the hall. Over recent years the committee have worked hard to improve the facilities at the village hall including the upgrade of the kitchen, toilet facilities, resurfacing the car park, new curtains and decorating the hall. The committee has identified the replacement of the windows in the hall as a top priority. The existing single glazed windows are in poor condition with the rotting wood and have been filled and repainted on numerous occasions. Replacement with white PVC double glazed units would reduce the cost of ongoing maintenance and would improve the energy efficiency of the hall. It is important for the fabric of the building to be maintained in order for the facility to remain open for the use of the community. **Total project cost £ 2,880 with £ 2,880 requested and no match funding currently available.**

- 6.6.2 Need and demand – Maesbrook Village Hall is used by a wide range of the community groups in Maesbrook, from art classes for the retired, the local gardening club, fortnightly coffee mornings to supporting the visit of the library bus. The venue is also available for private hire for children's birthday parties, barn dances and other social events. In addition the village hall committee plans a series of events through the year to bring people together e.g. carols and mulled wine, village walks and afternoon teas and the produce show. These events, organised by the committee, help raise some funds though the main driver is not fund raising but bringing the community together and ensuring the continued use of the hall. Events at the village hall are essential for local people to meet and particularly relevant as there are limited opportunities for people living in a widespread area with no village shop, regular bus and the only other meeting places being a place of worship or the pub. The village hall is a key asset in this rural village. Improving the facility

will encourage further development and support sustainability of the hall for future years.

6.7 St Mary's Church, Kinnerley

6.7.1 This application is made by St Mary's Church Council, Kinnerley. The project is submitted to support the only public clock in the village of Kinnerley, located in the tower of St Mary's Church. The clock failed several months ago and despite the efforts of the local volunteer clock-winders has not been made to work again. The Lichfield Cathedral Clock Advisor, Michael Applebee, has examined the clock, which he described as "a superb 2 train wrought iron frame (blacksmith) movement of 1780. He endorses its overhaul and also the fitment of an automatic winding mechanism which removes the current necessity of laboriously winding the clock by hand, three times a week. Access to the clock room in the Church is via a narrow, steep, uneven spiral staircase. **Total project costs £7,130, with funding request seeking contribution to the project and £2,000 match funding secured.**

6.7.2 The lack of such an amenity in the village has provoked much local concern to such an extent that a "Bingo" night organised by villagers and held in the village hall in aid of the restoration of the clock raised £1,000. A local benefactor has also donated another £1,000. This indicates the marked level of interest in this matter. The project will add professional expertise to the restoration and support the retention of a parish clock situated at the heart of this rural village.

6.8 Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council

6.8.1 This application has been submitted by Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council. The Olympic Torch will be carried through the villages of Pant and Llanymynech on the 30th of May 2012 and this project is to mark that occasion, in keeping with the Olympic spirit by bringing people together across an international border. It is intended to involve Bryn Offa Primary School children and Welsh Carreghofa Primary School children in that event by welcoming the torch. The children will then be transported to the King George V Playing Field in Llanymynech to take part in an international mini fun Olympics, awarding medals to the winners. Lunch will then be provided for them, followed by the children entertaining senior citizens of families for whom a 1950's themed lunch will be provided in recognition of the Queen's Jubilee taking place a few days later. **Total project costs £1,490, with funding request £1,000 and £490 match funding secured.**

6.8.2 Need and demand - This is a project with maximum benefit to act as a catalyst for community activity in a rural location. It will play a huge part in supporting Olympic Torch activities and awareness for young people who live in the area. The project will benefit the whole community by publicising the Olympic visit, children will be involved in cross border co-operation, sports activity for young people, older people will be involved in a 50's lunch and children's entertainment. A public meeting was held in Llanymynech on the 6th of December 2011 and the project supported by all in attendance. The project will bring together the children from the two local Primary Schools in Pant and across the Welsh border in Llanymynech to work together for the first time

providing a positive activity for young people. It will bring publicity to benefit tourism and provide a lasting memory.

6.9 Bryn Offa Parents Association

6.9.1 This application has been submitted by Bryn Offa Parents Association. The project costs are to support in taking 112 school pupils to Theatre Severn. The trip would provide a trip for young people to look forward to and also support with new children potentially joining from Maesbury (currently estimated at 15 pupils). It has come to the attention of the PA that there are a number of parents who are unable to afford such events especially those who have more than one child in school. The children would be unable to attend this or something similar events as a whole. This project aims to develop and embed a culture of music and theatre in and around the school by providing real theatre opportunity, outside the limits of the National Curriculum and encouraging talented young people and inspire their peers. The project will enable young people from a rurally isolated and economically deprived area to experience the thrill of live theatre, the exhilaration attached to seeing a performance and gain an insight which could potentially lead to further educational interest and confidence. **Total project costs £ 1700- £1900, funding request £1500 with fundraising to be put in place to secure match funding.**

6.9.2 Need and demand- The project would benefit all children from the area attending the school; currently including Llanymynech, Pant, Llynclys, Llanyblodwel and soon Maesbury for example. This would be a cultural leisure event that some children would not necessarily otherwise be able to access without this funding. The community is made up of small, remote villages, geographically isolated and rurally situated, making opportunities to access theatre for young people limited and hard to access.

6.10 St Marys PCC, Knockin

6.10.1 This application is submitted by the PCC of St Mary's, Knockin. The culvert that runs behind St Mary's Church, Knockin has started to collapse into the brook. The Parochial Church Council has been forced to implement initial emergency work to the east wall and windows from potential serious erosion. Frost has got behind the stone work of the river bank and has resulted in pushing sandstone into the water. Whilst the PCC are ultimately responsible for maintaining the perimeter of the churchyard adjacent to the stream, the congregation is small and is continually being asked for funds to maintain the church. The last quinquennial survey identified some £35,000 of work to the building required in a 5 year period; this did not include work to the sincam bank. The PCC has already funded approximately £1300 to halt erosion to the wall nearest the east windows. Ecclesiastical insurance deny any liability. **Project costs £3000, funding request £1,700 with £1300 secured.**

6.10.2 Need and demand - The area is recognised in the parish plan as being a local point of the community and indicates that its availability is valued by 72% of parish resident's. The church being a grade 2 listed building is also a public asset and will eventually have to be maintained by the Parish Council - when the churchyard is closed. In order to ensure the long term preservation of the

building it is necessary to restore the training wall. The project will improve safety around the church for the foreseeable future. The church is a visitor attraction and plays a large part in the heritage connected to Knockin Castle. The area as a whole is linked to walking routes and parish paths, an area the group are keen to encourage to support, ensuring benefit for local tourism and businesses in the area.

6.11 Oswestry Dial a Ride

6.11.1 This application has been submitted by Oswestry Dial a Ride to support the cost of installing new computer software to improve the service offered to clients. The group currently serve 18 % of local people from the area that have transport needs in the St Oswald and Llanymynech area. Oswestry Community Action currently run 6 minibuses on a community transport scheme and 6 community cars. They run a well established Dial a Ride service covering Oswestry and surrounding areas. In addition the charity run trips further afield for local community groups and nursing homes, plus Qube's Trip Club at weekends. Over the last 18 months the service has expanded dramatically and they expect to cover over 100,000km this year, this is an estimated increase of 10,000km on last years's mileage. A lot more people now have a need for our service and as a result the Dial a Ride memberships and journeys have increased. In order to expand and provide a service for more people they would like to install a new software package for Dial a ride. **Total project cost £11,260.00, funding requested £585.75 with match funding of £10,674 secured. Further £1171.5 secured from Ellesmere LJC and Gobowen, St Martins & Selattyn LJC.**

6.11.2 Need and demand- Due to the increase in clients in the last year the current computer system does not in any way aid the transport department. A new system would improve the efficiencies of the Dial a Ride service and improve the standard and flexibility of the service currently provided to our clients. The Shropshire Community Transport Consortium is backing this software and Shrewsbury Dial a Ride has already received funding for the package from two local LJC's. The benefits of having the same system across the county will allow the transfer of work if crossing boundaries and a more flexible service for the client. This is replacement software and therefore is intended to enhance and improve the service to our clients. The current software was installed over 11 years ago and due to the high demand for our service is now not fit for purpose. The current system is very limited and is not web based

Conclusions

7. The applications are recommended, not approved or deferred following consideration of benefit to the community, following need, demand and assessment checklist. The LJC considers the applications received, and awards funding to those organisations and their projects as recommended in this report.

8.0 **Future Funding**

- 8.1 In view of the reduced funding available, the LJC will consider future applications and project proposals with the following themes in mind: economic development, activities for young people and older people, building

capacity and supporting sustainable development, improving the local environment- built and natural, celebrating local heritage, arts and culture and sports development

8.2 The next LJC meeting is scheduled to take place at 7.00 pm on the 12th June 2012 (venue to be confirmed). Application closing date will be 1st May 2012.

8.3 For information about applying for an LJC grant and to receive an application form, contact Corrie Davies, Community Action Officer as follows:

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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 2011/12-2012/14, Appendix 5. Report to Cabinet 13th January 2011

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

Amendment to LJC Constitution. Report to Council 23rd June 2011

LJC Applications forms for projects listed

Report on the delegation of funding to Oswestry & District Sports Association

Report on the delegation of funding to Oswestry Arts Association

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Gwilym Butler and Councillor Martin Bennett- Flourishing Shropshire Communities

Local Member

Councillors Arthur Walpole, Joyce Barrow, David G Lloyd and Trevor Davies

Appendices

None