



Committee and Date
St Oswald and
Llanymynech Local Joint
Committee

19th February 2013
7.00 p.m.

Item

15

Public

2012/13 FINANCE REPORT, INCLUDING UPDATE ON FUNDING REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION

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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 2012 up until 31 March 2013
- 1.2 A total of £16,931 has been devolved to the committee to fund projects in the local community served by the LJC for 2012/13. This is made up of an annual budget of £15,500, arts funding at £1,151 and budget carried from 2011/12 at £280.
- 1.3 Prior to each LJC, a planning meeting takes place to discuss applications for funding and agree recommendations.
- 1.4 Seven new applications and two deferred applications have been received for this reporting period. These were considered at the planning meeting held on 22nd of January 2013. The recommendations from the planning meeting feature in this report, and are put forward to the LJC to be held on the 19th of February 2013.

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 That the LJC adopts a mechanism for approving applications between LJC meetings by using the Community Action Officer's delegated authority and where all members of the Committee are in approval. This is not designed to replace decision making at meetings, but to be used when it is in the interest

of an applicant to receive a decision between meetings.

- 2.4 Applications for funding were considered at the planning meeting 22nd of January and recommendations totalling £ 5,880 are now put forward to the St Oswald LJC for consideration. These are as follows:

8.17	Pant Memorial Institute- Jubilee Garden (Deferred Rd 2)	£145
8.26	St Mary's PCC Knockin (Deferred Rd 2)	£1500
8.28	Trefonen Playing Field Association- Phase II Central Pitch Area	£1000
8.29	Llanymynech Skatepark Equipment	£750
8.30	Pant Play and Walk Safely	£300
8.31	Trefonen Village Hall- Oil Tank	£750
8.32	Morton Minors Music Workshops	£700
8.33	Morda Pre School Easter Fun Day 2013	£485
8.34	Trefonen WI	£250
TOTAL		£5,880

	2012/13 budget	£ 15,500
	2011/12 budget carried	£280
	Spend to date in 2012/13	£11,147
	Round 3 request total	£10,018
	Total recommendation Round 3	£5,880
	Current balance remaining	£5,784

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 are responsible for the award and expenditure of the devolved budget. The amount available to the LJC in 2011/12 was reduced as a result of Shropshire Council budget decisions, and a review of locality working in Shropshire. The amount was however supplemented by the transfer of funding previously available for community arts projects in to the LJC budgets and some under spend carried forward. The 2012/13 budget remains the same at £15,500, with additional arts funding and small amount of carry forward from 2011/12.
- 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 returned grant	£280
TOTAL budget for 2012/13	£ 16,931

- 5.6 The value of recommended projects put forward in this current round total £5,880 leaving a remaining balance of £0 to be carried into 2013/14. This is dependent on claimed projects over previous year.

6. Additional Information

- 6.1 A summary of applications received has been compiled and included below.
- 6.2 Pant Memorial Hall- Jubilee Garden
- 6.2.1 Pant Memorial Hall would like to convert a small area of garden adjacent to the Memorial Hall into a jubilee garden. The project would contribute to the community life at the heart of the village, being opposite to the shop and Post Office where there is currently a seat and red phone box. The Village Hall would like to commemorate the year of Queen Elizabeth II for future generations to remember. It is a small project with a long term goal.

Total project costs at £433 (£145 Plants, general clearance and £288 labour), LJC request £433 with no match funding currently available through the Village Hall Committee. The work to the wall has been carried out as match funding. Membrane, bark, shrubs still outstanding.

- 6.2.2 Need and Demand –The stone wall bounding one side of the garden is in need of repair to meet safety standards. There is no other place for anyone to sit and rest in this part of the village. The jubilee garden would be there for all members of the community, young and elderly to sit and use. Currently the area is not very attractive and Pant Memorial Hall Committee feels they could increase their visitor welcome by having a nice green and clean area. The project has come to the attention through discussion as a hall committee at the AGM in March and through working with the PC to make the area look nice for the Olympic Torch procession in May. Even though the Olympic torch has now visited, the village hall committee still feel this is an important project. The hall is on the A483 main trunk road. Many hundreds of vehicles pass the hall each day and a garden would add to the appearance of the hall and village. Tourism is a key feature in Llanymynech and Pant area with visitors driving through Pant to visit the Limekiln Heritage Area and wildlife areas. The appearance of the area is important to the visitor experience in Shropshire and provides a better welcome.

6.3 St Marys PCC, Knockin (Deferred Application)

- 6.3.1 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.
Total project costs £3000, LJC funding request £1,700 with £1300 match funding secured.

- 6.3.2 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. **The application following the last round further information has been received from English Heritage stating no need for Scheduled Monument Consents and recommended work. Information has been sought through Diocese Architect as prescribed by English Heritage. This has led to increased costs anticipated for the project of a**

further £1000/£1500.

6.4 Trefonen Playing Field Association- Phase 2 Central Pitch Area

6.4.1 In September 2010 work began on a two year project to level and begin draining the central pitch area of Trefonen Playing Field. That work completed the levelling of the area, making it more playable, but secondary and additional drainage was not included within the works. This Phase 2 project is to tackle the drainage of the area, which this year's weather has revealed to be a matter of considerable urgency. A detailed professional report from STRI (dated 1 November 2012) has identified main activities as:

- Install new lateral pipe drains and reinstate
- Install slit drains (Koro Field Topdrains)
- Install new catchment drain
- Verti-drain
- Supply and spread sand topdressing
- Supply and apply fertiliser
- Supply seed and overseed.

Total project costs £34,800 with LJC request at £2000. Match funding to be secured bid to Sport England £17,400 and section 106 monies £15,400.

6.4.2 Need and demand –. The development of Trefonen Playing Field has been a massive community project, which started in 2006 when the Village Design Statement included a recommendation that the Field should be levelled and drained. A household survey about people's aspirations for the Field and the Village Hall in autumn 2009 (75% return from Trefonen) underpinned the development of a design for the Field, which was endorsed by Shropshire Council, which owns and maintains the Field. Work on the central pitch area and the new play area had to be tackled before work around the edges (the wild life areas, heritage area and work, tree and shrub planting, benches, trim trial and equipment, car park) could be undertaken.

The Field was officially launched as the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Field on 2 September 2012, when these various developments were much praised and enjoyed. There is a greatly increased use of the Field now, with children rushing daily to the play area by and on the pit mound, many more people walking (and sometimes jogging) around the trail and paths, with visitors to the heritage areas and Trefonen Primary School using its wildlife glade. Generally the rural environment has been enhanced and people are enjoying the views, the calm and the space. However, the lack of effective drainage means that the central area is still too often inaccessible for play, as it is water logged and there is pooling in places. This is the main open space for the Primary School. It is used by local people for generally kicking a ball around and playing, kite flying and fun. It is also the football pitch for Trefonen Football Club, which has had to hire other pitches and cancel matches when the pitch has not been available.

Since summer 2012 the area has benefitted from a very active volunteer group, affectionately known as Howard's Task Force, who beaver away at maintaining the site (cutting hedges, removing nettles and brash, raking up

grass, building steps and maintaining paths). The youngest member of the group is ten years old and the oldest over seventy.

The association are planning a second Fun Day, on 1 September 2013, which will focus on the use of the central area of the Field, with races and games as well as football. The first Fun Day, last September, was greatly enjoyed by many local people. It raised just over £1,000 and it was decided that the first call on this should be the external decoration of the Village Hall. We have let a contract for this for £790.

The association also have another project which they are progressing. The final item in the overall development plan was the installation of a paved area linking the Village Hall and Field. They have plans for this, which were put out for public view and comment at the Christmas Market in December, and they are now beginning to seek funding for the Jubilee Terrace.

6.5 Llanymynech Youth Club- Skatepark Equipment

6.5.1 Stage 1 the Llanymynech Skatepark Project involves purchase of a set of mobile skatepark equipment, which will be followed by stage two, when a permanent base for this equipment will be installed on the playing field at Llanymynech. During the last two summers Llanymynech Youth Club have had the mobile ramps at the village hall car park organised by Shropshire Youth and these proved to be a huge success with member and other young people from in and around the area. It allowed the children to learn and practice skills with their bmx bikes, skateboards and scooters and was so successful and popular that a group of local youngsters are now keen to have something similar available to them on a permanent basis in the village. **Total project costs £5000, LJC request at approximately £1000 with £4000 match funding to be secured (applications to Mary Hignett and Charlotte Hartey still to be confirmed). £300 in fundraising confirmed by young people.**

6.5.2 Need and demand – The group involved are very keen and enthusiastic to pursue these extreme sports as much as possible and the activity ensures the young people of the area keep out of trouble. They are a well motivated group and the project aims to help them to achieve their goals. The group recently gave a presentation to Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council, which was well received and resulted in Council agreeing to a skatepark being installed on the playing field providing the group could raise sufficient funding themselves. Since then meetings have been held with parents, local councillors and adults with expert knowledge of these sports attending. Several companies specialising in equipment for these sports have been consulted and invited to give presentation quotations. A permanent skatepark on the playing field would enable young people to pursue their sport in safety, keep them off the streets and out of trouble. It would encourage more young people to take part in learning new professional instruction, to be made available to them from time to time. In the wider context of sports facilities this area is prime for connections between clubs including the local football club.

6.6 Pant Play and Walk Safely

6.6.1 The Parish Council would like to remove the hedge bordering the playing field on a very busy main road through the village of Pant and replace the hedge

with hoop topped railings. The Hedge currently prevents children in the playground from being seen and it also encroaches onto the pavement making it difficult to walk past. If the hedge was to be removed, it would make the pavement wider and safer, as the suction effect when HGV's pass make it very dangerous to walk that stretch of road, particularly for young children wanting to access the playground. The hedge removal would also allow the Parish Council to install a bus shelter at that site, which is something that residents have long requested, but the narrow pavement prevented it. The many children who have to wait for their school bus at that point in the morning, could do so in safety. It would also allow other residents to wait for a bus in safety, especially giving them protection from the road in wet weather. **Total project costs at £6,035 with LJC request at £500. Match funding of £5,535 being sought through Awards for All.**

- 6.6.2 Need and demand- A public meeting was held concerning the need for a Bypass for Pant attended by nearly 200 people and the need for wider pavements was discussed, particularly in relation to children walking to and from school, or going to play on the playground. The Annual Parish Meeting also had this on the Agenda and it was queried as to why the Parish Council could not afford to carry out the work. The request for the removal of the hedge came from the public meeting and was endorsed at the Annual Parish Meeting this year, when it was suggested that the Parish Council apply for funding for this urgent need. The Parish Plan for Llanymynech and Pant on which the whole community was consulted, also includes a request for road safety measures and bus shelters. This project could not be done without grant funding. The added value would be the safety factor and possibly more use of public transport.

6.7 Trefonen Village Hall- New Oil Tank

- 6.7.1 The current oil tank at the village hall is metal and is now 20 years old. A replacement is needed to ensure that leakage of oil does not take place. This would be very expensive for the hall and would also cause pollution and contamination on the site. **Total project costs at £ 1512 with LJC request at £1000. Match funding of £500 and £12 have been secured from the Millichope Foundation and the hall funds.**

- 6.7.2 Need and demand – the village hall is used by many community groups within the Trefonen Village. The village hall committee strive to keep hiring costs affordable and to pay all the bills. Seepage of oil is very wasteful and increases the costs for everyone. To ensure the hall continues to be warm and useable it is essential that the tank is replaced. The hall is frequently used by groups such as the Jubilee Club with an age range up to 80 years old. To ensure the hall is sustainable, efficient and safe for the future the committee need to replace the tank.

6.8 Morton Minors Music Workshops

- 6.8.1 To build on the work which has been undertaken since the inception of the Morton Minors music group and the previous application for funding. The project offers young musicians within the area an opportunity to meet as small ensembles and extend their musicianship. Ensembles are to be encouraged as instrumental as well as vocal. The young people currently meet every Monday after school and receive tuition, singing activities, tuition in keyboard skills and general musicianship. The next objective is to extend the resources

to include better quality instruments as well as offering Saturday workshops to a larger group of young people who do not have the opportunity to play ensemble music. **Total project costs £1850 with LJC request at £900. Match funding secured through volunteer time at £400 and £100 parent contribution.**

- 6.8.2 Need and demand - The current group in the Primary School at Bryn Offa numbers 15 and there is a waiting list. The group consists of KS 1 to KS 3 pupils. The group is the maximum size for the coach to manage effectively and to be able to fulfil a rounded music experience. The coach seeks out as many opportunities for the young people to perform and they have risen to that challenge with relish e.g. school performances and celebrations at the church to which the school is affiliated, plus carol singing. The coach plans to celebrate young musicians' achievement at a concert in the Spring/Summer and this will be an open invitation to any young musician who would like to experience performance. The coach has consulted parents and local music teachers who are very keen to further enhance their students' musical activities. Through offering these experiences there would be a consolidation of many music groups with a more regular opportunity for group work in the community. Currently there is no localised group music and not all young people aspire or succeed in membership of County music groups or even school music groups. The project wishes to attract those who are unable to access music post school hours. There is always the transport issue in the area and the project would hope to surmount that problem by using a central venue in the catchment area. The project provides added value by moving towards the inclusion of young people who attend other schools or who receive tuition but do not have the opportunity to share their music and meet like-minded musicians in a group situation based in a rural environment. It also encourages young people to meet to play music and to socialise in an out of school environment across a wider age range.

6.9 Morda Easter Fun Day 2013

- 6.9.1 The Easter Fun Day will be held on the grounds of Morda Primary School, within the pre-school building and Children's Centre. The event will be a community event that will be open to all within the community. The event is aimed at raising the profile of the pre-school within the community, following losing 24 children to primary school in July 2012. This has had a major impact on the pre-school and the group want to ensure that they are seen within the community and increase knowledge that there is a pre-school group in existence to support local families. The pre-school are often told by parents that there is nothing for families to do in Morda and the Easter Fun Day has become an annual event which goes hand in hand with the village fete and is aimed purely at engaging with local families from Morda. The event is aimed at getting families within the area involved in the community in which they live. **Total project costs at £485 with LJC request at £485.**

- 6.9.2 Need and Demand- The pre-school have held two annual fun days, the first was to celebrate the pre-school first birthday of being in the new pre-school building. This was very well received by the community and for this reason the pre-school have made it into an annual event. Parents often ask the pre-school early for the date so that they can keep it free in their diaries. Events like this one are needed in a community like Morda. The pre-school recently hosted a tribute night for adults in the locality, this was well received so they have booked another one prior to Christmas. The pre-school has a real role

within the community and is often the first point of contact with young families in the area. They are registered charity so therefore rely heavily on support from outsiders of the pre-school. Long term the event stimulates the generation of income which is driven back into other events such as the Christmas Fayre for example.

6.10 Trefonen WI- WI Website for Trefonen

6.10.1 The grant will be used to set up and maintain a website for Trefonen WI. The purpose of the project is to promote community access to WI events and to share information and skills with the wider community. It should reach the whole community and encourage participation in a range of activities including Arts and Leisure. It will give up to date information on current WI initiatives such as the concern over the closure of high street shops in rural areas. The website could encourage local people to take part in local activities and make a difference in their area. The website could be a vital tool in helping to organise and promote activity and events. **Total Project costs at £6050, LJC request at £250 (domain name and host for five years) with match funding and in kind contribution at £ 5800 (design and on-going administration)**

6.10.2 National and county WI advice is encouraging all WIs to develop a web presence in order to reach as many people as possible. This is particularly relevant in a rural community to avoid the effects of isolation. It means that the WI is able to reach potential new members, particularly younger women who are confident in using the internet. It will also allow elderly or housebound members access to activities and information and will be used to encourage members who do not use the internet to become computer literate. Instruction will be given for this. The project would encourage accessibility and new participants. A website would allow the group to get key messages out quickly to their current members, who number 34, and even support with the running of meetings where it would be easier to access minutes and agendas and consult on ideas between meetings. The group are trying to use less paper and the website may reduce printing of information and material for members adding to long term savings and sustainability. The world of IT is moving on so fast that online conversations are important – the group can connect to other WIs in the area and share the work that they are carrying out- widening partnership opportunities. Currently activities can only be marketed via village notice boards and the Parish Magazine in Trefonen. A website would be available immediately not only to Trefonen residents but to all. Links within the website will offer access to many other local groups extending across the area and further afield. These groups would benefit from becoming better known to perhaps a new audience. The purpose behind this would be to encourage community participation in a range of clubs, activities and events.

7.0 **Conclusions**

7.1 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 11th June 2013. Application closing date will be 7th of May 2013.

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 13 th January 2011
Locality Working Local joint Committees. Report to Cabinet 9 th December 2010
Amendment to LJC Constitution. Report to Council 23 rd June 2011
LJC Applications forms for projects listed
Report on the delegation of funding to Oswestry & District Sports Association 4 th October 2011
Report on the delegation of funding to Oswestry Arts Association 4 th October 2011
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Gwilym Butler Flourishing Shropshire Communities
Local Member
Councillors Arthur Walpole, Joyce Barrow, David G Lloyd and Trevor Davies
Appendices
None