



Committee and date
Severn Loop
Local Joint Committee

6 January 2010

7.00 pm

Item No

8

Public

BUDGET REPORT

Responsible Officer Andy Goldsmith
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Summary

The Severn Loop Local Joint Committee has a budget of £37,000 for funding applications.

This report details the new applications which have been received and it is requested that the Committee consider the budget applications and recommendations in this report.

Recommendations

- A. **That the Severn Loop Local Joint Committee determine the applications for grant funding set out in this report.**

Report

Six grant applications have been submitted for the first round of budget allocations and an assessment of their applications are set out below.

Name of Project:	The Tidy Shrewsbury Group Campaigns
Applicant:	The Tidy Shrewsbury Group
Project Outline:	The group runs campaigns to reduce the amount of cigarette and chewing gum related litter in Shrewsbury town centre. The Tidy Shrewsbury Group will run exhibitions in The Square providing 'stubbies' for disposal of cigarette ends, chewing gum disposal books and dog waste disposal bags. They will also be providing information and advice on how to keep the town tidy.
Project Costs:	£2,200.00
Amount Requested:	£2,200.00
Lead Officers Comments:	Street cleanliness is regularly identified as a priority by the local community. The Tidy Shrewsbury Group provide valuable support to Shropshire Council in the fight against street litter
Whilst cigarettes and chewing gum are significant contributors to litter, there is concern	

that this project is not sufficiently well focussed to deliver sustainable improvements in the street scene. A more focussed campaign designed around a segmented target audience may have greater impact.

The project could benefit from closer links with the work being undertaken by Environmental Enforcement Officers and West Mercia Police encouraging premises to locate external ashtrays/ cigarette bins at entrances to premises and targeting key groups such as persons outside nightclubs and pubs.

At the current time this application is **not recommended for approval** and it is recommended that the applicants be asked to reconsider and resubmit their proposals to achieve a more targeted and sustainable initiative.

Name of Project: Expanding and Upgrading Shrewsbury Canoe Club Equipment

Applicant: Shrewsbury Canoe Club

Project Outline:

The overall aim of the project is to provide a wider and improved service to the ever growing membership through purchasing new equipment. This will enable the club to deliver an enhanced and more tailored service and to keep up with demand over the coming years. It will also help the club to replace existing equipment that is tired and worn.

Project Costs: £3,670.00

Amount Requested: £2,170.00

Lead Officers Comments:

The project will provide a wider range of equipment enabling the canoe club to accept members that currently cannot be provided for. The club has over 200 members with around 30 to 40 members involved each week, with membership coming from a wide geographical area.

The application is for funding to purchase a wider range of equipment specifically that which is more suitable for junior members and larger adults

The application contains insufficient detail of what steps the canoe club will take to actively engage with residents who currently are unable or do not participate. It is therefore **recommended that this application is approved conditioned on receiving a plan on how the canoe club will promote the club and attract the target non users.**

Name of Project: Drapers Hall Modernisation

Applicant: Shrewsbury Drapers' Hall Preservation Trust

Project Outline:

To modernise the toilet facilities within Drapers Hall to allow use for disabled people.

Project Costs: £10,000.00

Amount Requested: £2,000.00

Lead Officers Comments:

This application is to provide a disabled toilet for the restaurant with the applicant stating that this is to meet the restaurants disability obligations. The restaurant operates as a commercial entity paying a rental income to the Drapers' Hall Preservation Trust and therefore the success of the restaurant business is vital to the

long term preservation of the Hall.

Whilst the Drapers' Hall Preservation Trust is a charitable body the restaurant operates as commercial entity and thus this application appears to fall outside of the financial procedures for the Local Joint Committee with the Community Chest Scheme established to assist voluntary organisations or bodies. Therefore this application is **not recommended for approval**.

Name of Project: Abbey Foregate Drama Group – Lighting

Applicant: Abbey Foregate Drama Group

Project Outline:

Purchase a set of lighting equipment for performances and general production use.

Project Costs: £4,522.89

Amount Requested: £1,500.00

Lead Officers Comments:

The Drama Group is a community led organisation and has been running since 1947. The Drama Group operates out of Shrewsbury United Reform Church in Abbey Foregate with the Severn Loop LJC.

The lighting equipment will significantly assist this voluntary group in their ability to stage productions giving greater control and flexibility and rehearsal opportunities.

The applicants also state that the with their own equipment hire costs would be reduced assisting in the financial sustainability of the group.

This application is **recommended for approval**.

Name of Project: Belle Vue Arts Festival

Applicant: Belle Vue Community Arts Group

Project Outline:

To contribute towards the general running of the Belle Vue Community Arts Festival. An annual event that brings the local community together through a range of the arts.

Project Costs: £3,070.00

Amount Requested: £1,500.00

Lead Officers Comments:

Held over the summer this annual event has been running for seven years and has a strong community focus. The event is organised by volunteers from the local community and provides an opportunity for residents, schools, community groups, churches and businesses to come together in a celebration of art.

The applicant is seeking funding for staging the 2010 festival to help meet the costs of art materials, room hire, refreshments and insurance.

This application is **recommended for approval**.

Name of Project: Shrewsbury Ark
Applicant: Shrewsbury Ark

Project Outline:

A request for revenue funding support for the drop in and support centre for homeless and disadvantaged people.

Project Costs: £66,000.00

Amount Requested: £5,000.00

Lead Officers Comments:

This facility is highly regarded as an important safety net for some of the most disadvantaged members of the community. Whilst the facility is based in the Severn Loop LJC area it is not readily identified as a local community facility as it provides help and support to persons from across the area.

The application is for revenue funding to help meet a predicted funding shortfall in the 2009/ 2010 budget. Of the annual running costs of £66,000, £42,330 (64%) is spent on staff costs. Grant funding to meet ongoing staffing costs of an organisation is specifically excluded under the LJC financial procedures.

Whilst it could be argued that the grant will be for non staff costs, the use of LJC funding to meet a revenue shortfall on a large scale ongoing service offering county or area wide services poses a difficulty for the LJC. Whilst not specifically excluded from the funding criteria, such funding is potentially outside the spirit of the LJC with funding allocated to allow the Committee to take action over local issues and offer grants to small scale local projects through a Community Chest scheme delivering local initiatives for the benefit of residents in the local area.

It is considered that this application falls outside of the spirit of the LJC Community Chest fund and for this reason this application is **not recommended for approval**.

Current Budget Position

At the meeting on 24 September 2009, it was agreed that a sum of £500 be committed to fund a youth service consultation and questionnaire.

The grant applications made total £14,370. The value of the applications recommended for approval total £5,170. Approving these grants will leave an unallocated budget of £31,330.

Bids for future funding are welcomed and should be addressed to:

Ruth Mansfield, Community Regeneration Officer, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 5ND.

Email: ruth.mansfield@shropshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01743 252329

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

Application forms, circulated to committee members.

Human Rights Act Appraisal

The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights act 1998

Environmental Appraisal

Not applicable

Risk Management Appraisal

Controls over the management and audit of grants meet the requirements for risk control.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

These applications have been submitted by the local community.

Cabinet Member

Gwilym Butler

Local Members

Anne Chebsey, Maxwell Winchester, Mansel Williams

Town Council Members

Andrew Wagner, Alan Townsend.

Appendices

None.