



Committee and date

Five Perry Parishes Local
Joint Committee

9th November 2011 West
Felton Village Hall 7pm

Item

9

Public

**2011/12 FINANCE REPORT, INCLUDING UPDATE ON FUNDING REQUESTS
FOR CONSIDERATION**

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1. Summary

This report considers the devolved funding allocated to the Five Perry Parishes Local Joint Committee (LJC) for the period 1st April 2011 up until the 31st March 2012.

A total of £21,670 has been devolved to the Committee to fund projects in the local community served by the LJC for 2011/12 year.

Prior to each LJC, a planning meeting takes place to discuss applications for funding and agree recommendations.

Thirteen applications have been received for this reporting period. These have been considered at the planning meeting held on the 24th October 2011. The recommendations from the planning meeting feature in this report, and are put forward to the LJC to be held on 9th of November 2011.

2. Recommendations

- That the LJC considers the applications received, and awards funding to those organisations and their projects as recommended in this report.
- 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 known priorities in the LJC area.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 In determining these recommendations 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 The Five Perry Parishes LJC is responsible for the award and expenditure of a 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. This 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 2010/11. This is the final year that any carry forward of under spend will be permitted.

- 5.2 The total amount available to Five Perry Parishes LJC is calculated as follows:

Total LJC electorate as at August 2010:	6,127
Budget based on this electorate	£14,000
Plus apportioned allocation of community arts budget	£1,040
Plus carry forward of under spend	£6,630
TOTAL budget for 2011/12	£ 21,670

From 1st of 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

- 5.3 The LJC for Five Perry Parishes has membership from Shropshire Council (2 members) and parish councils (5 members) all with equal voting rights.
- 5.4 One of the responsibilities of the LJC is to determine expenditure of the devolved budget. A budget of £21,670 has been made available to the LJC for the current financial year. This is made up of £14,000 from the LJC budget;

£1,040 from the arts funding which has been transferred to the LJC and £6,630 carryover from this LJC's 2010/11 budget .The total recommended value for projects put forward in this round total £5,572.60 leaving a remaining balance £13,691.77

- 5.5 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.

6. Additional Information

- 6.1 Applications for funding were considered at the LJC planning meeting 24th October and recommendations totalling £ 5,572.60 are now put forward to the Five Perry Parishes LJC for consideration. These are as follows:

	Project name	£
B1	West Felton Gardening Club – Support with establishment of the new club	500
B2	Ruyton Pre School- To provide an enriched outdoor environment	694
B3	Whittington Cricket Club- To provide a new kitchen facilities	1,105
B4	Oswestry Drama Project (Park Hall)- Community based theatre workshops	600
B5	Ruyton History Society- Contribution to equipment	303.60
B6	Millington Close Residents Association- Contribution to equipment	500
B7	Whittington Senior Citizens Club- Contribution to refurbishment costs	500
B8	West Felton Pre School- Enhancement of outdoor environment	670
B9	Shropshire Playbus- To bring the fully equipped playbus to each of the parish areas during half term break.	Not Approved
B10	The Oswestry Learndirect facility – a year long programme of courses to avoid its closure and loss to the town	Not Approved
B11	Oswestry Dial-a-Ride- Installation of new routing software for	Not Approved
B12	Arts for Health- Enhancement of new build of Shelton Hospital encompassing aims within the arts strategy.	Not Approved
	TOTAL	£4,872.60

	2011/12 budget	£ 21,670
	Total of recommendations 9/09/11	£ 4,872.60
	Delegation of funding to Oswestry & District Sports Association – 5% of 2011/12 budget	£ 700
	Spend to date in 2011/12	£ 2,405.63
	Balance remaining	£13,691.77

6.2 West Felton Gardening Club

- 6.2.1 The aim of the project is to form a new gardening club for the residents of West Felton and surrounding area. The club will allow local people to share ideas, experience, expertise and friendship in a congenial setting to the benefit of the whole community. Monthly meeting will be held in West Felton Village Hall and will include speakers, quizzes, gardening projects, produce stalls and support with village projects. The village projects identified at the inaugural meeting held in September included supporting a school gardening club, keeping the war memorial looking nice, bulb planting in and around the village, churchyard and burial ground. The group have identified that they could also help elderly resident if needed. Support from the Local Joint Committee would allow the club to establish and formalise during its first year. Currently there is no similar organisation in West Felton. Thirty six people of all ages attended the inaugural demonstrating the interest and demand for a club of this nature in West Felton. The idea was keen to foster civic pride with a number of potential spin off projects discussed.

Total Project Costs: £ 1,450

Grant requested from LJC: £1,200

6.3 Ruyton Pre School

- 6.3.1 The project aim is to provide an enriched outdoor environment, encouraging language, literacy and numeracy skills within the early year's foundation stage (age 2-5 years). Ruyton Xi Towns Pre School provides a secure, stimulating, welcoming and enjoyable environment for all those attending, regardless of gender, ethnic background, family circumstances and special needs. The project will enhance outdoor learning through the provision of number lines, blackboards, shapes and measures for example. Children develop their skills and knowledge through an environment rich in learning opportunities. Research has shown and indicates that using an outdoor learning environment allows more opportunities to provide this for a wider range of children according to their interests. The majority of children entering reception at St John's the Baptist School come through Ruyton Pre School. The pre-school offers a wide range of multi sensory activities and resources to reflect individual children's interests and needs. The project will enhance this and reinforce the wider learning environment outdoors.

Total Project Costs: £694

Grant Requested from LJC: £694

6.4 Whittington Cricket Club

- 6.4.1 The main aim of the project is to provide a suitable kitchen that conforms to health and safety regulations- the current kitchen units have been used regularly for the last twenty years. The beneficiaries will be organisations that use this facility on a regular basis including the club league cricket teams, club bowls teams, disabled cricket teams, local schools, Shropshire county schools games, community organisations, Oswestry ramblers, NSPC, children's parties, funeral wakes, institute of groundman education days, plus many others. The

clubhouse is available for hire to all local community groups for meetings and social events. The kitchen is used by a wide and varied age group for cricket / bowls/ private hire events from local and wider community areas i.e. bowls teams playing in Oswestry/Wem/Shrewsbury. Cricket Teams playing- Shropshire County League and Mid Week Shrewsbury. The kitchen does not meet today's standards which is a concern for the club and its users. It is really important that this work is carried out for the future sustainability of the club and its wider user groups.

Total Project Costs: £1874.95

Grant Requested from LJC: £1424.00

6.5 Oswestry Drama Project

6.5.1 The OD Project's aim is to make theatre accessible to all the community. Thus a community based piece of theatre devised and run by the participants and led by professionals and qualified practitioners. The project is designed to be as inclusive as possible and encourages people of all ages 7-107 yrs old and of any ability or disability to act, dance or contribute musically free of charge. Following the success of the OD project's first workshop HONK, the project is now ready to move forward with the Tempest project which will run until July 2012. As part of this the OD project has been successful in being accepted by the RSC's Open Stages Project and our production of the Tempest will be part of many across the UK. It is intended to showcase the production in association with the Oswestry Games and the Cultural Olympics. The project will give local people the opportunity share with others their theatrical skills and talents, or maybe experience theatre for the first time under friendly professional guidance. The project will be a truly theatrical community event. It was evident from the first OD workshops that there is a real need for a community theatre that is open to all ages. The first workshops were attended by 25 people ranging from 7 -74 yrs and for some it was their first experience of performance. The second workshop had 40 people with numbers growing. Participants' feedback forms indicate that all enjoyed and valued the experience. Interestingly 20% of the people live in the Five Perry Parishes area. The Oswestry Drama Project is unique in respect that there is no other community theatre that is based in the Oswestry area, open to all regardless of skills and abilities and ran by professionals. It is estimated that the whole project will costs £12,980. Although some of this costs will be by sponsorship in kind. This alone will not cover the full project costs. There is no fee for participants to attend the workshops or rehearsals as this is part of keeping the project open to all. However the four performances in July there will be ticket charge for adults and children's tickets will be free. A grant from Five Perry's would contribute to the overall costs for the project.

Total Project Costs: £12,980

Grant Requested from LJC: £600

6.6 Ruyton History Society

6.6.1 To aim of the project is to provide a hearing loop for the benefit and comfort of the history society's members and visitors. Many of whom are in the over 60's age bracket and have a higher than average chance of experiencing problems with their hearing, now or in the future. The equipment, being portable would be made available to other village organisations, such as the Garden Club, the Arts Group and the WI. The society would be able to use the storage within the Victoria Room to hold the equipment, where it would be kept in a secure and alarmed room and insured by the Society. The funding would also be used to purchase a projector. The projector that the club use at the moment is owned by the Church and may only be used on their premises. To own their own projector would enable the Society to enhance the quality of their talks and presentations and give flexibility in use, adding to their own self sufficiency. There is no hearing loop in any of the meeting places in the village other than the Church. The Society knows that it would improve the quality of life for at least three members who are profoundly deaf, as well as others who have difficulty in hearing when in a crowded environment. The Society has conducted informal enquiries among our members, to try to ascertain the actual members of people who would benefit and estimate that we are talking of over half. By offering the aid the society could encourage others to join and take greater part in the social aspects of our meetings. The current membership of the clubs totals 32 in summer and 40 in winter, with other users from the garden club, the society would have around 50 members in common and have around 10 meetings per year between them. In addition the arts group meets every other week, with average of 25 members, WI have roughly 20 members at their monthly meeting. A portable system would cover any of these groups.

Total Project Costs: £1,805

Grant requested from LJC: £1,625

6.7 Millington Close Residents Association

6.7.1. The community centre which is around 50 years old is the hub of sheltered housing scheme and draws people from the local community. The facilities have become very dated and are no longer fit for purpose. The residents association have a thriving group of tenant volunteers all over retirement age, who organise events and social gatherings. The centre is a pick up point for the coach trips which collect tenants and non tenants for outings on a monthly basis (approx 30-40 people per trip) The community room is used by tenants daily and the wider community on a regular basis for the following groups : Woman's Institute (12 tenants and non tenants), monthly video shows (17 tenants), monthly lunch clubs (23 tenants and non tenants) monthly bridge clubs (12 non tenants) summer BBQ (30 tenants and non tenants), faith events (6 tenants) monthly tea/chats (2 tenants) weekly coffee mornings (13 tenants and non tenants), summer fayre (25 tenants and non tenants), open gardens (50 tenants and non tenants throughout the year), polling station, weekly bingo (23 tenants and non tenants). Benefit surgeries with Age UK have also just commenced. The community room is currently very well used by tenants and the local community. Demand for the community centre is constant and regular and in use most days as the activities list indicates. The tenants have fund-

raised and purchased a flat screen TV for their video afternoons (£200 SHG £400 tenants). The association recently raised funds and purchased garden furniture, a gazebo and a garden shed to keep these items in cost approx £600. Tenants are looking at ways to purchase go-pak tables to maximise the space in the community room so that they can hold boccia competitions. Without the use of the community room, for the consultation meetings re the garden project, this would have been difficult to achieve.

Total Project Costs: £2,205.92

Grant requested from LJC: £ 2,205.92

6.8 Whittington Senior Citizens Club

6.8.1 The senior citizens club would like to enhance their community venue by giving the interior a facelift. Over the last 18 months the club have been successful in achieving their aim of improving the facilities and access at the hall. We have received five grants which have enabled us to install a new bar, replace flooring in small meeting room, install gas central heating, refurbish the ladies & gents toilets, improve and extend car parking. The final phase of this scheme will be completed over the next few months and this will be to replace exterior window sills and rotten exterior panels. Following this the exterior of building will be painted. One area that has not been included is the interior painting and decorating as it was hoped our members could do this. Unfortunately due to age our regular users and health and safety issues we have realised that this is beyond our ability. The replacement of the bar area and removal of the old heating system has left exposed areas that need attention. Painting the interior of the hall will make it more attractive to new users and complete the current work. This year we have hired the hall for 6 parties and 2 family celebrations. A recent enquiry from a local minister has secured a regular monthly faith based meeting within the traveller community. The partnership working with Whittington Youth Group has resulted in a good relationship with all areas of the community and the hall is usually occupied 4/5 days a week. The income from the hall use helps the club meet our overheads and offers support to 96 members aged 51-93 and 42 youth club members. Line dance sessions on Thursdays offer a social and well being opportunity for all ages. The members are happy to raise funds and do so with bingo, tea and cake sessions and recently supported a musical evening to contribute to the costs related to a young man attending stage school in London to further his dream or a career in entertainment. The club have received quotes from two local trades people and our chosen provider has offered favourable quotes because he feels we are a worthwhile organisation. This element is the last phase of the current work which will allow the hall and club to be fully sustainable.

Total Project Costs: £ 1,910

Grant requested from LJC: £ 1,300

6.9 West Felton Pre School

6.9.1. The aim of the project is to fully enhance the pre school outdoor area. At the moment the layout and resources do not fully meet the needs of the children. The outside sheds and fencing need to be relocated to provide more space for

the children to move around and to provide more space. The children need to have access to six areas of learning, which will enhance their learning and provide them with more opportunities to explore and investigate. The pre-school want to provide children with opportunities to explore in the outdoors, learning and becoming a familiar with the wildlife around them, growing their own fruit and vegetables, learning how to adopt a healthy lifestyle, digging in the dirt and splashing in muddy puddles. The Pre School Committee has produced a development plan which prioritises four main targets for the year. Revamping the outside area is the main priority as this is seen as the key area for children to learn. The majority of Early Years learning is through play and the pre-school want to be able to provide the resources and areas for this to take place. Every child will benefit from this project and many more children to follow. The pre-school want to provide children with the outside learning element which is unfortunately missing from so many children's lives in today's society. The children to not have the freedom to roam and learn about nature and we want to ensure they have this opportunity. The pre-school do have an outside area, however it is very tired and in need of new and vibrant resources. The pre-school is a registered charity and are constantly fundraising to support this project.

Total Project Costs: £670

Grant requested from LJC: £ 670

6.10 Shropshire Playbus

6.10.1 The Shropshire Playbus wish to bring the fully equipped playbus with two qualified professional play workers to each of the Five Perry Parishes during the February (2012) half term period. The exact days will need to be arranged with local people to ensure that visit/s does/do not clash with another event or, better still the visit could be tied into a community event. The purpose of the visits will be a fun filled day of creative play for families and children up to twelve years. It would also provide an opportunity for parents and children to talk about what would make the village an even better place for families, a chance for health, police, fire and rescue professionals including community working to engage with local people in an informal way if they wished to be present. The play bus is a child friendly mobile facility which provides a fun and relaxed environment for work with children. The playbus provides direct play services to children, particularly to those in rural areas with little or no access to other organised activities. The Shropshire Playbus has visited each of the five communities in the past and has always been warmly received. The most common question is always when are you coming back? In times when income is short this can sometimes be hard to answer. Children and families in rural areas often do not have access to organised holiday play activities in the way their counterparts in towns do. This is not to denigrate their ability to make good play for themselves but sometimes fresh input such as that provided by the playbus visit can stimulate new ideas. The bus is fully equipped with toilets and access would be free of charge.

Total Project Costs: £1,750

Grant requested from LJC: £1,500

6.11. Walford & North Shropshire Cluster Application

6.11.1 Following the recent contracting round by Ufl Ltd, Walford and North Shropshire College is set to lose its core funding contract for its Learndirect facility at Qube, Oswestry from September 2011. The College and the community are keen to secure a future for the facility, as is Oswestry Community Action who rent the Learndirect facility to the College. One of the key roles of the Learndirect facility at Qube is to provide local, flexible training to adults looking to retrain in order to seek employment (currently the focus has been on basic literacy, numeracy and IT skills). The College is exploring scope to work with Learndirect to establish the Qube facility as a rural pilot focussed on providing training for the unemployed including pre-apprenticeship training. During this pilot the College will seek to use Learndirect and other training materials to refocus training at Qube on employability skills. The College is seeking to secure one-off funding from a range of sources for the remainder of the 2011/12 academic year during the transition from the core Learndirect contract. During this period the College also seeks to support the 30-40 existing learners who will not complete their existing Learndirect course by September 2011. By the end of the pilot year, the College is hoping either to secure a new contract with Learndirect or to have identified alternative funding streams to continue to offer training from Qube. Approx 70% of students live in town and the remaining 30% are pretty evenly distributed amongst the villages that make up St Oswald and Llanymynech, Gobowen, St Martins and Weston Rhyn and The Five Perry Parishes LJCs. It is for this reason that the application is submitted as a cluster application with support sought from all LJC's within the area.

Total Project Costs: £59,000

Grant requested from LJC: £ 1,000

6.12 Oswestry Dial a Ride Cluster Application

6.12.1 Oswestry Community Action runs 6 minibuses on a community transport scheme and 6 community cars. A well established Dial-a-Ride service covering Oswestry, Gobowen, St Martins, Weston Rhyn and Ellesmere, plus the surrounding rural areas. In addition they 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 the group covered 100,000km this year, this is an estimated increase of 10,000km on last year's mileage. A lot more people now have a need for the service and as a result the Dial-a-Ride membership and journeys have increased. The group are taking more people to Day Care Centres in Oswestry and Ellesmere and the demand for trips from local community groups and nursing homes has increased month on month. In order to expand and provide a service for more people the group would like to install a new software package for Dial-a Ride. The current system is very limited and is not web based so cannot provide us with an accurate routing system. This can lead to journeys being longer than necessary and more expensive. The demand is there for more journeys but our current computer system cannot handle the routing requirements needed. The group therefore need to upgrade to new software to allow the group to increase capacity and service. Shropshire Community Transport Consortium is backing

the software package. Shrewsbury Dial-a Ride has already received funding for the package from their local LJC's and the new system is up and running. The benefits of having the same system across the county will also allow the transfer of work if crossing boundaries and a more flexible service for the client. The applications is a cluster application with currently 45% of work in the Oswestry area, with the remaining 55% being made up of the 3 remaining LJC areas including St Oswald and Llanymynech. It is with this in mind that the application is submitted as a cluster application and funding sought from each area.

Total Project Costs: £11,260

Grant requested from LJC: £585.75

6.13 Arts for Health

6.13.1A letter received from NHS with regard to Arts for Health and the new build of Shelton Hospital. Support for the aims of the arts strategy and for the enhancement of the new building that will provide modern mental health services to a range of people within Shropshire and Telford for many years to come. A small amount of financial support from LJC will help lever further funding to provide a key facility. The aim of the project is to create a therapeutic environment that aids recovery and creates a sense of well being for service users, staff and visitors. Creative use of colour and art is integral to the delivery of that aim. There is an amount of funding that will be made available through the new build project but there is a need to secure external streams of funding for the development of creative and research projects that will provide artwork for the new spaces. The enhancement of the building will provide modern mental health services to a range of people within Shropshire and Telford for many years to come.

Total Project Costs: £ N/A

Grant Requested from the LJC: £ Contribution

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 The applications recommended were considered to be 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.

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 2011-07-04

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

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

LJC Application forms for the projects listed.

Report on Delegated funding to ODSA 9th November 2011

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Gwilym Butler

Local Members

Councillors Stephen Charmley and Aggie Caesar-Homden

Appendices

None