

**2012/13 FINANCE REPORT, DELEGATED 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 Five Perry Parishes Local Joint Committee (LJC) for the period 1 April 2012 up until 31 March 2013.
- 1.2 A total of £19,030 has been devolved to the committee to fund projects in the local community served by the LJC for 2012/13.
- 1.3 Prior to each LJC, a planning meeting takes place to discuss applications for funding and agree recommendations.
- 1.4 Nine applications have been received for this reporting period. These were considered at the planning meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2012. The recommendations from the planning meeting feature in this report, and are put forward to the LJC committee for agreement.

**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 under delegated authority.
- 2.2 That the LJC allocates any underspend in its 2012/13 budget towards the agreed priorities.
- 2.3 That the LJC delegates any art-specific funding it receives as part of its 2012/2013 budget to Oswestry & District Arts Association, to enable it to continue to run its arts grants programme in the Oswestry area.
- 2.4 That the LJC delegates 5% of its 2012/2013 budget to Oswestry & District Sports Council to enable it to continue to run its sports grants programme in the Oswestry area.

- 2.5 That the LJC adopts a mechanism for approving applications between LJC meetings by using the Community Action Manager'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.
- 2.6 Applications for funding were considered at the planning meeting 14<sup>th</sup> of June and recommendations totalling £ 9,241.60 are now put forward to the Five Perry Parishes LJC for agreement. The recommendations are as follows:

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| D1                 | Whittington Castle Preservation Trust            | £1000             |
| D2                 | Baschurch Parish Council                         | £494              |
| D3                 | Baschurch Junior Bowling Club                    | £480              |
| D4                 | Ruyton Amateur Theatrical Society (RATS)         | £885              |
| D5                 | Hordley and Bagley Village Hall (ring-fence)     | £642.60           |
| D6                 | Baschurch Playground Trust                       | £4000             |
| D8                 | West Felton Carnival Committee                   | £2000             |
| D9                 | Whittington International Chamber Music Festival | Not<br>Approved   |
| D10                | Weston Lullingfields P.C.C                       | Not<br>Approved   |
| D11                | Baschurch Bowling Club                           | Not<br>Approved   |
| D12                | Delegation of arts funding to ODAA               | £1,040            |
| D13                | Delegation of funding to ODSA                    | £700              |
| <b>TOTAL SPEND</b> |  | <b>£11,241.60</b> |

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|  | 2012/13 budget  | £ 14,000         |
|  | 2011/12 budget carried  | £ 3,992          |
|  | Delegation of arts funding to Oswestry & District Arts Association                    | £1,040           |
|  | Delegation of funding to Oswestry & District Sports Association- 5% of 2012/13 budget | £700             |
|  | Total of recommendations 12/7/2012  | £ 11,241.60      |
|  | <b>Balance remaining</b>  | <b>£7,788.40</b> |

## 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 Five Perry Parishes wards have membership from Shropshire Council (2 members) and parish councils (6 members) all with equal voting rights.
- 5.3 The Five Perry Parishes LJC is 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 been supplemented by the transfer of funding previously available for community arts projects in to the LJC budgets, and some under spend carried forward. This is the final year that any carry forward of under spend will be permitted.
- 5.4 Following full council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 Five Perry Parishes LJC is calculated as follows:

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| 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                    | £3,992          |
| <b>TOTAL budget for 2012/13</b>                      | <b>£ 19,030</b> |

- 5.6 The value of recommended projects put forward in this current round total £11,241.60 leaving a remaining carry forward balance of £7,788.40

## **6. Additional Information**

- 6.1 A summary of applications received has been compiled and included below.
- 6.2 Whittington Castle Preservation Trust
- 6.2.1 Whittington Castle is a 16th Century Monument, sitting at the centre of a small village, currently run by volunteers as a community project, providing a visitor attraction for the village and wider population. The main source of revenue is

from events that are held within the castle and its grounds and it is important that we attempt to cater for the needs of all visitors without prejudice. At its inception some years ago, the Trust did attract sponsorship that was used to repair and renovate the Castle into the condition that it stands now. With continuing use, various areas of improvement have become evident with this proposal being the first of many. As a charitable organisation, many of the daily activities are carried out by volunteers such as tea room service and grounds maintenance which help the efficient operation of the castle but without incurring major costs. The project would if successfully completed add to the volunteer efforts. **Total project cost at £1975 plus VAT, with no additional match funding secured. Request at £1975 plus VAT.**

- 6.2.2 Need and Demand – Currently, the upper level adjacent to the tea rooms and the lower level; at the rear of the castle moat is accessed by path created through continual use and despite a barked surface being laid by the Derwen College for the disabled, it is obvious that a more formal arrangement is required to ensure the safety of all users. The proposal is for a ramped pathway, with a gradient and tactile surface that will suit old, young, able, disabled enabling safe passage without, risk of fall or injury in all weather conditions. At the present time, the castle has 20,000 visitors covering a geographic area covers, Hereford, West Midlands, Cheshire and North Wales with special organised trips by junior schools and colleges.

### 6.3 Baschurch Parish Council

- 6.3.1 Equipment needed to facilitate and show On-Line Planning Applications to the General Public and Councillors at all Parish Council Meetings. The Parish Council look at each planning application both at their planning sub committee meetings and monthly council meetings. They need to project the images of the planning application for councillors and the public. Up until the 31st of March 2012 Shropshire Council provided paper copies to parish clerks but due the cuts have ceased to do this. In order to facilitate these meetings in the future and to make the process more sustainable the council would like to purchase the appropriate equipment to do this. **Total project costs £988 with match funding secured at £ 494, request from LJC £ 494.**

- 6.3.2 Need and demand – The PC have now no option but to obtain this equipment as Shropshire Council will no longer send plans by post. The whole Parish of Baschurch and Weston Lullingfields will benefit from the project as without it the Parish Council cannot comment on any Planning Applications. Baschurch Parish Council receives a large volume of applications and has a need for this application and is in the top 23 councils in terms of volume received.

### 6.4 Baschurch Bowling Club

- 6.4.1 The purpose of the project is to stimulate the senior club and bring a younger element in to secure the future of the club and hopefully represent the club in competitions within Shropshire. The Club have a group of very keen youngsters and they want to sustain and encourage their interest in bowling as a sport and as a way of keeping healthy for their future years. The club currently do not have the appropriate equipment for this new youth team and therefore approach the Local Joint Committee to support them in enabling this group to get off the ground – in affect seeding a group for future generations. The Club currently have 12 junior bowlers enrolled who are eager to learn and

have attended weekly coaching sessions without fail. They have shown such enthusiasm to practice and improve their skills and turn out in all weathers. The current active membership is aged from 8 years upwards. The club also have a waiting list of 10 who are similarly aged and are very keen to get an opportunity to bowl. The children are from very diverse backgrounds. **Total project costs at £1,886 with £110 match funded secured. LJC request at £ 1,886.**

- 6.4.2 Need and demand – The funding that the club are asking for is primarily to support the 12 young people that are currently playing to continue their training throughout the summer holiday & beyond. The club have utilised the senior club facilities & equipment to date, but is not financially able to support a junior club & the limited equipment that has been used is not appropriate children. By utilising the existing facilities, it has shown that the project could be very successful if it could stand on its own with suitable funding. The club have volunteers who have offered their help to enable the membership to grow to 18 if funding is available. This would give the majority on the waiting list the opportunity to take part as well. The majority of funding that has been requested will go towards providing the essential equipment needed, including bowls specifically for young people. The club have been using small jacks as adult bowls are far too heavy for the children. The jacks are too small, unsuitable for competition & are in very poor condition. The funding will also go towards providing club caps & sweatshirts. Club kit is essential for the young people when they are taking part in competitions. The team kit gives them a group identity & helps with their motivation & confidence. The club's ambition is to make this facility available to all young people, to let them come and at least have a try. The club know that cost effective provision of leisure opportunities is not widely available in Baschurch & hope that they can help encourage more young people to take part in a healthy past time & maybe help them avoid the temptation of more mischievous activities.

## 6.5 Ruyton Amateur Theatrical Society

- 6.5.1 RATS are in desperate need of new, dry storage facilities for costumes and small props. Following negotiation with the Village Hall Committee, approval has been given to convert downstairs space into a storage area for that purpose and for the enhancement of a changing area during productions. One outside wall of a room will be dry lined prior to installing wardrobe and shelving space. Existing heaters will be relocated and new wiring will be fitted in order to accommodate new wall lighting, with mirrors also being installed. **Total project costs at £1040 with £150 match secured. LJC request at £885.**

- 6.5.2 Need and demand – RATS has been in existence for over 25 years and is a strong society with a good following in Ruyton and surrounding areas. The existing storage facility for our costumes and small props is in a barn and exposed to more or less constant damp and vermin. As a result, the standard and quality of our costumes is not good, but under the circumstances, rarely seems worth trying to improve. Comments have got back to the Society about the obvious 'make do and mend' feel to costumes in productions and we are concerned that as a community group regarded quite well in the area, our good reputation will be adversely affected and will impact on future audience numbers and prospective recruitment. Whilst the Society prides itself on staging productions of high quality, we are very aware that the standard of our

costumes is a weakness and a reflection on the overall final result. It is also a dispiriting experience for members to be dressed up in tatty clothes that have a permanent musty smell and not a good advert for the Society at all in terms of attracting new members. By taking the opportunity to create new, dry, secure storage, RATS will feel more able to develop a better collection of costumes, with a greater shelf life, stage productions with a more polished feel, thus giving audiences a more quality experience show a more professional outlook to prospective new members.

#### 6.6 Hordley Village Hall (further ring-fence for completion of project)

6.6.1 As the ongoing refurbishment plan progress the hall need to replace the curtains in the hall. The curtains that they hall have at present have been fitted since 1989 and are made of fibreglass fabric. This is not a fabric that is sold anymore. The hall has wall mounted electric fires and some curtains have scorch marks on them where they have come into contact with the heaters. With this in mind the hall have decided to have roman blinds fitted within the window recess. There are eight windows where roman blinds are to be fitted. The hall has two sets of double doors where were they will have full length curtains fitted. The hall also had new windows and doors fitted two years ago and new window dressings will enhance the look of the hall. This is part of a general refurb of the outside and inside of Hordley Village Hall Project. This will be the remaining item needed to restore the hall into a better standard for future use. **Total project costs £1,216, request for £642 and match funding of £572.92 in place.**

6.6.2 Need and demand – The old curtains spoil the look of the hall at the present time. The project would help the hall to move forward with the total refurbishment of the hall inside and outside. The hall is looking forward to re-launching our village hall with a marketing campaign when the refurbishment is complete.

#### 6.7 Baschurch Playground Trust

6.7.1 The project aims to provide playground facilities for the use of children and young persons in the Baschurch area of Shropshire. This consists of two acres of land within Baschurch village part grassed for small football pitch and part as a barked play area containing four swings, one slide and two climbing frames. The equipment is now old, becoming unsafe and needs replacing. Feedback received from the community and from recent inspections support this need. Playground area equipment needs replacing due to age and needs to be brought up-to-date to incorporate equipment for children with disabilities. Baschurch is a large village with approx 3,000 residents and the need for such a play area is evidenced by the use that it has had in the past. There are no other similar facilities within the village. Residents at present have to travel to other villages to use such facilities. **Total project costs at £40,000, request at £7,500 with £2,000 funding secured from co-operative community grant, £2500 from Queen Elizabeth Field Status, SITA funding confirmed at £25,000 and £3000 fund raising to take place.**

6.7.2 Need and Demand-Playground area equipment needs replacing due to age and is therefore becoming costly to keep the facilities up to the Health and Safety standard. ROSPA carry out an inspection yearly in June and increasingly the Trust has to spend money in maintaining the existing play equipment. Community feedback has stated that a new playground is required

so residents would not have to travel out of the village. It is already mentioned in the Site allocations in the SAM DEV documents and relevant place plans. The play area does get used by less able children in the village but they are held back by the lack of equipment available to them. The Playground will be equipped with disabled rides which will open up and enhance facilities for these children who are present are not able to fully enjoy the site. The parish plan identifies that public play areas are being used by 178 families, with 43 of them claiming to use them frequently. Parishioners that indicated that quality of life in the village had deteriorated mention facilities for young people as a factor in that Baschurch has 495 children aged 0-15 according to 2007 population statistics with the potential for this to grow.

## 6.8 West Felton Carnival Committee

6.8.1 The present committee have successfully run an annual village carnival for over 20 years. From small beginnings, it is now a sizeable event. Every year the carnival gives some of the profits to other village organisations and has also regularly planted bulbs to enhance public areas and the roadside verges. In the last three years the carnival has given over £1,500 back to West Felton Community Groups from funding raised at the carnival. The carnival has also invested a proportion of the profits into acquiring equipment to improve the following year's carnival. Over the years the committee have accumulated a lot of equipment which is at present stored at various sites throughout the village and beyond. Much of this storage is not ideal being damp and prone to mice! The aim of the committee is to store everything in one place in appropriate conditions. Equipment includes 6 marquees, 1 large tent, 1 small tent, bunting, 1 large BBQ, 6 gazebos, staging, cables, plastic barrels/bins and a large advertising board. The hope was for all of this equipment to be available for use by other community groups. Unfortunately at present the marquees are stored in good conditions but we are not allowed interim access. The committee have now been offered a suitable site for storage on a local farm and would like to purchase a container to store everything together in appropriate conditions. This will need to be fitted with suitable robust storage within allowing for easy access and return to suitable labelled place, for others to then use and return too. **Total project costs at £3,564.60 with ££1,564.60 in match funding. LJC request at £2,000.**

6.8.2 Need and demand - Storage in a container will ensure that equipment doesn't deteriorate due to damp and vermin. Storage that belongs to the committee will enable other local organisations to access the equipment throughout the year, benefiting most people in the village. Local storage in one place will make it very much easier on carnival day by reducing the sites that equipment needs to be collected from and returned to. As far as the committee are aware no other organisation possesses similar equipment so to be able to make ours more widely available would be excellent for the whole community.

## 6.9 Whittington International Chamber Music Festival

6.9.1 After the successful 'taster' Chamber Music concert in Whittington church in March 2012 which attracted an audience of nearly 90, a local working group is now firming up arrangements for the 1st Whittington International Chamber Music Festival to run from May 1st-9th 2013. It will feature the Leondari Ensemble, an assembly of ten top-end professional musicians in their 20s and 30s from nine countries. They will offer nine concerts, and will also visit local schools, and seek to introduce their style of music in informal open-air music-

making. In its first year, the Festival is aligning itself with two established classical music enterprises in order to develop its own audience. The Festival will be based, managed and resourced in Whittington, but some concerts will take place at St Chad's Shrewsbury and another at Oswestry's Peter Humphreys Centre in a strategic attempt to attract new interest in Whittington – and not just to its Music Festival. The Festival has the potential to generate enormous interest in our area. The Leondari Ensemble has the benefit of London-based PR& we for our part will be producing quality publicity material with the backup of Shropshire Tourism. **Total project costs £22,000 and match funding to be secured from ticket sales at £4000, sponsorship and advertising £1000, Oswestry and Shrewsbury buy in £3,500 (tbc), ODAA £500, Mary Hignett £7000 and request to LJC at £5000**

- 6.9.2 Need and Demand-In order to assess the 'need' for a classical music Festival in Whittington, a one-off concert was promoted in March 2012 expressly as a piece of market research. Nobody who was there would question the success of the event, nor the delight among those for whom the experience of live chamber music was quite new. There is already a considerable sense of anticipation for next year's Festival as word gets out, not least in the school. The ensemble will visit the school and will hopefully help the children prepare their own mini-concert. Members of the ensemble will also take part in a family service in Whittington church, the venue for many of their performances. The church's volunteer teams promise to be an indispensable part of the Festival's logistics. The building itself is an underused resource which this event, and what may follow it, will help to open up. It has good access for those with mobility issues, has a toilet and small kitchen area with plenty of space for refreshment serving, it is warm and relatively comfortable, and parking is easily arranged with the castle. The opportunities presented to the local community by the visit of a group of musicians are self-evident. There is scope for ancillary events at the castle and in other local venues; there is the need for accommodation and eating out; there is the possibility for adhoc marketing outlets and Whittington's own self-promotion.

#### 6.10 Holy Trinity Church Weston Lullingfields

- 6.10.1 It is believed that the church clock was purchased by the local community to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. The striking of the hammer to the church bell is unserviceable; it has either been dislodged or broken which prevents the hour striking part of the clock to function. It is hoped that the fault can be repaired in time to commemorate the present Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June 2012. The group have contacted Smiths of Derby, the church clock specialist, who has been responsible for the servicing of the lock for several years. They have advised that access, to examine the hammer and determine an accurate diagnosis, can only be achieved by the erection of scaffolding to the belfry. They have provided a quote of £1526.40 for the cost of the scaffolding and removal of the louvre panels to gain access to the clock hammer and bell. The costs for the actual repair to the striking hammer are not known, but it is the intention costs will be paid from church funds, following planned fund raising events. **Project costs £1,778.40, request at £1526.40 with £252 in match secured.**

- 6.10.2 Need and demand - The church clock is an asset to the village at Weston Lullingfields. The local Parish Council consider it to be a 'village clock' and, consequently, have funded the annual servicing costs for several years. The clock and bell is an essential element of the village and used by all villagers

and passing traffic as a reliable time piece. Each year at 11am on the 11th of November, the children from Weston Lullingfields Primary School assemble at the Village War Memorial and pay their respects with a 2 minute silence, taking their cue from the church bell. Unfortunately, for the first time, the bell remained silent in November 2011. The group would like to continue to use the parish clock in this way but will be unable too without its restoration.

#### 6.11 Baschurch Bowling Club

6.11.1 The project application is made in order to replace the existing greenside floodlights which have been in place for approximately thirty years. The floodlights are used for about two thirds of the league bowling season which runs from early April until late September. Matches are normally played in the evenings starting 1900 and can last up to 3 hours so floodlighting is essential. The existing lights are not now up to standard of more modern lighting and the club have received professional advice that the existing tubular metal poles which support the lights are subject to internal corrosion and due to their age could collapse. In addition the wiring in the poles and lights replacing due to its age causing the lights to fail on a regular basis. **Total project costs at £3,500 with £1000 match funding and LJC request at £2,500.**

6.11.2 Need and Demand-The floodlighting is essential to a bowling club which is a member of a league as most matches take place in the evening. There is a growing need to replace the existing lights as they are in danger of becoming unsafe and require constant maintenance to ensure that they work. The club have members who work in a professional capacity in the construction and electrical industries and they have advised them of the need to replace the floodlights. Since two thirds of the Club's membership of around 70, take part in league bowling then the majority of the membership will benefit from replacement of the floodlights. The club have discussed this project at recent meetings and members have agreed this project is essential to the club's ongoing sustainability and for future tournaments held at the club. If the club do not have access to this lighting it would impact on external teams visiting the club to use the site .The club would also not want to risk the health and safety of members and competitors.

### 7. **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: Activities for young people and older people, transport and accessibility, 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 8<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at Oswestry Rugby Club based at Park Hall, Whittington. Application closing date will be 28<sup>th</sup> September 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:

Corrie Davies  
Community Action Officer  
Northern Area Community Action Team  
Shropshire Council  
Castle View  
Oswestry  
SY11 1JR  
Phone: 01691 677306  
Mobile: 07582002026  
[corrie.davies@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:corrie.davies@shropshire.gov.uk)

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| <b>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</b> |
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| Draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2011/12-2012/14, Appendix 5. Report to Cabinet 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2011 |
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| Locality Working Local joint Committees. Report to Cabinet 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2010 |
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| Amendment to LJC Constitution. Report to Council 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2011 |
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| LJC Applications forms for projects listed |
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| <b>Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)</b> |
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| Councillor Gwilym Butler - Flourishing Shropshire Communities |
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| <b>Local Member</b> |
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| Councillors Stephen Charmley and Councillor Aggie Caesar-Homden |
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| <b>Appendices</b> |
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