

2013/14 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 2013 up until 31 March 2014.
- 1.2 A total of £19,118 has been devolved to the committee to fund projects in the local community served by the LJC for 2013/14. This is made up of an annual budget of £14,000, arts funding at £1,040 and budget carried from 2012/13 at £4,078 ring-fenced for agreed priorities around youth provision.
- 1.3 Prior to each LJC, a planning meeting takes place to discuss applications for funding and agree recommendations.
- 1.4 Five applications and one delegated application have been received for this reporting period. These were considered at the planning meeting held on 19th of June 2013. 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 and under delegated authority.
- 2.2 That the LJC delegates any art specific funding it receives as part of its 2013/2014 budget to Oswestry and District Arts Association, to enable it to continue to run its arts grants programme in the Oswestry area.
- 2.3 That the LJC delegates 5% of its 2013/2014 budget to Oswestry and District Sports Council to enable it to continue to run its sports grants programme in the Oswestry area.

- 2.4 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.
- 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 19th of June and recommendations totalling £9,130 are now put forward to the Five Perry Parishes LJC for agreement on the evening. This includes one application that has been approved under delegated authority due to urgent timescales of the project. The recommendations are as follows:

7.27	Whittington Cricket Club (<i>already delegated and approved due to urgent timescales</i>)	£2,250
7.28	Ruyton -Xi- Towns Village Hall	£1,680
7.29	West Felton Parish Plan Youth Engagement	£500
7.30	Oswestry Rugby Club	£2000
7.31	Whittington Senior Citizens	£900
7.32	Boreatton Scouts	£ 400
7.33	ODAA	£700
7.34	Oswestry Sports Council	£700

TOTAL

£ 9,130

	2013/14 budget	£ 14,000
	2012/13 budget carried (ring-fenced & agreed at March meeting)	£ 4,078
	Delegation of proportion of arts funding to Oswestry & District Arts Association	£700
	Delegation of funding to Oswestry & District Sports Association- 5% of 2012/13 budget	£700
	Total of recommendations round one	£9,130
	Current balance remaining (<i>including 2012/13 ring-fence of £4078 and £340 arts funding remaining</i>)	£9,988

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 (5 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 and must be ring-fenced for local priorities.
- 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 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	£4,078
TOTAL budget for 2012/13	£ 19,118

- 5.6 The value of recommended projects put forward in this current round total £9,130 to be confirmed at the committee meeting on the 9th of July. The remaining balance in 2012/13 was agreed at the March 21st 2013 meeting and agreed as ring-fenced for youth related projects Whittington Skatepark and Baschurch Skatepark. A further ring-fence for Baschurch Heartbeat of £1050 recommended based on further feedback on Phase 1 to the committee when complete.

6. Additional Information

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

6.2 Ruyton Xi Towns Village Hall –Roof Repairs and Wall Damp Proofing (re-submission)

- 6.2.1 The purpose of the project is to improve the comfort of Ruyton Xi Towns Village Hall. It is a very old building and the East wall is very cold, resulting in condensation – a result of the wall being without a cavity as would be the case with a more modern building. This causes the wall to be very cold inside and also causes the interior plaster to fall off. The scope of work for this wall repair is to remove the interior plaster before installing insulated dry-lining. In addition, a damp-proof paint will be applied to the interior of the wall towards the bottom to improve its resistance to rising or penetrating damp – another risk with a solid wall. This work will substantially improve the insulation on this exposed wall, improving comfort in the Hall and also reducing our energy consumption. It should be noted that this is a second attempt at winning a grant for this work. The previous application was complicated by the addition of work to replace some roof slates, of which the village hall committee have already completed this work from their own funds. Existing problem has been identified as penetrative damp as opposed to rising damp or from the roof that needed repairing.

Total project costs £1980 (£ 1,680 damp proof East Wall, £300 Re-decorate interior) £300 match secured in volunteer time. LJC request at £1,680.

- 6.2.2 Need and demand – The Village Hall is quite well used, with activities taking place on three evenings per week plus one afternoon and one morning. In addition, there are less regular activities such as the Annual Quiz, the Annual Flower and Vegetable Show etc. It is also the “home” of our Amateur Dramatic Society, RATS. RATS normally present two shows per year, the Panto in December and the Spring Show in May or June. Consultation that has been conducted locally confirms a demand for a Village Hall. There was overwhelming support for a Hall from the very extensive survey conducted in 2008 to form the basis of our Parish Plan, and this need has been confirmed by every consultation conducted since then, including the World Café, supplementary questionnaires and the very recent Place Plan event of 29th January 2013. The Charity has a responsibility to maintain the old building until a new Hall can be obtained by some means. The village hall committee have carried out repairs to the front of the roof and the West Gable and the drainage system and guttering over the last few years, and have fitted new double-glazed windows with the aid of a grant from Awards for All about 4

years ago. During 2012 the group utilised considerable help from the Prison Service at Small Heath, who provided nearly 80 man-days of prisoner labour to allow them to redecorate the Hall inside and out. And as described above, they have also completed repairs to the roof.

This project will complement the substantial on-going programme of work required to maintain such an old building. The group feel it is vital to maintain the integrity of the structure, not only to keep the building habitable by their users, but also to preserve the value of the building to maximise its value when the opportunity is found to build a new Hall, allowing this one to be sold for development. The group have raised substantial funds to support such tasks, via such events as the Annual Santa Sleigh Run, the Century Club, the Annual Village Quiz etc as well as income from Hall Hire to the various user groups. However, these further repairs are beyond the scope of our current revenue stream. It should be noted that this work will make the Hall easier to keep warm and hence there is a considerable environmental impact in reducing the fuel consumption of the building.

6.3 West Felton Parish Plan Steering Group

- 6.3.1 The purpose of the project within the Parish Plan is to recognise that young people of teenage years are generally hard to engage with, as a distinct community within the Parish. There is a primary school within the Parish but no secondary school. Secondary school children may use the Corbet School, Marches School, Oswestry School or Shrewsbury School. 16 -18 year students use North Shropshire and Walford College or Shrewsbury school largely. West Felton is engaged in a Parish Plan process and is keen to engage with young people to find out their aspirations, likes and dislikes about the Parish and to see if they, or the wider area Parishes can do things to help them achieve what they want to. The 10-17 years old age group number 159, 11% of the Parish Population currently.

The have taken advice from Gill Porter at the Rural Communities Council and are working with Corrie Davies of Shropshire Council's Community Action Team and been keeping the local Shropshire Councillor Steve Charmley fully aware of our progress. The group have had three Steering Group meetings so far after an initial Parish Meeting for the wider public and from which volunteers for the Steering Group came forward. A Project Plan has been put together and several working groups are being established with at least one champion from the Steering Group. Amongst the working groups is one specifically identified to work with children and young people to aid their engagement in the plan. There will be a separation of primary school children engagement from that for older young people, as their needs are recognised as different and the means of finding out their needs will also need to be different. The Parish Plan Group has so far been aided by a kick-start grant and has also received a CLP £1500 to assist with the whole Plan. However, we believe that there will be a need to use in the region £500 to fund an activity day for young people, to provide an incentive for them, which will allow us to interview them about their Parish issues whilst they are thus engaged. Cost estimates are included below for a variety of activity incentives. **Total project costs £605 (hire of hall for four hours £30.00, Refreshments £25, Hire of rodeo bull £300.000, hire of target range £200, Publicity material £50.00) LJC Request £500 and Parish Council Parish Plan Funding £105.**

- 6.3.2 Need and demand- Our discussions with Rural Communities Council and Shropshire Council's Community Action Team suggest that there is a recognised need to engage with teenagers generally, particularly to identify their separate needs within their home/local environment. We have spoken to one or two local youth activity organisers and North Shropshire & Walford College and have had some ideas about how this can be done, in relation to the type of activities that will draw young people in. Specifically the idea is to use a forthcoming Parish Carnival, which is always well attended by young people to promote a future event in our village hall designed for their enjoyment - using one or more local entertainment activity providers. Once at the activity Parish Plan volunteers will interview as many of the young people as possible to identify how they feel about the Parish and what could be done either within the Parish or linked to nearby Parishes to improve their quality of life and acceptance of their home environment as a beneficial one for them. An alternative, again using draw of the Carnival is, on completion of a youth questionnaire, to offer them individual activity vouchers for youth activities within West Felton Parish, e.g. Paddle Club (Queenshead), Karting, Paint Balling, Skate-Boarding (all at Rednal), Karate etc (Village Hall) – all on a sale or return basis. Other potentially identified include the following:
A 'Wolf Mountain' 4-sided Rock Climbing tower - £450
Lichfield Inflatables charge – Rodeo Bull 4 Hours £300 and Shooting Range 4 hours - £300 = £600
Skateboard Ramp 4 hours - £550
Isaiah Fox - Rodeo Bull 4 hours £300 and 'Splat' Shooting Range £200
= £500
Activity Vouchers – 159 young people @ £3 per voucher
= £477

The Parish Plan project is to find the full needs of the local community and it is believed that without specific targeting we may miss the valuable and hard to get opinions of our young people. There are a number of other specialist projects being undertaken for differing groups within the larger Parish community. Most others we believe can be incorporated within the Shropshire Council Parish Plan grant funding already applied for. We recognise also that local businesses, if targeted in a detailed and quality way may also need additional funding by some means and that may be the focus of a separate grant funding application and is something we will hope to take further advice on. It is recognised however that the group need to get a move on with the young people so that we can engage as best as possible this summer, whilst they are on holiday and also use the forthcoming (14th July) carnival to assist in the promotion of the event to be planned. It is the clear need for an added incentive to engage the young people that additional funds are sought.

6.4 Oswestry Rugby Club

- 6.4.1 Oswestry Rugby Club is a growing sports organisation which also has a growing reputation as a function venue. The club have 3 senior teams as well as approximately 300 junior members that play every week during the season. Figures gathered from their registration forms show that they have a total of 71 registered junior players from across the Five Perry Parish area.

The club has recently been invited to apply to the RFU for funding to drain the main pitch at the club- this will allow the club to reduce the amount of cancelled games due to water logged pitches.

Part of the conditions of this grant is improvement of the training/reserve pitch to keep the pitch in playable condition. This work will involve sand application, regular aeration, seed and fertiliser application. The club is already working in partnership with the RFU and local business to bring about these changes.

The club has completed a deal with a local supplier to have a mini tractor kept at the club permanent demonstrator vehicle along with a spiker machine, this will allow for continued work to be carried out during the year to keep the pitches in good condition, the local business then has the opportunity to give full working demonstrations on site. The club is looking for funding for sand, seed and fertilizer application to the pitch to assist the drainage and growth and towards a specific piece of grounds maintenance equipment called a quadraplay, this tool rakes, scratches and rolls the pitch, this all feeds into a work programme put forward following a visit from the RFU Head Groundsman Keith Kent on April 23rd (report available).

To fund this work the club is applying to the RFU funding stream called Groundsmatch which requires match funding, the total project costs are £9400, half of which is available from RFU grant funding. **Total project costs at: £9400.00 (Sisis Quadraplay £3800 ,Fertilizer £400, 150 T of Silica Sand £4700 and Grass Seed £500) Match funding £2,400 confirmed from club funds, £5000 RFU groundsmatch applied for and LJC request at £2000.**

- 6.4.2 Need and demand- This project is part of a major pitch improvement plan. The plan will rejuvenate the pitches and reduce the amount of game time lost due to water logged pitches. Last season the club lost 6 weeks of the season due to these circumstances. As previously referenced the club has over 300 junior members and recruitment is on-going, with such a gap in the middle of each season, it means that the club is losing continuity of training and as a result is also losing players. By having pitch equipment on site the club permanently and a maintenance plan in place, it will allow the club to maintain a constant level of pitch quality, which in turn will allow the club to attract more young people into the sport and leaving no excuse for young people who say there is nothing to do locally. The club is run on a voluntary basis for the love of the sport, by having a long term plan for structured investment in both pitch improvement and Club Facilities, the club has a clear plan on how to achieve its ambitions to grow into a truly community club.

Oswestry Rugby club has a really strong community thread running at its core, the club looks to involve and engage with the community in as many ways as possible, through sponsorship (not always financial) with local ethical business, the club looks to promote its partner organisations on every occasion, this builds up the clubs profile in Oswestry and the surrounding communities, but at its core it is still a Rugby Club and it needs players to play the game. By investing in its pitches, the club is putting the foundations in place for this to happen. There is much added value to the work of the club including the following projects:

- The club works alongside local Primary Schools to deliver coaching and an Annual competition, which last year included 18 local schools including Whittington and Ruyton, but is open to all Primary Schools in the area.
- The club is also working in all local Secondary Schools to deliver extra-curricular rugby coaching; this delivery is feeding our junior section with

players. It has also resulted in the formation of a girls section with 20 girls training every Friday evening.

- The club is also engaging with WNSC to establish an Academy programme which will run alongside the TNS version at the college, giving an alternative sporting outlet for non-footballing students.

The club pitches are literally in use almost every day- add into this mix the caravan rallies and other non- rugby events, the grass at the club needs to be looked after. The club recently held its large Festival which attracted teams from as far as Redruth in Cornwall to Darlington and everywhere in between, matches were played all weekend, with teams staying all around the Oswestry area. The secondary spend from such an event is a big input into our local economy, this year the pitches just about coped, pictures are attached. The pitch improvement work is vital for such events to continue. All of the activity happening at the Club cannot take place without investment in their pitches.

6.5 Whittington Senior Citizens

- 6.5.1 The Senior Citizen Hall has been sympathetically restored thanks to previous LJC grant in 2010, Awards for All, Veolia, Oswestry and Borderland Rotary (labour), Community Payback Team (Labour). The completed project has enabled the committee for the hall to look at extending the range of services offered at the hall. New fitness classes and ballet classes take place weekly.

Earlier this year 5 volunteers came forward to commence a lunch bi weekly lunch club for local people in collaboration with Whittington Primary School. Between 18 and 26 attend with the oldest being 96.

This application is to enable the committee to contract labour and materials to replace 2 fire doors and the existing frames. This is vital to the new use of the hall as the school deliver the bulk meals to the hall while people are arriving to receive the service. Using the main entrance is not convenient.

In addition to this the present doors are a poor fit to the frames and difficult to close. This in turn adds issues to fire safety. The planned new doors will have locking mechanisms that enable entry from the outside by key. This will enable the smaller room to be let in isolation. **Project costs £ 1140 (£1020- 2 x fire door replacement new frames materials locks and labour) Xmas Lunch £120, LJC Request at £1020 and match funding at £120.**

- 6.5.2 Need and demand- This funding will help to ensure and improve the social contact of elderly residents within the Five Perry Parishes area. It will also help ensure the other projects the club are involved with. One of the aims of the project is to help improve the quality of life of the elderly residents of Whittington. It will also help enhance a wonderful intergenerational activity that has come to mean a lot to the young and slightly less young people of the Whittington village.

The Senior Citizens host many activities on a regular basis with Whittington School and support joint learning. Long term sustainability of the Senior Citizens Hall is enhanced by encouraging initiatives such as those described within the application. Whittington is a thriving and growing village with demand for such projects within the Parish and neighbouring area.

6.6 Boreatton Scouts

6.6.1 Last year Boreatton Scouts built and raced a pedal car in both the National Scout Car Races and the British Pedal Car Championships. The car won the Best Engineered Scout Car prize and the Scouts who built it won through to the finals of the National Science and Engineering Competition in London, meeting the Duke of Kent and Prince Andrew. They were also invited to view the cars designed by the world's best engineering undergraduates at the Formula Student races held at Silverstone. This year the club have a new team of potential engineers hoping for even greater glory. The team, made up predominantly of girls have decided to be revolutionary rather than evolve last year's car. So the plan is to race both cars for the 2013-4 season. Despite being made from recycled materials last year's car cost just over £400 with the majority of it being funded from scout group funds. The scouts paid for the race weekend camps with leaders and active parents covering transport costs etc. This year the lighter weight design would be expected to be more expensive however the club are better known now so have had more parts donated. It is expected the final build cost will be similar, though of course the costs of running two cars will not be completely offset by the increased number of scouts paying to take part. **Total Costs: 1970.00 (Car Build Cost £400, Race Entry Costs £120 (Scout car race + one BPCC), Transport to Events £ 250.00 (Council minibus + LR & trailer), Camping Costs £ 1200.00 (20 scouts, 2 events, £30/head) LJC request at £400 and parental contribution 1,570.00)**

6.6.2 Need and demand- Following the success of the similar project last year the demand to take part again this year was overwhelming for the club. It is not possible to have a larger team building the car due to the nature of tools being used so the club have a completely new engineering team. The benefit of having two car means that the club can have up to sixteen drivers at the scout car races and twelve drivers for the BPCC races plus mechanics

Boreatton Scout Group try hard to provide a wide range of activities for about 120 young people in The Five Perry Parishes area. This project will enhance the confidence in engineering and mathematics skills of the more practical scouts and works well alongside the scout clubs robotics project which requires greater analytical skills. The project allows the Scouts to be creative, take calculated risks and develop ideas into real hardware; where success or failure is judged by a chequered flag. After the build the next phase will develop communication skills to enable young people involved to explain their ideas and designs to the senior engineers and managers who judge the National Science and Engineering Competition.

6.7 Whittington Cricket and Bowling Club (Delegated application due to urgent timescales of the project- now for information)

6.7.1 The balcony at Whittington Cricket Club is an integral part of the clubhouse- to enable access for players and officers to both changing room areas and the score box. Now that the balcony has been condemned as unsafe the only access is via the main function room and rear wooden stairs which is totally unsuitable for cricket footwear with metal studs. The closure of the balcony has restricted the access for players, junior members and any teams hiring the ground for any social games. Owing to the access problems the club is unsuitable for hire by the local community while any works are on-going. The

work is urgent due to cricket seasons and popular demand of the building for hire during summer months. **Project costs: £7,500 (structural engineer £250, making good and replacing brickwork £684, supply and erect steel balcony £4,056, supply and fix patio doors £1,960, removal of balcony and cutting back joists and treating £550.00. LJC request £2,250, club funds £4,700, club self- help members in kind £550.**

- 6.7.2 Need and Demand- It has recently been apparent that the balcony has become unsafe- wooden joists support both the first floor and the external balcony. Many of these joists have become rotten through 25 years of weathering. A structural engineer was employed and immediately condemned the balcony along with the windows. The committee decided to remove the balcony structure before any injuries occurred by cutting back to the brickwork, so that a new independent steel balcony could be re-erected to replace the existing. The patio doors will be replaced once the balcony completed and access available to the changing rooms.

Once this independent steel structure has been replaced, it will ensure that all members, officials and players have a safe access to the first floor of the clubhouse for many years to come. Also the new patio doors will give and added value of security for the premises. Hopefully safer facilities will encourage more players to use the club along with the local community. This project has become extremely urgent due to the cricket season already starting.

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 **6th November 2013 at West Felton Village Hall**. Application closing date will be **4th October 2013**.
- 8.3 For information about applying for an LJC grant and to receive an application form, contact Corrie Davies, Community Action Officer as follows:

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

Draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2011/12-2012/14, Appendix 5. Report to Cabinet 13th January 2011

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

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

LJC Applications forms for projects listed

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Gwilym Butler

Local Member

Councillors Stephen Charmley and Councillor Nick Bardsley

Appendices

None