

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 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 have been received for this reporting period. These were considered at the planning meeting held on 15th of October 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 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.
- 2.3 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.

- 2.4 Applications for funding were considered at the planning meeting 15th of October and recommendations totalling **£5,263** are now put forward to the Five Perry Parishes LJC for agreement on the evening. The recommendations are as follows:

		Request Amount
7.35	Whittington Annual Village Fair 2014	£650
7.36	Ruyton Extend Group	£276
7.37	Weston Lullingfields Village Hall	£2000
7.38	Whittington Music Festival 2014	£1000
7.39	U3A Cluster Application	£137
7.40	West Felton Parking Solutions	£1200
	TOTAL	£ 5,263

	2013/14 budget	£ 14,000
	2012/13 budget carried (ring-fenced & agreed at March meeting)	£ 4,078
	Spend to date in 2013/14	£9,130
	Total of recommendations round 2	£5,263
	Current balance remaining after round 1	£9,988
	Balance remaining after round 2	£4,725

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 and must be ring-fenced for local priorities.
- 5.4 The LJC delegated 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.
- 5.5 The LJC delegated 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.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 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 £ **5,263** to be confirmed at the committee meeting on the 13th of November.

6. Additional Information

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

6.2 Whittington Annual Fair 2014

- 6.2.1 The Annual Fair Committee Group is looking for support with the planning, organisation and implementation of the 40th Annual Whittington Village Fair. All residual profit from the Fair goes towards the maintenance of Whittington Community Centre, keeping its hire charges at rates affordable to the local community. Much of the equipment used for the Fair has deteriorated through age and the cost of hiring entertainers is now much greater than it used to be. Grant aid would be massive help in providing two new stall/ sideshow gazebo type covers and in hiring quality entertainers suitable for the community of Whittington.

Project costs at £1238 and LJC request at £1238

- 6.2.2 Need and demand – Over the 40 years that the Fair has been held, between 400-700 people of all ages and from all sections of the community attend annually. The fair provides opportunities for social inclusion across the whole spectrum of the community through sports, games, competitions, sideshows, demonstrations and stalls with the provision of live entertainment and refreshments. It is also the culmination of village garden and craft competitions for which annual trophies are awarded. A preliminary open meeting is held each year to seek out new ideas and opportunities.
- 6.2.3 Reason for proposed recommendation- the committee felt that the festival could look to utilise other equipment available locally and previously funded through the Five Perry Parishes area and for that reason recommend a reduced offer.

6.3 Ruyton Extend Group

- 6.3.1 The Ruyton Xi Towns Parish Plan identified a clear need for an exercise class for more elderly residents, or those with an infirmity of some sort. Over one third of the homes in the Parish returned a questionnaire, and the Parish Council has adopted the conclusions. This type of class is primarily aimed at more elderly folks – current members are aged between 60 and 88, one of whom is formally registered as “sight-impaired”. Our Trainer is qualified to include such members. The group therefore believe that they offer a vital service for Parishioners, with their objectives in alignment with NHS advice and Shropshire Council strategy. With an ageing population in the Parish, the need for such a class could increase. Since the last successful application the group have managed to raise funds to cover Hall Hire for about 5 months, which with the grant has funded us up to now. The group continue to need further funding to pay for Hall Hire.

Project costs at £1,526 and LJC request at £276 with match funding from subs in place.

- 6.3.2 Need and demand- Without further financial support, the group feel the class cannot quite cover their costs. Extra equipment will be a helpful extension of the group’s capability, improving the strength of current members, and hopefully attracting new members in order to help us become more self-sustaining.

- 6.3.3 Reason for proposed recommendation- the committee felt that the group due to having match funding in place were willing to support capital costs of the project specifically rather than on-going revenue costs.

6.4 Weston Lullingfields Village Hall

- 6.4.1 Weston Lullingfields Village Hall has undergone considerable renovation over the past 4 years. A combination of Local Government Grants and fundraising has contributed towards a new and resurfaced car park and solar panels for the village hall. It should be stressed that all this work has focussed on making Weston Lullingfields Village Hall, which has become and is a very well used facility, more sustainable for future generations and user groups.

The overall renovation project is in the final stages and is currently focussed on replacing all the kitchen units and inputting a bar area. The current units were installed when the hall was built in 1968 and are extremely dated. The units do not match the current use and the role of the hall today.

The village hall committee have been advised that a full renovation of the kitchen will cost in the region of £10,590. In the interests of the users and health and safety the committee feel it is time to tackle another major improvement to the hall both for users and the community. The project will include the replacement of all existing kitchen furniture with the addition of some cupboards to cope with the substantially increased demand for space since the kitchen was first designed. It will be bringing the existing floor up to the level of new bar area. The project will include the installation of new wiring to kitchen appliances and sockets.

As a village hall committee they have considered this at length but believe that to ensure the sustainability of the hall and maximise its use they must carry out this project. The hall plays a vital role within a very rural community and as a facility we need to ensure its longevity. The project will enable further usage of the hall and maintain its current use. With the work carried out the hall it will have the capacity to consider further functions and events. Stronger communities are built on rural venues and facilities such as Weston Lullingfields. The hall acts as a meeting point and a social venue for so many of the community both young and older.

Project costs at £10,400 and LJC request at £2000 with match funding of £8000 being submitted into an Awards for All bid and remaining funding from the village hall committee.

- 6.4.2 Need and demand- The village hall supports the population of Weston Lullingfields and neighbouring hamlets of Bagley, Stanwardine for example in many varied ways. It is an essential community facility for the people who live in and round the area. Rising transport costs and unemployment nationally all underline the importance of a facility that is local and regarded by the villagers as theirs! In fact the Trust documents states that the hall, does in fact, belong to the population of Weston Lullingfields. The village hall provides low cost opportunity for sports, entertainment, social occasions, clubs and children's activities.

The hall is hired on a very regular basis for children's parties, adult celebrations, anniversaries, dances, christening celebration and funeral teas.

There is no other space within the village that can facilitate these social activities. The above list demonstrates that the hall is used by a wide range of ages across the parish both our very young to older and elderly sector of the village community. These groups use the hall on a regular basis from weekly to monthly and ranging from age 0 to age 80 plus. Organisations within the village use the hall to fund raise- these include the royal legion, WI and local Church. The local primary school is a key user and utilises the hall and kitchen every day for their lunch. It is situated in the heart of the village in walking distance from the school and the church and plays strategic asset for village fete. It boasts an excellent car park which was resurfaced as part of the earlier phase in the renovation project.

Villagers are losing their local infrastructure all the time and the importance of a village hall to the population is incalculable and cannot be stressed too strongly. If the committee cannot keep the building in good repair, pleasant, warm and inviting to hirers, their village will lose another vital part of its infrastructure. The committee is dedicated to preventing this from happening. The availability of the village hall and all the opportunities it offers to the local population helps to minimise rural isolation, enables people to mix across ages, social and economic groups and to feel part of a thriving and successful village. It is right to say here that Weston Lullingfields has no other venue or pub in the village to offer this.

The committee feel that the project is key to enabling a local rural community like Weston Lullingfields to survive and flourish. The local groups within Weston Lullingfields will have much better access to the facilities they need for their user group needs and also resident need. Having this last phase in place should enable wider activities to take place. These are already being discussed. The WI in their own right will be able to share their expertise through cooking demonstrations. The School have no canteen or kitchen facilities and are in themselves held back from carrying out health/ cooking skills with the young people.

- 6.4.3 Reason for proposed recommendation- the committee felt that they would be happy to support the project dependant on match funding being secured. They recognised that the match funding from the LJC could help lever in that additional support. The committee felt they needed a further break down of projected costs.

6.5 Whittington Music Festival 2014 (amended application- Installation of stage lighting)

- 6.5.1 Whittington Music Festival needs a permanent lighting system to furnish its regular concerts at Whittington parish church as part of the programme of events planned in 2014.

Four spotlights mounted high, two on each side of the church, would serve the purpose, operated by a simple controller in the existing lighting switch box in the church vestry. Permanent fixtures of this kind in a listed church building obviously require various permissions, but there is no doubt they will be granted, and the Rector of Whittington has already given her informal approval to the idea.

The Festival Committee hope the LJC agrees that the Whittington Music Festival justifies such an investment, proving as it has done already that this major annual initiative has the capacity to impact the local economy significantly and to involve a broad section of the community as participants and volunteers. The precedent of 2013 of involving local schools, which generated enormous interest and enthusiasm – schools have already bid to take part next time round – will be repeated, and the group are proud that 2014 will include the participation of the prestigious Wigmore Hall's education team (Ignite) exploring a World War I anniversary theme. All local schools will be kept informed. See www.whittingtonmusicfestival.org.uk

Project costs at £1399 and LJC request at £1000 with £399 match secured.

- 6.5.2 Need and demand- The first Whittington Music Festival in May 2013 was an enormous success, but lighting had to be hired in, mounted on tripods, which gave an unsatisfactory angle of throw which tended to dazzle the performers.

The permanent stage lighting once in place will be available to other community organisations which increasingly use this excellent local venue, including Whittington School and the several Male Voice Choirs which offer concerts for charity each year. It will not normally be needed for use in church services but will be available for the wider events that are held at the Church such as Heritage Open Days which again play a role within tourism and local economy.

Whittington Music Festival has already drawn visitors to the 5 Perry area from across the country: this May the events saw audience members make the journey from as far afield as London and Inverness – and we are already a significant player in the Midlands classical calendar. Postcode analysis (of 140) Whittington 20% Oswestry 21% Surrounds (SY10) 23% Llangollen area 6% Shrewsbury area 11%. The remaining 19% include visitors from the West Midlands, London, Oxford, Manchester, Leicester.

Still more importantly, feedback from local residents shows what an extraordinary experience it was, both for those who love classical music and those who had hardly come across it before. The totally accessible artists blew the myth that there was anything remotely high-brow about enjoying a festival of this sort. This was – and is - first and foremost a Community Festival, but with a wide reach!

- 6.5.3 Reason for the proposed recommendation- the committee asked for an amended application for stage lighting rather than staging in light of previous funding to another group in the Five Perry Parishes area for staging that could be loaned to the Whittington Music Festival. The committee felt they could support with other capital costs that would support long term sustainability of the project.

6.6 U3A Cluster Application

- 6.6.1 Oswestry Borders U3A currently meets on the first and third Wednesday afternoon of the month in The Centre, Oak Street, Oswestry. Speaker and members' meetings need the facilities provided by a projector. The overall purpose of purchasing a projector is to enable the use of simple slides with

bold text, photographs etc., in a small hall with partial blackout. The audience will not require maximum resolution but it does need to see enough detail to be able to read, for instance, the captions.

A laptop is mainly to be used as a platform from which speakers run their displays. With regard to the laptop, the fewer programmes that are installed means there are less updating and potential problems. They need to be usable by as many members as possible expressly if to be used by the interest groups, and as a training tool.

Oswestry Borders U3A is a rapidly growing branch with currently just short of 100 members who will all benefit from the equipment purchase proposals. The Centre, it is understood, is purchasing a screen which it has kindly agreed to make available for use at U3A meetings. Hence, this bid does not request funding for a large screen for use at The Centre, Oak Street, Oswestry. However, it is intended to loan the laptop to members in support of interest group activity (currently circa 20 separate interest groups and growing) which generally takes place in members' homes. For that purpose, the purchase of a small Tripod screen is deemed necessary and has been included within the costings.

The equipment will thus not only be used at the regular twice monthly meetings for the whole Group in The Centre, but at other times in members' homes. As the membership grows (increasing monthly and projected to rise from 100 to 150 by December 2013) the demand for this equipment will also increase. The current cycle of meetings for the full membership will be kept under review and it is anticipated that this will increase with time and in response to members' wishes.

A PR Group has recently been established to further promote Oswestry Borders and to manage press releases and general PR activity. In September 2013 a stand will be staffed in Oswestry library foyer for three days in order to promote the Group further and attract new members. Total project costs at £1253.51 with no match funding included. LJC request to cluster is at £1253.51. Five Perry Parishes membership is 11 members out of 92 roughly.

Total project costs at £1253.51 with no match funding included. LJC request to cluster is at £1253.51. Five Perry Parishes LJC membership is 11 members out of 92 of the membership. Equates to £137

- 6.6.2 Need and demand- Most speakers expect the use of a projector and laptop to support their presentations at U3A meetings. The group feel it is essential to have equipment that is fit for purpose as many members, being of the Third Age, experience hearing and sight problems. The equipment proposals as far as possible will ensure a professional delivery by speakers that everyone can benefit from even if they are seated at the back of the hall. Some members also benefit from giving Powerpoint presentations to interest groups in members' homes as earlier referred to. As well as enhancing the IT skills of members in this way, the resultant presentations are more professional and provide a better learning experience for all. This mode of study has been evidenced by the Art Appreciation Group within Oswestry U3A, where Powerpoint presentations were successfully deployed in the study of artists and sculptors. It is an area of continual growth and development. As the

number of interest groups increase, so the need for individuals to work on Powerpoint presentations grows.

- 6.6.3 Reason for proposed recommendation- the committee felt with other LJC's in the cluster supporting that a small contribution would be sufficient.

6.7 West Felton Parking Solutions

- 6.7.1 To aim of the project is to improve parking provision in Willows Crescent, West Felton, by creating additional parking spaces, to include allocated disabled parking bays.

This will help improve access along Willows Crescent for emergency vehicles. It will also make the road safer to pedestrians. It will reduce parking on Fox Lane and issues raised by local residents in the area.

The residents have consulted with and Highways and are due to meet to draw up plans for the area. Highways have agreed to fund £500.00 and mark out allocated bays free of charge.

The project will mean the removal of overgrown rose bed and unwanted flower bed that residents do not want to maintain.

A partnership project was carried out with residents in Knockin and was part funded by housing, highways and the St Oswalds and Llanymynech LJC. The project made residents feel involved in finding local solutions to local problems and highlighted the value of partnership working.

Project costs at £4750.66 with match funding from highways at £500 and £3050.66 from Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing Community Chest. LJC request at £1200.

- 6.7.2 Need and demand-Consultation has been carried out with Residents and is on-going. Each resident has been written to and has responded with their views on how the area of land can be improved and all but one of the residents requested safe parking spaces within easy walking distance of their home.

Residents will be meeting with Highways and Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing on Wednesday 13th November in the local Village Hall to continue this consultation.

The majority of the residents affected are elderly in the age bracket of 65-85 and some have disabilities so access to their vehicles in close vicinity of their home is very important. Currently tenants have to park further down the street and walk to their bungalows with shopping for example which is felt unsuitable for elderly residents.

The pressure on the resources of ST and R Housing staff will be reduced by the number of complaints in relation to parking issues. Safety of residents will be greatly improved by not having to park on the road.

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 **25th March 2013 at Whittington Community Centre**. Application closing date will be **21st February 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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List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

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

Locality Working Local joint Committees. Report to Cabinet 9 th December 2010
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Amendment to LJC Constitution. Report to Council 23 rd June 2011

LJC Applications forms for projects listed
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Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)
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Councillor Steve Charmley

Local Member

Councillors Stephen Charmley and Councillor Nick Bardsley

Appendices

None
