



Committee and Date
South West Shropshire Local
Joint Committee Meeting

**Thursday 22nd February
2018**

Marton Village Hall, 7pm

Item

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Public

SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE – LOCAL GRANTS SCHEME UPDATE REPORT

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1. Summary

This report summaries the income and expenditure of the South West Shropshire Community Grant scheme, up to 13th February 2018. It also provides an update on the amount of funding held in the grant pot, together with summaries of 4 applications received since the last LJC meeting.

Recommendations

- A. That the LJC note that current balance of the scheme is £1,850
- B. The LJC Committee note they have set a grant criteria of for 2017/18 which remains the same as 2016/17. Maximum grants available are £150
- C. That the LJC review applications SWS LJC 9 – SWS 12 and make a decision on whether to support these grants.

2. Background

Following Shropshire Councils decision to remove funding from the Local Joint Committee, the South West Shropshire Local Joint Committee decided to develop their own funding scheme to support community and voluntary groups in the area. Town and Parish Councils were asked to contribute £150 to the scheme and local businesses were also approached.

3. Grant development

Letters requesting support for the grant scheme for 2017/18 were sent to all Town and Parish Councils in the LJC area and the balance of the fund now stands at 1,850

This funding is administered by Shropshire Council, through the Community Enablement Team, at no additional cost to the Committee.

Parish Councils are seen as being a key element of the process as the Committee feels that can act as local advocates of the grant scheme and promote the scheme to their communities.

4. Grants awarded by the Committee 2015 to September 2017

	Organisation	Purpose of grant	Amount
SWS LJC.1	Rectory Gardens Lunch Club	Computer Club (Connecting Communities)	£150.00
SWS LJC.2	Everest Hall	Insulation project at Everest Hall	£119.92
SWS LJC.3	Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority	Honest Truth Driving Partnership	£150.00
SWS LJC.4	Bucknell Pre-school	Don't Mention the Wall	£150.00
SWS LJC.5	Bent Lawnt War Memorial	War Memorial instalation	£150.00
SWS LJC.6	Haselhurst Close Tenants Association	Clun Valley Lunch Clun equipment	£150.00
SWS LJC.7	South West Shropshire Young Engineers	Support for Goblin Car Project	£150.00
SWS LJC.8	Brockton and Worthen Defibrillator Group	Purchase of 2 defibrillators	£150.00

5. Grant criteria

The South West Shropshire LJC has set the grants scheme criteria as being:

- A total of £500 will be allocated to community projects in each round of funding, and decisions made on application at the public LJC meetings
- The maximum grant available will be £150 and should be matched funded by at least 50% of cash from the applicant

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- Projects must be based in, and support residents in, the Local Joint Committee area
 - Applications are only open to charities, volunteer led organisations or social enterprises

6. Applications received between July 2017 and February 2018 for review by the Committee

SWS LJC 9 – Bishop’s Castle Guerrilla Gardeners – Playing Fields Project

Total Project Costs: £515

Total Grant Requested: £150

Bishop’s Castle Guerrilla Gardeners have quietly since 2015 transformed two parts of Bishop’s Castle playing fields into vibrant floral displays and a quiet seating area amongst seasonal plants and shrubs.

The first project, started in 2015, created a seating area amongst roses and other plants on a paved area opposite the swings. This is an area regularly used by visitors of all ages to the park including walkers, dog walkers and people just passing through, all of whom stop and enjoy this quiet area or chat to others sitting there. This area requires regular maintenance and weeding which is carried out by volunteers. It would benefit from additional planting to include roses, herbaceous plants and evergreens to add interest during the winter. The addition of an ornamental tree to add Autumnal colour such as a Liquid Amber sweet gum tree will also create year round interest.

The second project, which started in 2016, has been the planting of the herbaceous bed around the water fountain at the entrance to the playing fields. This is the main entrance to the field and the first thing that everyone sees. It is also on the circular path that is walked by many around the playing fields. Designed, planted and weeded by the Guerrilla Gardener volunteers this is the area that requires most work with regular spring and summer planting to give an all year-round display. The soil requires improved drainage through the addition of grit. The addition of plants similar to those described above as well as others that will tolerate footfall which will prevent the soil becoming compacted through being walked or cycled over in the winter months.

The Guerrilla Gardeners are a small group of volunteers with a love of gardening and the outdoors and who aim to improve communal places for everyone to enjoy.

This project goes a long way to provide flowers rich in pollen in order to support bees in the area which will then provide healthy swarms to assist with pollination of commercial crops in the area.

The project benefits all users of Bishop’s Castle playing fields which includes: Children and young people, older people, the walking for health group (Mondays), carnival goers, Party in the Park visitors, Michaelmas visitors, tourists throughout the year, dog walkers and local residents.

If the project was not in existence the flower beds and seating area would not have been created and would not be being maintained by volunteers.

This project not only benefits the citizens of Bishop’s Castle but also adds to the overall environment of the town and to the visitor experience and supports the local tourism economy.

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The grant funding will pay for bulbs for summer and winter flowering, compost and grit to aid drainage, plants for the 2018 spring bedding programme and an ornamental tree/shrub

The funding will be held by Bishop's Castle Town Council. The group do not have their own bank account. Matched funding is also being provided by the Town Council and other external grants.

SWS LJC 10 – Bishop's Castle Christmas Lights Festival

Total Project Costs: £7,280

Grant requested: £150

Bishop's Castle Christmas Lights switch on has, until recent years, been an important annual event in the Town which has contributed to the local visitor economy, benefitted local business and been enjoyed by local residents of all ages.

Organised by volunteers the event has dwindled due to previous volunteers stepping down however a new group of enthusiastic volunteers has now stepped forward to resurrect this event.

The new group aims to reinstate the event through a planned sustainable approach to the project aiming for it to be self sustaining by the third year. This project represents year one of the new group and start up funding is needed to support the project.

In year one essential infrastructure will be installed for the display of seasonal decorations which will comply with both Health and Safety requirements and the on street decoration requirements.

The event is planned for the first Saturday in December. It is being organised as a community arts and leisure event for residents and visitors of all ages and will include activities located around the town in addition to the switching on of the lights.

The following activities are planned

- Hog Roast
- Ping Pong Plummet
- Children's Christmas craft workshops
- Lantern parade with Samba band
- Fire work display
- Christmas grotto
- Choir with carols
- Christmas craft fair

Some of the above activities will be designed to generate funds which will help sustain the event in future years

In addition community fundraising events will be held during the Autumn in order to support the project.

Need for the project

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Substantial feedback has been received from local residents and visitors that in 2016 the absence of festive decoration gave the impression the town was not celebrating the festive season, so attracted less visitors

The project aims to benefit local residents who will be able to participate in a number of activities, join in the carol singing and support local businesses. The Christmas lights switch on will also attract visitors which will help local businesses and footfall in the town

Children and young people will in particular be involved in the preparation of lanterns for the lantern parade, by being part of the school choir and attending arts and craft workshops and visiting the grotto.

The event will also allow local arts and crafts to be displayed and sold and their works shown to a wider audience.

To ensure that the event is accessible to older people a Dial-a-Ride service will be available to take people to events and to support them to attend the Carols around the Christmas tree.

Bishop's Castle also has two specialist learning disability care homes whose residents and an integral part of the community. Arts and crafts workshops will also be open to these residents and they will be supported to attend and join in the activities.

The project will also have a longer term historical legacy as the group aim to start a digital archive of Christmas lights festival activities, which will be stored at Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre for the benefit of future generations

A number of activities within the project costs are being donated in kind, such as a cherry picker to install the lights, and fireworks for the display. Activities are designed to generate income, which will contribute to the future costs of the display

SWS LJC 10 - Brockton Rainbow Girl Guides

Total project costs: 154.74

Grant applied for: £77

Girlguiding is unique

We offer a safe, welcoming girl-only space for girls and young women to try new things, help other people and discover their passions and talents. All while having fun with a group of ready-made friends!

We're dedicated to girls leading the way - they choose activities, challenges and events that inspire them, and our volunteers support them to make it happen.

Because girls shape and lead everything we do, we know that we're offering the best opportunities and experiences for girls today.

Girlguiding is dedicated to creating a better world for girls and young women

We empower girls, we give them space to grow and we ensure that each one of them can get involved - no matter what their background or ability.

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Together they learn skills, grow in confidence, make lifelong friendships, help their communities and have lots of fun.

Our values

Our values are our shared commitment to be:

- caring
- challenging
- empowering
- fun
- inclusive
- and inspiring.

The Brockton Rainbow Girl Guides group is open to 5-7 year olds and was set-up in September 2016 under the umbrella of the Girl Guides organisation. 16 youngsters now attend the sessions which are held weekly in term time.

The nearest alternative Rainbow unit is at least 7 miles away in Churchstoke, Montgomery or Bayston Hill, or further away in Copthorne Shrewsbury. The Brockton group caters for a very rural community and girls attending would be unlikely to be part of a guiding group unless their parents were willing to drive to the alternative groups some distance from Brockton.

While the group runs a range of activities each week they would like to extend the outdoor activities they can provide. This application will help the group purchase the following equipment

Child and adult fluorescent jackets; parachute for games; Fire pit and fire-starting kit for outdoor crafts and cooking; metal fire bucket; torches and outdoor foam seating pads.

The group are requesting a grant of £77 from the SWS Grants scheme and they have raised the remaining £77.74 through their own table top sale.

SWS LJC 11 – Marton Defibrillator

Total project costs: £2,161.00

Grant applied for: £150

Like many rural communities Marton is looking to purchase, install and maintain an accessible Defibrillator unit in the village, for use in cases of cardiac arrest.

A group has been set-up to fundraise and coordinate the purchase of the unit, and a suitable site has been identified to locate the unit – on an external wall of the village shop. The cost of the defibrillator is £2,000 along with costs associated with installing the unit and making sure it is maintained correctly.

Once installed the volunteers will be trained to use the unit and perform CPR, and the ambulance service will also be able to provide details of the unit location in case of a 999 call.

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When a patient suffers a cardiac arrest having a defibrillator unit available locally can save lives as the units can diagnose and treat the cardiac arrest. Without having a unit available locally any patient would have to wait for an ambulance to attend which in a rural area can be some considerable length of time.

This project has overwhelming support within the village of Marton and villagers have formed a group to raise funds for a unit and volunteer to be trained in its use. While there are units in Brockton, Worthen and Priest Weston these locations are still some distance from Marton should an emergency occur.

Chirbury Parish Council have contributed £500 to the project, and £200 has been raised through donations. The group is planning to raise the matched funding through a range of community activities.

The main cost of the project is the purchase of the unit at £2,000. Installing the unit is £150 and around £11 is needed to maintain the unit each year

7. Funding implications

The current balance of the South West Shropshire Grants scheme is £1,850 and if both these projects were supported the balance remaining would be £1,323.00

8. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

Risk Management Appraisal

In determining these recommendations, Shropshire Council has considered reputational risk and the course of action minimises this risk.

Human Rights

The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998

Community and other Consultation

Consideration has been given to the public opinion expressed at the previous Local meetings

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

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)
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Joyce Barrow

Local Members

Nigel Hartin, Heather Kidd, Jonny Keeley
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Appendices
