



Committee and Date
South West Shropshire Local
Joint Committee Meeting

Thursday 12th July 2018

SpArC Centre, Bishop's
Castle 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 30th June 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 £1,173.00
- B. The LJC Committee note they have set a grant criteria of for 2018/19. Maximum grants available are £150
- C. That the LJC review applications SWS LJC 14 – SWS 16 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

The Grant scheme is supported by contributions from local businesses and town and Parish Councils in South West Shropshire.

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 April 2018

	Organisation	Amount
SWS LJC.1	Rectory Gardens Lunch Club	£150.00
SWS LJC.2	Everest Hall	£119.92
SWS LJC.3	Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority	£150.00
SWS LJC.4	Bucknell Pre-school	£150.00
SWS LJC.5	Bent Lawnt War Memorial	£150.00
SWS LJC.6	Haselhurst Close Tenants Association	£150.00
SWS LJC.7	South West Shropshire Young Engineers	£150.00
SWS LJC.8	Brockton and Worthen Defibrillator Group	£150.00

PROJECTS 2018/19

SWS LJC.9	Bishop's Castle Guerilla Gardeners	£150.00
SWS LJC.10	Bishop's Castle Christmas Lights	£150.00
SWS LJC.11	Brockton Rainbow Guides	£77.00
SWS LJC.12	Marton Defibrillator project	£150.00
SWS LJC.13	Edgton Defibrillator	£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 February and June 2018 for review by the Committee

SWS LJC 14 – Life on the Edge Project Bishop’s Castle

Total Project Costs: £150

Total Grant Requested: £75

The *Life on the Edge* project aim is to re-plant road verges with wild flowers for both bio-diversity and enhancement of the environment purposes. It involves liaising with Shropshire Council on mowing times for the verges, and using volunteers to rake and collect the grass once cut, to prevent the over-enrichment of the soil. In parallel, wild-flower plugs are potted-on by the volunteers to ensure they make strong plants before being planted on the raked verges. These areas are then monitored to ensure minimum disturbance, and further post-mowing raking of the surplus grass takes place as needed.

The Bishop’s Castle Town Plan [Community-Led Plan] was based on an extensive survey of the views of local inhabitants, which were recorded in the Plan that was issued in October 2016. One of the key requirements captured in the ‘Economy’ theme of the Plan was for the *Maintenance of the Environment*, described as “to address the importance of the landscape both within the town and its environs and as the basis for the tourism economy”, and within the ‘Sustainability’ theme of the Plan the ‘*Climate Change*’ project covers aspects such as bio-diversity.

The *Life on the Edge* project is one among a programme of small environmental projects being undertaken by the BC Town Plan, which together aim to meet Shropshire Council’s sustainability vision: “*to stabilise and progressively reduce our environmental footprint*”.

SWS LJC 15 – Osteoporosis Event Bishop’s Castle Patients Group

Total Project Costs: £100

Grant requested: £100

It is proposed to hold an Osteoporosis Awareness event at Norbury Village Hall on 18th October. The event would be targeted at patients and their family members in the area who have been given a recent diagnosis of Osteoporosis or who are seen as being at risk of developing the condition. The event will provide information on how to maintain good bone health with the condition, including information about exercise, healthy eating and the importance of calcium and vitamins.

The event will include speakers from the Osteoporosis Society and senior clinicians from Princess Royal hospital Telford. Information packs will also be provided to those attending the event.

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Osteoporosis has been seen as a significant health factor for many people, with one in two women and one in five men over fifty sustaining a bone fracture which can be linked to the condition. Osteoporosis can play a major role in unplanned emergency hospital admissions and can also leave people socially isolated thus costing the NHS a significant amount of money each year.

The awareness session will provide people with the condition with information and support on how to manage the condition, and provide advice on support available. It will also promote exercises and diets which can help mitigate the impact of the condition.

The event is based on similar events which have taken place in Shropshire, to which very positive feedback has been received. The Osteoporosis Society also support the event and hope that local support networks may develop from the event.

The grant from the LJC would be used to hire Norbury Village Hall and provide refreshments at the event. Speakers are giving their time for free, and the Osteoporosis Society will be providing the information packs for the event.

SWS LJC 16 – Fight the Plastic Bishop’s Castle

Total project costs: £160

Grant applied for: £140

The *Fight the Plastics* project has been started under the Sustainability theme of Bishop’s Castle’s Town Plan. Its objectives are to:

- gather data on food packaging plastics use through surveys of retailers and the public
- identify types of plastics which are unnecessary and/or unrecyclable and explore fully bio-degradable alternatives that could be used by local retailers through a bulk-buying scheme
- publicise alternatives to plastic and inform the local people through two days of street displays and interactive activities to increase recycling rates, encourage the reduction in demand for short-use plastics and reduce the littering of the local area
- carry out mass litter collection throughout the town and surrounding area to use in the street displays to raise awareness that it will eventually end up in the oceans in not collected
- lobby Veolia, our waste collection company, to increase the range of plastics recycled through visits to their recycling (Wolverhampton) and energy recovery (Battlefield, Shrewsbury) facilities to meet their technical staff
- set up free, water-bottle refill points around town linked into the national ‘Refill’ scheme with national window logos and mobile
- encourage public discourse about this environmentally sensitive issue through street interviews
- lobby our MP, Philip Dunne on the above issues and the need for changes in legislation to make packaging manufacturers contribute significantly more towards the costs of recycling
- engage with the Bishop’s Castle Community College students through activities such as the Aberystwyth Beach Clean, facilitate a campus-based plastics campaign, a meeting and questioning of their MP and interaction with Cooperative Group Head Office in Manchester on food packaging issues in order to encourage the students to become politically active

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Several of the above activities have been completed, or nearly so, at little cost so far, but the remainder of the campaign involves considerable expenditure (for us) on publicity, printing and display materials, including equipment hire, for the two, Days of Action in July and transport of the group to Veolia's sites.

The Bishop's Castle Town Plan [Community-Led Plan] was based on an extensive survey of the views of local inhabitants, which were recorded in the Plan that was issued in October 2016. One of the key requirements captured in the 'Sustainability' theme of the Plan was to reduce single-use plastics, e.g bottles, straws & non-recyclable coffee cups, involving retailers, local people and the Community College.

Although the *Fight the Plastics* campaign is one among a range of other environmental projects being undertaken by the BC Town Plan, it covers areas which are unique and will add significantly to the programme which aims to meet Shropshire Council's sustainability vision: *"to stabilise and progressively reduce our environmental footprint"*.

7. Funding implications

The current balance of the South West Shropshire Grants scheme is £1,173 and if LJC.14, 15 and 16 were all supported the both the balance remaining would be £863.00

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
