

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**  
**Officer report to Portfolio Holder**  
**County Councillor Mr W Jones**  
**May 2010**

<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	<b>Community Regeneration Manager</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Community Enablement Support Fund capital grant applications</b>
<b>REPORT FOR:</b>	<b>Decision</b>

This report details the applications that have been received for the first round of Community Enablement Support Fund capital grant support for the benefit of Community Groups and Voluntary Organisations.

### **Proposal**

Applications have been assessed in accordance with the criteria set out in the Guide to Grants for Community Groups and Voluntary Organisations revised in 2005/06. Where the recommendation suggests supporting organisations, the purpose of an organisation's application meets the objectives of one, if not more, of the Authority's strategies or plans.

A summary of the requests is shown in the following tables for ease of reference to the full contents of the report:

### **Community Enablement Support Fund Capital Applications (See Appendix 1)**

There is £230,000 for allocation in the 2010/11 financial year, the recommendations detailed in the report amount to £87,043. If all recommendations are approved this will leave £142,057 for the second round allocation.

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Recommended</b>
<b>Albert Hall Management Committee</b>	<b>£3,281.26</b>	<b>£3,280</b>
<b>Castle Caereinion Community Council</b>	<b>£4,750</b>	<b>£4,750</b>
<b>Kerry Playground Committee</b>	<b>£14,158</b>	<b>£14,158</b>
<b>Mid Wales Entertainment Circuit</b>	<b>£30,000</b>	<b>£20,000</b>
<b>Llansilin Memorial Hall</b>	<b>£1,225</b>	<b>£1,225</b>
<b>Llanfyllin Deanery</b>	<b>£498</b>	<b>£498</b>
<b>Montgomery Community Buildings Preservation Trust.</b>	<b>£20,000</b>	<b>£15,000</b>
<b>Middletown Village Show Committee</b>	<b>£1,054</b>	<b>£1,054</b>
<b>St Harmon and District Village Hall</b>	<b>£15,000</b>	<b>£15,000</b>
<b>Ystradgynlais Miners Welfare Hall &amp; Trust</b>	<b>£12,078</b>	<b>£12,078</b>
<b>Total Recommendations</b>	<b>£102,044.26</b>	<b>£87,043</b>

### **Corporate Improvement Plan**

Providing financial assistance is in accordance with one of the key priorities of the Corporate Improvement Plan, namely to enhance Social and Economic Development within the Authority's area

### **Options Considered/Available**

Not applicable

### **Preferred Choice and Reasons**

As outlined in the report, the preferred choices are the recommendations detailed at Appendix 1

### **Sustainability and Environmental Issues/Equalities/Other Policies**

### **Comments of Portfolio Holder**

The financial support provided through the Funds to Community and Voluntary Organisations is one the key factors in maintaining and sustaining our local communities in Powys

### **Comments of Local Member(s)**

Not applicable

### **Other Consultations Undertaken**

Consultation has been undertaken with Officers of the Authority with specialist knowledge.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
<b>To approve individual awards listed Appendix 1</b>	<b>In line with current criteria as outlined in the Guide to Grants for Community Groups and Voluntary Organisations (dated 2005).</b>

<b>Relevant Policy</b>	<b>Guide to Grants for Community Groups and Voluntary Organisations</b>		
<b>Person(s) To Action Decision:</b>	<b>Community Regeneration Manager Powys Community Strategy</b>		
<b>Date By When Decision To Be Actioned:</b>			
<b>(ies):</b>			
<b>Within Policy:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Within Budget:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

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<b>Relevant Portfolio Member(s):</b>	<b>Cllr Wynne Jones</b>
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<b>Relevant Local Member(s):</b>	<b>All Powys Members where applicable</b>
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**Background Papers used to prepare Report:**

## Appendix 1 – Capital applications

Organisation	Project Cost	Requesting	Recommendation
<b>CG4087</b> <b>Albert Hall Management Committee</b> <b>Refurbishment to preserve the fabric of the listed building</b>	<b>£9,154.42</b>	<b>£3,281.26</b>	<b>A grant of £3,280 is recommended</b>

### Reason for Recommendation

The Albert Hall, a grade II listed building situated in the conservation area at Ithon Road, Llandrindod Wells and is a fine example of a local theatre. A Victorian building built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and completed and opened in 1896. Initially it was an annexe to the adjoining Calvinistic Methodist (now Presbyterian) Chapel, but was used for a variety of purposes from the beginning. It was converted to a theatre by the Calvinistic Methodist Church Group in 1922/23 and remained in the ownership of the Church until 1957. It was then sold to a firm of auctioneers for use for furniture storage and sale purposes. It was eventually returned to theatre use in 1962 when purchased for the town of Llandrindod by a group of theatre enthusiasts, who ran the facility from their own personal funds. In 1978 Trusteeship was transferred to the Albert Hall Management Committee who became registered Charity with the Charity Commission, and is categorised by the Charity Commission as a Village Hall.

The theatre was initially one of a number of Albert Halls erected in Britain after the construction of The Royal Albert Hall, London. The applicant believes it to be only one of those still being used as a theatre, and feel it is important to retain it as such. It is a very good example of late Victorian theatres and architecture. The building is hired out for audience-attended theatre, concert hall and meetings purposes. Mainly it is used for rehearsals for plays, shows, concerts etc.

With this application, funding is being sought towards providing improved toilet facilities in line with current health and safety standards and to restore some original internal features of the Grade 2 listed building.

Application has been made to the Can Do Communities Fund (PAVO) and the Welsh Church Act Fund. **A grant of £3,280 is recommended.**

Organisation	Requested	Requested	Reason for recommendation
<p align="center"><b>CG3037</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Castle Caereinion Community Council</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Childrens play equipment</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>£11,162</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>£4,750</b></p>	<p><b>A grant of £4,750 is recommended subject to satisfactory health and safety requirements being in place.</b></p>

**Reason for Recommendation**

Castle Caereinion Community Council provide playground services for the children of Castle Caereinion and the surrounding area. There is currently a shortfall in the amenities available on the area near to the school. The current equipment caters for toddlers and children up to 11 years old.

The application received is for funding towards replacing the currently ageing and unsafe equipment and a safe surface that complies with the current Health and Safety regulations.

It is understood that no planning permission is required. The applicant also shows evidence that they meet statutory obligations with insurance, ROSPA Inspections, playground maintenance and repairs.

A donation of £1,000 has been received from Castle Caereinion Church and an award of **£4,750 is recommended on this occasion**, subject to satisfactory health and safety requirements being in place.

Organisation	Project Cost	Requesting	Recommendation
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CG4700</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Kerry Playground Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Childrens play equipment</b></p>	<b>£57,567</b>	<b>£14,158</b>	<p><b>A grant of £14,158 is recommended subject to satisfactory health and safety requirements being in place.</b></p>

**Reason for Recommendation**

The residents of Kerry have for a number of years wished to develop play facilities for the younger age group in their community. The Community Council in conjunction with a group of young parents formed the Kerry Playground Committee, who have now raised sufficient funding for the scheme to be progressed.

Through fundraising in the local and wider community the group have raised in excess of £13,000 and have other activities organised, The application received is towards the play equipment including a jelly board, swinging log, tyre crossing, log bridge, stepping logs and a tread mill.

The Community Regeneration Manager has made a site visit and it is understood the Community Council as land owners will take ownership of the completed project; however the young parents of the village have formed the constituted voluntary organisation responsible for the fundraising activities.

The Community Council will be responsible for the health and safety requirements, maintenance checks and raising the funds to cover insurance, looking after the facility on a day to day basis, with ROSPA checks done as necessary.

An award of £24,800 has been granted by the Community Renewal Scheme (PAVO) and an application has been submitted to the Welsh Church Act Fund. A grant of £14,158 is recommended.



Organisation	Project Cost	Requesting	Recommendation
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CG4678</b></p> <p><b>Llansilin Memorial Hall</b></p> <p><b>Installation of audio equipment</b></p>	<b>£2,449.98</b>	<b>£1,225</b>	<p><b>A grant of £1,225 is recommended</b></p>

**Reason for recommendation**

Llansilin Memorial Hall has the responsibility of maintaining the hall at Llansilin and in 2004 received funding for a survey to determine the extent of renovations and repairs required at the Hall.

The centre consists of a large hall, with fixed stage, youth room, committee room, kitchen and toilets. The Health Centre is immediately adjacent and shares certain services. The building is used on a regular basis by the school as well as many local organisations including the Womens Institute, Mother and Toddlers and Young Farmers Club.

Since the hall was built there have been acoustic problems and after many years of complaints from the user groups, the current committee have agreed to conduct a professional acoustic test, this has resulted in the committee wishing to purchase a six channel mixing deck and ancillary equipment, this will enhance the sound quality at drama and musical events as well as other activities such as bingo meetings with individual speakers.

An application has been made to the Welsh Church Act Fund and an award of £1,225 is recommended under the Community Enablement Support Fund.

Organisation	Project Cost	Requesting	Recommendation
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CG3723</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Llanfyllin Deanery</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Living Stones Heritage Trail signage.</b></p>	<b>£4,979</b>	<b>£498</b>	<b>An award of £498 is recommended</b>

**Reason for recommendation**

In 2007 the Deanery of Llanfyllin invited representatives of churches, chapels and other interested organisations to form a steering group which has worked over the past year to develop proposals for a heritage trail. Under the title of “Meini Bywiol” or “Living Stones”, this will incorporate 6 historic churches, chapels and possibly other attractions in and adjoining the Deanery. Due to the geographical nature of the area, the trail will be mainly undertaken by car. Where possible, the visitor will encouraged to walk/cycle or use public transport. The project aims to:

- to raise awareness of their significance, both historical and cultural
- to involve community members in research and interpretation
- to bring more visitors to an area rich in historical interest and natural beauty, and to enhance their experience
- to exploit neglected educational assets
- to contribute to rural regeneration
- to support local communities in caring for their heritage

The aim of the trail is to increase visitor numbers to Montgomery in a responsible manner. By providing relevant information to the visitor at the point of contact, it will also ensure that the visitor will know what is available in nearby towns and villages and encourage the visitor to also spend during their stay which obviously helps towards stabilising the local economy.

An application has been made to the Rural Development Plan, Community Welcome Scheme and was awarded £3,983. The original application to the Community Enablement Support Fund was deferred on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2009, awaiting additional information on the larger Living Stones Heritage Trail project application to the Heritage Lottery.

This application has now been submitted and Officers are satisfied that this project compliments the Heritage project and there is no duplication of funding. **A grant of £498 is recommended.**

Organisation	Project Cost	Requesting	Recommendation
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CG4701</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Montgomery Community Buildings Preservation Trust.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Refurbishment of Montgomery Town Hall</b></p>	<b>£590,000</b>	<b>£20,000</b>	<p><b>An award of £15,000 is recommended, subject to a successful bid to the Lottery Asset Transfer Fund.</b></p>

**Reason for recommendation**

Montgomery Community Buildings Preservation Trust was formed in 2008, specifically maintain and manage the Town Hall for the benefit of the local and wider community. The Town Hall, which is a Grade 2 listed building has been at the heart of Montgomery for over 250 years but its usage, has declined because its facilities are sub-standard for the need of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

With the support of the Town Council and the Architectural Heritage Fund, the Trust commissioned a consultant to complete an options appraisal on the building. Based on this a scheme of improvements has been identified costing approximately £600,000.

The transfer of Montgomery Town Hall to the Montgomery Community Buildings Preservation Trust on a thirty five year lease was recently given Board approval and the Organisation has now submitted an application to the Big Lottery Asset Transfer Fund for £500, 00 capital and £150 revenue funding. The result of this application is due in June 2010.

The application received to the Community Enablement Support Fund is for funding towards the shortfall of the project and **an award of £15,000 is recommended**, subject to a successful application to the Big Lottery.

Organisation	Project Cost	Requesting	Recommendation
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CG4702</b></p> <p><b>Middletown Village Show Committee</b></p> <p><b>Purchase of Marquee, tables and chairs</b></p>	<b>£2,108</b>	<b>£1,054</b>	<p><b>An award of £1,054 is recommended.</b></p>

**Reason for recommendation**

Middletown Village Show Committee are seeking financial assistance towards the purchase of a Marquee, tables and chairs

The Committee have found it increasingly difficult to rely upon borrowed and renting of equipment, particularly as last year they were let down at the last minute for the loan of some equipment and without a satisfactory marquee, there are various logistical problems in running the show.

The Annual show was resurrected after a 50 year absence in 2008 and held in the summer, this year's event being Saturday 10th July, and last year drew a crowd of approx 1,000 people from the locality. The Show has widened its scope including local art and craft worker demonstrations and music and intends to develop its activities further over the next couple of years.

The applicant has stated that the balance of the cost of the proposal will come from income generated on the day of the Show or reserves. The amount requested is modest, and if awarded will undoubtedly enable the Show Committee to carry out many duties on the day more efficiently, also taking into consideration health and safety issues.

**A grant of £1,054 is recommended.**

Organisation	Project Cost	Requesting	Recommendation
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CG4350</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>St Harmon and District Village Hall</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Complete refurbishment of the hall.</b></p>	<b>£299,000</b>	<b>£15,000</b>	<p><b>A grant of £15,000 is recommended, subject to a successful CFAP bid.</b></p>

**Reason for recommendation**

St. Harmons is a scattered North Radnorshire community located roughly halfway between Llanidloes and Rhayader. The hall is a large corrugated sheet building on the West side of the road, built in 1906 and is now in need of an extensive refurbishment throughout. During recent years the hall has been under used but recently the hall committee has been reformed and is now active in looking for ways of making improvements

The works required include re-roofing, re-clading, a new electrical system, new windows and doors, in all the project cost is estimated to be £299,000. The Committee have made various applications to Trust Funds and other funding bodies including an application to the Welsh Assembly Government Community Facilities and Activities programme (CFAP). The result of this application is expected in July 2010.

The application to the Community Enablement Support Fund is towards the overall refurbishment. However it is unlikely to take place without a successful CFAP application, therefore a grant of £15,000 is recommended subject to a successful CFAP bid.

Organisation	Project Cost	Requesting	Recommendation
<p align="center"><b>CG1006</b></p> <p><b>Ystradgynlais Miners Welfare Hall &amp; Trust</b></p> <p><b>Refurbishment of main hall and auditorium.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>£24,156</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>£12,078</b></p>	<p><b>A grant of £12,078 is recommended.</b></p>

### **Reason for Recommendation**

The Ystradgynlais Miners Welfare & Hall Trust was established in the 1930's by local miners who contributed a penny a week from their wages to create a centre of learning, leisure, recreation and development. It is now run as a charitable trust and is a busy community focussed arts venue, serving the Upper Swansea Valley. It has strong community roots that are emphasised in its Mission statement. "The Welfare aims to provide a wide-ranging, involving, stimulating and accessible experience to the arts, cultural and community life for the bilingual and diverse communities of the Upper Swansea Valley"

The Welfare sees the importance of a wide programme of activities as a key function of their work and encourages participation particularly with young people and those of low income.

With assistance from the Regeneration & Environment service, the Welfare has been awarded Welsh Assembly Government WVRSA funding to purchase an automated seating unit. Powys County Council Engineers has advised that the existing floor is insufficient for the unit and requires strengthening.

The application received is for funding towards the project, the main expenditure being the strengthening auditorium floor. As detailed in the Mid Wales Entertainment application earlier in this report, some duplicated items of expenditure have been removed from that application and put forward for consideration in this application i.e.: electrical works.

The application meets the criteria of the fund and a grant of £12,078 is recommended.