

Champion for Parishes

Report on Expenditure from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015

“To assist the Leader and appropriate Portfolio Holders by advising on ways to sustain and improve effective working relationships between the County Council and Parish and Town Councils in Lancashire.”

The allowance of £10,000 for this year together with £2,150 carried over from last year has enabled me to make grants to 28 Parish Councils this year.

Examples of some of the projects that Parish Champion funding has contributed towards this year include:

- Noticeboards
- Web site production
- Dog awareness week
- Improvements to a play area
- Development of a Health and Well-being programme
- New bench
- A Green gym

Again this year an allocation of £700 was given to the Lancashire Association of Local Councils towards the cost of their Annual Conference (though this was not actually taking place until June).

A sum of £455 was spent in support the County Council's conference for Parish Councils which was held this year in Burnley in March. The Conference this year aimed to do two things: firstly to enable parish councillors to find out more about the County's plans to address the needs of rural areas for responsive transport, as plans emerge for some of the uneconomical bus routes are removed; secondly to enable parish councillors to share ideas and some 'good practice' examples on a wider range of topics. There was very positive feed-back from the conference.

Over the year I have regularly attended the Executive Meetings of LALC to act as a channel for communication where needed.

I have also visited all of the area meetings. Digital Inclusion was high on the agenda this year as was the issue of access to Superfast Broadband. I was able to visit the area meetings with officers dealing with these issues. This enabled Parish Councillors to find out more about BT plans for their areas. Officer's talks also raised awareness of, on the one hand, the opportunities that internet access provides and, on the other, the needs of those people who do not have internet access but are obliged to complete forms eg for benefits on line. I would like to thank the officers concerned for their support on these visits.

As planned from last year, the general theme for newsletters and the conference has been health and well-being. Newsletters provided information on a range of initiatives being promoted by LCC in relation to well-being, with a particular relevance to parish councils.

Communication is a constant theme in any discussions about the relation of parish councils with the County Council. Many Parish Councils are now well-aware of the massive budget cuts the county is having to absorb, and that this must inevitably impact on existing ways of doing things.

At the end of my second year in this role I would once again like to thank the officer dealing with grants and members of the Localities team for their help and support through this year.

***County Councillor Cynthia Dereli
Champion for Parishes***

Schedule of Expenditure for 2014/15

County Councillor Cynthia Dereli - Champion for Parishes	
Applicant	Amount of Grant
Sylne with Hest Parish Council –Great War Centenary Exhibition	£170
Preesall Town Council – Noticeboards	£300
Bolton-le-Sands Parish Council – Entrance gate to the new play area	£500
Farington Parish Council – Historical Trail noticeboards	£450
Nether Wyresdale Parish Council – Renewal of noticeboard	£370
Hilldale Parish Council – Dog Awareness Week	£175
Little Hoole Parish Council – Installation of planters	£400
Ightenhill Parish Council – Spring bulbs	£250
Stalmine with Staynall Parish Council – Feature bench	£300
Heaton with Oxcliffe Parish Council – Health & Wellbeing Programme	£600
Newburgh Parish Council – Wooden notice board	£500
Whitworth Parish Council – New bench	£250
Garstang Town Council – Website	£320
Barton Parish Council – Pedestrian crossing	£500
Hambleton Parish Council – Wooden bench	£580
Over Kellett Parish Council – Improvement to pathway	£500
Chatburn Parish Council – New noticeboard	£500
Bowland Forest Parish Council – Shelter for village green	£500
Simonstone Parish Council – Laptop and software	£275
Penwortham Town Council – Refurbish to the toilet facilities	£500
Earby Town Council – Noticeboard	£400
Whalley Parish Council – Green gym	£500
Yealand Redmayne Parish Council – Noticeboard	£325
Parish Council Conference Charges	£445
Much Hoole Parish Council – Spring Fair (climbing wall)	£300
Catterall Parish Council – Website	£300
Wrightington Parish Council – Defibrillators	£450
Caton with Littledale Parish Council – Activity day	£300
Pilling Town Council – Website	£300
LALC Annual Conference	£700
TOTAL SPENT	£11,960