

Champion for Parishes

Report on Expenditure from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

“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 £190 carried over from last year has enabled me to make grants to 24 Parish Councils this year.

The list below provides a selection of the type of projects funded. The aims and details of the work that lie behind these headings have been circulated in the newsletters through the year. Many of the reports from parishes about their grants have prioritised communication and community well-being.

The list below shows just some of the projects that the grant money has funded this year:

Noticeboards

Web site production

Dog exercise area

Enhancements of different kinds to War Memorials

Provision of seating for a village hall and on a playing field

Remedial work to a village pond and a football field

A tree sculpture project

Last year the County Council's conference for the parishes changed its venue to Burnley and slipped forward, from the usual November date, to March. As a result, there has been no conference in the financial year 2015-16. It is hoped that this year the conference will return to its previous slot in November, on the same day as the LALC AGM and will be held at County Hall, thus minimising costs.

My newsletter at the end of my first year in this role majored on health and well-being, and in various guises this theme has persisted. As budget cuts begin to bite, responding to the cuts has also inevitably featured. Parish Councils are responding to the challenge, and recognising the key position they are in to know their communities and identify needs.

Over the year I have regularly attended the Executive Meetings of LALC. I have also attended the area LALC meetings in all the districts. This is an opportunity to share with the parish representatives an up-date on issues of interest or concern at County Hall and to listen to and take back their concerns, which have been largely issues arising from the impact of budget cuts.

When I visited area meetings in 2014 I was able to attend along with officers dealing with digital inclusion and the superfast roll out. Concerns on the latter issue are still being raised.

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 Council is having to absorb, and that this must inevitably impact on existing ways of doing things.

I would like to thank the officers who have continued to provide support for the Champion role throughout the year.

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

Schedule of Expenditure for 2015/16

County Councillor Cynthia Dereli - Champion for Parishes	
Applicant	Amount of Grant
Adlington Town Parish Council (Chorley) – New notice board	£450
Nateby Parish Council – Parish Website	£140
Winmarleigh Parish Council – Parish Website	£140
Myserscough, Barton and Bilsborrow Parish Council – War Memorial perimeter	£400
Elswick Parish Council – Dog Exercise Area	£300
Hoghton Parish Council (Preston) – enhancement of War Memorial	£500
Great Altcar Parish Council (West Lancashire) New notice board	£490
Coppull Parish Council (Chorley) – Tree sculpture	£500
Caton with Littledale Parish Council (Lancaster) – Speed Indicator Device System	£300
Habergham Eaves Parish Council (Burnley) New notice board	£200
Old Laund Booth Parish Council (Burnley) – Christmas party for the elderly	£400
Downholland Parish Council (West Lancashire) – Bus shelters	£400
Hilldale Parish Council (West Lancashire) – Wheelchair/Pushchair access to the village	£400
Chipping Parish Council (Ribble Valley) – Renovations to the football playing field	£400
Halsall Parish Council (West Lancashire) – Traffic management for Remembrance Sunday	£300
Bickerstaffe Parish Council (West Lancashire) – Seating in playing field	£300
Gressingham Parish Council (Lancaster) – New seating for the village hall	£500
Newburgh Parish Council (West Lancashire) – Bus shelter replacement	£500
Much Hoole Parish Council – New notice board	£440
Cloughton on Brock Parish Council – Commemorative Garden	£500
Higham Parish Council – New Notice boards	£300
Staining Parish Council (Fylde) – remedial work to village fishing pond	£500
Whittingham Parish Council – War memorial stone	£500
Stalmine with Staynall Parish Council (Fylde) – Website upgrade	£150
Parish Council Conference – Catering costs	£345
TOTAL SPENT	£9,355