

Champion for Armed Forces and Veterans

Report on Expenditure from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

To assist the Leader and appropriate Cabinet Members to work with the organisations that support ex-servicemen and women to work even more closely together and to ensure that veterans and their families get the support they deserve!

I am extremely proud to have retained the position of Armed Forces Champion on Lancashire County Council. In doing so I believe I can continue to support many projects and local charities which have carried out vital work within the Armed Forces Community throughout Lancashire.

Activities Supported from my 2020/2021 Budget:

Healthier Heroes CIC – Mental Health Support £2,052 & furnish a new property £2,097

Healthier Heroes is a CIC which offers accommodation and fully supports veterans with varied conditions and challenges. I am delighted to say I have been able to support this CIC twice in this financial year. The first bid was to enhance mental health support. It provided staff, residents, volunteers and veteran families with a years subscription to counselling and mental health support. Every person received 6 sessions per issue that is identified in an initial consultation. For example; if a person is struggling with bereavement, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and Autism, they received 6 sessions, per issue, over the year. The benefits of the project were staff received mental health support from a specialized agency to ensure their wellbeing is being supported. Staff, and volunteers, listen to a lot of external problems from residents. The roles are intense, and it is important staff and volunteers also get to talk about the effects that the role may be having on them. This bid also provided partners and the families of residents with mental health support that they were able to access over the phone and online. Residents were also being provided with professional counseling in more complex issues. This enabled them to access the rest of the program more readily and therefore improved their progress and sped up their transition into independent living. The second bid was to help furnish a new property. Healthier heroes secured a move on property which is a 4 bed home to allow those they have supported to occupy as part of their recovery process. This has enabled them to take the next steps required to be able to live independently in the community. The building was a blank canvas and they were able to use this funding to provide the furniture and blinds which was needed to make the house a home and ultimately helped residents on the difficult path back into the community.

DWS LifeSkills – Continuation of their project £4000 over two bids

DWS Lifeskills are a small CIC who deliver outstanding results for the local Armed Forces Community. These two bids were to continue to fund the outstanding work undertaken. This includes hosting many varied events including coffee mornings, quiz nights, museum visits, fitness and outdoor events such as kayaking, walking, gym sessions and a great deal more. It also funded one to one visits and home

visits some which were referred from LCC. I am delighted how effectively this CIC works with myself and LCC social services for the benefit of veterans. The CIC also works with local GP's surgeries and indeed have received many referrals from the NHS.

Fylde Rugby Football Club £500 – Centenary Remembrance Sunday Event

In 2019, Fylde RFC held an inaugural and very successful Centenary Remembrance Sunday event which brought together the local community, local veterans and former Armed Forces personnel with current servicemen and women to hold a unique celebration and remembrance event. The pinnacle of the day was the signing of the Armed Forces Covenant where Fylde RFC formally declared its commitment to supporting our Armed Forces veterans, serving members of the Armed Forces and their families. Fylde RFC hoped to continue with this support, with this in mind I was delighted to help fund the event even though Covid took its toll.

National Military Heritage Group £750 – Armed Forces Day

I was delighted to help to fund Lancaster's Armed Forces Day again, I consider this as an annual event which heightens the military profile in the Lancaster area and in doing so brings together the Armed Forces Community. It also celebrates the areas military history and helps preserve it for future generations.

Preston Sea Cadets £1,300 – New gas oven and hob

I was also delighted to have the opportunity of supporting Preston Sea Cadets who have in turn supported young people in the community for over 100 years. They used the funding to replace their aging Gas Oven & Hob, the previous cooker was 20 years old and was commended at the last Gas Inspection. The cooker is not just for catering of hot meals on cadet and volunteer training events, but it is also part of their training facilities that allows cadets and volunteers to undertake their Cook steward and food hygiene qualifications and specialisation.

Men's Shed Fleetwood £500 – Refreshments for breakfast club

Fleetwood Men's Shed is an outstanding project within the local community and I fully support their regular Wednesday Veteran's Breakfast. This bid helps provide a venue, staff and food for the breakfast which is extremely well attended and brings together the areas veterans community.

Barton, Bilsborrow & Myerscough War Memorial £200 – Wreath rails

Annually Barton, Bilsborrow & Myerscough have one of the best organised Remembrance Parades in Lancashire which involved local people, school children and veterans. It is a privilege to fund wood mounted galvanised hooks for wreaths to be hooked on.

***County Councillor Alf Clempson
Champion for Armed Forces and Veterans***

Schedule of Expenditure for 2020/2021

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County Councillor Alf Clempson – Champion for Armed Forces Veterans	
Applicant	Amount of Grant
Flyde Rugby Football Club - Centenary Remembrance Sunday Event	£500
National Military Heritage Group - Armed Forces Day	£750
DWS LifeSkills -continuation of their project	£2,000
Preston Sea Cadets - new gas oven and hob	£1,300
Men's Shed Fleetwood - Refreshments for Breakfast club	£500
DWS LifeSkills -continuation of their project	£2,000
Barton, Bilsborrow & Myerscough War Memorial - Wreath rails	£200
Healthier Heroes CIC - Mental Health support	£2,052
Healthier Heroes CIC - furnish their move on property.	£2,097
TOTAL SPENT	£11,399