Cash will help clear up hippy camp

A SMALL community council near Lampeter is to be given a grant to help in its fight to evict a hippy commune camped on the local common.

Llangybi Community Council wants the hippies off the land and the common restored for sheep grazing.

The council claims that in the 13 years since the hippies moved in they have stripped the common of trees for firewood and littered the land with broken-down cars and buses.

Now, Ceredigion District Council is to give the community council a grant of £825 towards the £1,500 estimated cost of evicting the hippies, clearing the abandoned vehicles and litter and re-seeding the common.

The grant has been made on condition that the community council ensures that it has the statutory powers to allow it to carry out the work.

"We anticipate the cost of going to court and obtaining the injunction in order to evict these people would be in the region of £2,000. We are a small community council and we just don't have that kind of money, and that is why we have asked for help from Ceredigion," said the clerk of the community council, Mrs Mair Spate.

Local farmer Mr John Rowe of Penrhwcwch remembers picnicking on the common before it was "invaded" by the hippies.

"It was a beautiful common and now it is just a mess," he said. "The hippies moved in during 1972 and just took over the place as their own. They have taken all the growing timber away, all that is left is bushes and scrubland. They have also littered the common with broken-down cars and buses. It is about time something was done and I would support the Llangybi Community Council in its action."

Common's litter problem... Llangybi community council members Odwyn Davies and Brian Spate with clerk Mrs Mair Spate examine some of the vehicles littering the common.