

# A discussion about two of the current rules of the fund

## 1. Community buildings in town council areas aren't eligible

The rule that community buildings in town council areas can't apply has always been a rule of the fund. It has been regularly discussed and re-confirmed by the decision making panel over the years. Members of the new panel have recently expressed a wish to discuss it.

Factors to be considered include:

- **The amount of funding available**  
There is only £22,250 a year available in the Community Buildings Fund. This is nearly always all given out every year to high scoring worthy applications under the current rules. If community buildings in town council areas were permitted to apply, as there are so many of them, I would recommend that a much larger amount of money would need to be made available. Especially as a lot of community buildings are using up their reserves during Coronavirus, so will be more in need of financial help.
- **Town councils versus parish councils**  
Town councils receive a higher precept than parish councils, and often have funding in the form of grants available to their local communities. Town councils are usually more able to help fund community buildings in their areas, whereas parish councils are more likely to be unable to do the same.
- **Sustainability**  
Community buildings in rural areas and villages may have less users, and so less income? They may be more in need of financial support to help them become sustainable. Alternatively in towns where there are a lot of community buildings, it may be that the users, although there are more, are spread more thinly.
- **Town council areas**  
Some town council areas include villages. For example Ottery St Mary Town Council's area includes Alington and Tipton St John, and Sidmouth Town Council's area includes Sidbury and Sidford. Again, if villages in town council areas were included rather than all community buildings in towns as well, I would recommend that a larger amount of money would need to be made available.

## 2. Could community pubs be included

This grants scheme is open to all multi-use community buildings within Parish Council areas covered by East Devon District Council. Community buildings must be multi-use (minimum of three separate user groups), with open community access, and owned and / or managed by the community. Community shops can also apply. Members of the new panel have recently expressed a wish to discuss whether community pubs should be included.

A community pub is a pub that's owned and managed by the community themselves: <https://camra.org.uk/pubs-and-clubs/current-campaigns/save-your-local-pub/community-pub-ownership/> . There are very few examples of this in East Devon, including The Kings Arms in Stockland.

Factors to be considered include:

- **The amount of funding available**

There is only £22,250 a year available in the Community Buildings Fund. This is nearly always all given out every year to high scoring worthy applications under the current rules. If community pubs were permitted to apply, I would recommend that the amount of money made available should be increased slightly.