



**Agenda for Community Grant Panel
Wednesday, 18th December, 2019, 3.00 pm**

Members of Community Grant Panel

A Dent, M Hartnell, S Jackson, D Key, F King, T McCollum and I Thomas (Chairman)

Venue: Axe Room, Blackdown House, Border Road, Honiton, EX14 1EJ

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(or group number 01395 517546)
2 December 2019

- 1 Public Speaking
- 2 Minutes of previous meeting (Pages 3 - 6)
- 3 Apologies
- 4 Declarations of Interest
Guidance is available online to Councillors and co-opted members on making [declarations of interest](#)
- 5 Parishes Together Fund amendment request from Colyton Parish Council (Page 7)
Amendments to a drainage and ditching project from Colyton Parish Council.
- 6 Confidential/exempt items
To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including press) have been excluded. There are no items that officers recommend should be dealt with in this way.
- 7 Discussion of Crowdfund East Devon (Pages 8 - 11)

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If you are recording the meeting, you are asked to act in a reasonable manner and not disrupt the conduct of meetings for example by using intrusive lighting, flash photography or asking people to repeat statements for the benefit of the recording. You may not make an oral commentary during the meeting. The Chairman has the power to control public recording and/or reporting so it does not disrupt the meeting.

Members of the public exercising their right to speak during Public Question Time will be recorded.

[Decision making and equalities](#)

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EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**Minutes of the meeting of Community Grant Panel held at Tale Room,
Blackdown House, Honiton on 24 July 2019****Attendance list at end of document**

The meeting started at 3.00 pm and ended at 4.00 pm

1 Public Speaking

There were no public speakers.

2 Declarations of Interest

Minute 10 Cllr Paul Hayward — Personal interest – Clerk to Chardstock Parish Council.

3 Matters of urgency - none identified

There were no matters of urgency.

4 Confidential/exempt items - there are no items identified

There were no confidential/exempt items.

**5 Brief introduction to crowdfunding and Crowdfund East Devon,
which this Panel make decisions on**

Jamie Buckley Engagement & Funding Officer reported that crowdfunding was now a well-established and well used tool that allowed communities and organisations to promote and publish local ideas, solutions, infrastructure and events that need money. A crowdfunding website allows people and potential funders to access and review project proposals and then should they choose to, provide funding. The process of applying for crowdfunding was explained to members. It was noted that the fund had approximately £102,000 available when it started in April this year.

6 Eligibility criteria for Crowdfunding East Devon

Jamie Buckley, Engagement & Funding Officer, reported on the eligibility criteria for Crowdfund East Devon. Those who could apply included:

- Charities registered with the Charities Commission.
- Properly constituted and regulated Community Interest Companies registered with Companies House.
- Parish and town councils.
- Properly constituted voluntary and community groups and clubs.
- Properly constituted not for profit organisations.

It was noted that projects would be funded where at least 75% of the benefits were to communities and people within East Devon.

7 Hawkchurch Community Shop application to the Community

Buildings Fund

This was a project from Hawkchurch Community Shop to add solar panels to Hawkchurch Community Shop, as already exist on Hawkchurch Village Hall. This was the only shop for 5 miles and reducing running costs by adding solar panels would help the shop become more sustainable and also be good for the environment. The project was considered to be well planned and they had nearly all the other funding in place.

Jamie Buckley, Engagement & Funding Officer reported that there was £22,250 available in the community buildings fund and the next round of applications would be considered in February 2020.

RECOMMENDED: that the application for £2,133 from Hawkchurch Village Shop be supported.

8 Dalwood Community Shop application to the Community Buildings Fund

This was a project from Dalwood Community Shop and Post Office to add a small extension with a meeting area with seating and a coffee machine in it. The idea was that this would help reduce isolation in a rural area by providing a spontaneous, social meeting place and also that it would make the well-used shop and post office more sustainable. The community shop and post office are safeguarded in the Neighbourhood Plan. The applicant had letters of support from the community.

Concern was expressed about the unconfirmed funding of £5,500 for the project.

RECOMMENDED: that the application for £2,500 from Dalwood Community Shop and Post Office be supported, subject to the applicant being able to demonstrate that the other funding had been secured by the end of December 2019.

9 Whimble Victory Hall application to the Community Buildings Fund

This was a project from Whimble Victory Hall to replace the hall floor which had become unusable and could no longer be maintained. The Hall was very well used every day by the school and pre-school and a wide variety of user groups. The floor was the largest cause of concern for users and dancers had already cancelled their booking due to the poor condition of the floor.

RECOMMENDED: that the application for £5,000 from Whimble Victory Hall be supported.

10 Chardstock Community hall application to the Community Buildings Fund

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Paul Hayward, Clerk to Chardstock Parish Council, who explained the application and background to members. This was a project from Chardstock Community Hall to install a suspended ceiling with insulation, replace lighting with LEDs and replace a wet heating system with a dry air system. Members noted that

the hall was built in the 1970s with a single skin design and poor insulation. The applicant did not have three quotes for all the work.

Members noted that the hall was well used by various user groups. There were a couple of other hall opportunities in the village but they provide something a bit different. The vast majority of the funding was due to come from a Public Work Loans Board loan, which they weren't in receipt of yet as they need to state a final amount to apply which they won't have until they know if they're successful with this application.

RECOMMENDED: that the application for £5,000 from Chardstock Community Hall be supported on condition that the PWLB loan can be confirmed in writing and delegated approval to act be given to the Chairman and Engagement & Funding Officer.

11 **Parishes Together Fund grant towards drainage in Colyton, request from the parish council to the Panel for an extension to deadline for spending it.**

Members noted that in 2017/18 Colyton Parish Council was granted £1,292.90 from the Council's Parishes Together Fund towards a ditches and drainage project. They did not carry out this project within the required timescale of 12 months, so by 16 April 2019. Colyton Parish Council did not contact us to arrange an extension to the 19 April 2019 deadline in advance, so are asking for a post-deadline extension to allow them to spend the funding they were granted.

RECOMMENDED: that the application from Colyton Parish Council for an extension for their ditches and drainage project be supported.

12 **Parishes Together Fund Guidance 2017/18**

Jamie Buckley, Engagement & Funding Officer, provided details of the Parishes Together Fund Guidance 2017/18.

13 **Parishes Together Fund 2017/18 project evaluation forms for information**

Jamie Buckley, Engagement & Funding Officer provided Evaluation Forms for the following projects:

- a) Buckerell - £248.40 – ditch clearance.
- b) Cotleigh - £200 – drainage.
- c) Clyst St George - £683 – gully cleaning at Clyst St George and Ebford.
- d) Feniton - £1,650 – drainage.
- e) Gittisham - £1,586.50 – purchase and installation of defibrillator in Gittisham Vale.
- f) Honiton – the provision of workshops by the Thelma Hulbert Gallery along the East Devon Way to celebrate their 25th anniversary.
- g) Luppitt – £415.80 - Ditch clearing.
- h) Lympstone – £1,475 - this project was the second phase of Upper Wotton Brook Catchment Study. The purpose of Phase 2 was to observe the surface water runoff pathways in the rural upper catchment during significant rainfall events and to further explore the risks and opportunities identified during Phase 1. Identifying

and understanding runoff pathways was key to assessing flood risk and to determining appropriate interventions.

- i) Musbury - £513.70 – drainage.
- j) Offwell – £387.20 - carry out ditch and drainage clearance works to alleviate water drainage issues and reduce the risk of flooding.
- k) Ottery St Mary - £8,364.40 – mental health.
- l) Plymtree – £2,311 - installation of a night landing site for Devon Air Ambulance.
- m) Seaton - £1,550 - Natural Seaton Festival.
- n) Seaton - £3,500 – tourism signage.
- o) Shute and Widworthy – £716 - asphalt buckets and associated equipment to fill small holes in the lanes within the parishes.
- p) Sidmouth – £7,155.60 - a signposting project to provide support to residents in time of need, loneliness, loss and difficult or life changing circumstances.
- q) Uptontery – £669.90 to clear culverts in the parish.
- r) Yarcombe - £443.30 – drainage.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

A Dent
S Jackson
D Key
F King
T McCollum
I Thomas (Chairman)

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

Paul Hayward

Officers in attendance:

Jamie Buckley, Community Engagement & Funding Officer
Chris Lane, Democratic Services Officer

Councillor apologies:

M Hartnell

Chairman

Date:

Any other business

Community Fund Panel 18 December 2019

Parishes Together Fund / Communities Together Fund requests from applicants for the panel's decision:

1. Amendments to a drainage and ditching project from Colyton Parish Council.

Parishes Together Fund amendment request from Colyton Parish Council. Would you agree to these amendments to the previously approved project?

In 2017 / 2018 we gave Colyton Parish Council a grant of £1,292.90 towards specific ditching and drainage works along both sides of the road from Sandpits Lane to Guernsey Corner and onto the cemetery. You can see the full application online: <https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/Data/New%20Homes%20Bonus%20Panel/20180327/Agenda/270318NHBPCCombinedAgenda.pdf>

The original deadline for them to spend the funding was 16 April 2019. They were granted an extension by the Chairman of the Community Fund Panel to this deadline to the new deadline of 16 January 2020.

They have come back to us today (12 Dec) saying they don't want to spend the funding on the areas it was originally approved for. Instead they'd like to spend it on the areas outlined in the statement below.

Any changes to the original application have to be approved by the Chairman of the Panel. In this case it was timely to bring the decision along to this meeting instead.

Statement from Colyton Parish Council outlining why they would like to amend their project:

Thanks for your response to my enquiry about making an amendment to the original grant offer.

Can I formally ask on behalf of Colyton Parish Council for an amendment in respect of the Council's original application. We need to ask for this amendment to change the location of the work from the New Sidmouth Road to Love Lane and Clay Lane to divert water running into and across these lanes into restored ditches and lets which will prevent flooding and icing of the road surfaces. The purpose of this work remains the same as in the previous application and with regular maintenance will provide a sustainable improvement to flood protection.

The reason we are asking for this amendment is that the County Council have used their digger to restore the ditches and lets along the New Sidmouth road and the hand restoration work is no longer necessary. We are obtaining a quote from the Halcyon Company for this work and hope it will qualify for the same grant.

Please could you seek permission from the Community Fund Panel for the change from the original approved project.

Crowdfunding Report November 2019

For discussion and decision: the future of Crowdfund East Devon

Possible recommendations:

- That the Community Grants Panel / East Devon District Council formally propose to Devon County Council that we keep monies left in the Crowdfund East Devon pot at the end of 2019 / 2020 to keep running our crowdfunding scheme in 2020 / 2021.
- If there are an appropriate amount of monies leftover, the Community Grants Panel / East Devon District Council formally propose to Devon County Council that we use some of these monies to set up a small grants scheme in 2020 / 2021 for our not for profit groups.

Background

A crowdfunding partnership was set up between Devon County Council, Devon and Cornwall Police and various district councils, including East Devon District Council in 2018.

Initial monies - Initially SMT and Councillors allocated £50,000 from our Transformation Fund to spend via crowdfunding. Our part of this, Crowdfund East Devon became live in February 2019. £4,000 of this money was granted to Axminster's community waffle house in March 2019, they are a Community Interest Company whose aim is to combat loneliness, mental health issues and isolation: <https://waffle.org.uk/why/>

Further monies - The Communities Together Fund, a partnership fund from Devon County Council and EDDC for local community groups and town and parish councils, ran for one year in 2018/2019. As it only ran for one year before DCC decided to no longer make a contribution to the fund, there was a £95,000 underspend from the £195,000 available. The vast proportion of this money was from DCC. DCC did not insist on the money being returned, and indicated that it was happy for EDDC to use it to invest in East Devon community projects, especially so if it were spent piloting crowdfunding. This £95,000 was added into the crowdfunding pot.

SMT gave the instruction that the remaining £46,000 from the Transformation Fund should be held back and the Communities Together Fund underspend should be spent first. It's still currently being held back, I'm waiting for feedback from SMT on what to do with regard to this.

What's happening in 2019 / 2020

The £95,000 from the Communities Together Fund underspend has now been available through Crowdfund East Devon for 4 months.

To publicise the availability of the funding to not for profit groups including town and parish council's, voluntary and community groups, social enterprises and others I have:

-) Sent out several press releases.
-) Used social media, posting many times on both Facebook and Twitter.

-) Sent several emails to all East Devon's town and parish councils, let them know about it, and asked them to spread the word to not for profit groups in their town / parish.
-) Sent emails to all East Devon Councillors, and asked them to spread the word amongst not for profit groups in their Wards.
-) Sent emails to relevant EDDC staff and asked them to spread the word.
-) Got the press releases featured in both Devon Voluntary Action, Action East Devon and Devon Communities Together newsletters.
-) Asked Action East Devon to publicise to groups they're still in touch with.

To inform not for profit organisations and encourage them to apply to Crowdfund Devon I am running free 'Introduction to Crowdfunding' sessions. I've so far delivered three, on:

-) 30 July 2019
-) 2 September 2019
-) 1 October 2019

A total of around 50 representatives of voluntary and community groups and town and parish councils have attended these sessions. I've also planned another two on 18 November and 2 December.

A lot of East Devon's voluntary and community groups are run and staffed by older people, who may not be so comfortable with using an online system. I worked with Action East Devon when they were still a CVS to explore how we could help community and voluntary groups to apply. After feedback they'd had from groups on crowdfunding we offered:

-) Training on how to put a Crowdfunder project online, 10 groups trained.
-) Training on how to create a video for your crowdfunding project, 8 groups trained.
-) Training on how to use social media, to publicise your crowdfunding project, 8 groups trained.

These were delivered on 10 October, 31 October and 7 November in co-ordination with Cosmic, a social enterprise based in Honiton. The availability of these workshops was publicised again as above.

As with the Communities Together Fund, and the Parishes Together Fund before it, it takes a while for community groups to engage with new funding streams. In its first year the Parishes Together Fund only gave out about 60% of the available funding, the following year it was 85%.

Groups will need to spend time getting together their project, working out their costs, figuring out who their crowd is, and planning their crowdfunding campaign. So even though groups have been trained, it'll take a while for them to make their projects live on Crowdfunder. There are a few projects in the pipeline that I expect to become live on Crowdfunder in the New Year.

Beer Men's Shed

So far in the four months that the £95,000 has been available, we've given out £4,500 to a project from Beer Men's Shed, who improve mental health and social isolation through engaging men in groups where they do practical activities:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/beermensshed>

The Beer Men's Shed project was for £10,000, they raised the other £5,500 they needed from elsewhere through Crowdfunder including local residents, local businesses, people that visit Beer on holiday, local groups and others.

In the wider Crowdfund Devon Partnership

In a recent Crowdfunder report:



So for every £1 pledged by the Crowdfund Devon partners towards projects, a further £2.45 was raised from the crowd.

What's could happen in 2020 / 2021

Crowdfund East Devon

If there is any Crowdfund East Devon monies available at the end of 2019 / 2020 we need to decide now what we want to happen to those.

The majority of the money is Devon County Council's money. I have provisionally proposed to Devon County Council officers that we keep any monies remaining and continue to distribute it through Crowdfund East Devon in 2020 / 2021 to East Devon based community projects to benefit the local area. As they are supporters of crowdfunding and want to keep the Crowdfund Devon partnership going they've said that they would be likely to support this, rather than asking for it back.

This would allow community groups who are currently having ideas for, planning and working on their crowdfunding projects enough time to get involved and fund their projects, which can take a while.

Small grants scheme

Depending on the amount of money left in the pot we could also offer small grants to our community and voluntary groups as a separate process. For example, we could set aside £15,000 from whatever is left (providing there is enough to warrant this) and invite not for profit groups to apply for grants of up to £300-£500. These amounts are to be discussed.

However, due to the resources available in terms of my time I wouldn't be able to administer many more grants than this would allow.

This year (2019 / 2020) Devon County Council has been offering a similar easy to apply for grants scheme, with grants of up to £300. It has been an overwhelming success both in terms of grants applied for and outcomes achieved within the community with such small amounts of funding. They have stated that the take up within East Devon has been high. Devon County Council officers have provisionally said they would consider us doing something along these lines. Their small grants scheme is called the Making the Connection Grant:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/communities/making-the-connection-grant>

The details and criteria for any small grants scheme would be decided by the Community Grants Panel.