

**Agenda for Community Grant Panel
Tuesday, 23rd March, 2021, 10.00 am**



Members of Community Grant Panel

Councillors J Bailey, D Key, J Loudoun, H Parr, G Pook and J Rowland (Chairman)

East Devon District Council
Blackdown House
Border Road
Heathpark Industrial Estate
Honiton
EX14 1EJ

Venue: Online via the zoom app

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Date: Monday, 15 March 2021

Important - this meeting will be conducted online and recorded by Zoom only.

Please do not attend Blackdown House.

Members are asked to follow the [Protocol for Remote Meetings](#)

This meeting is being recorded by EDDC for subsequent publication on the Council's website and will be streamed live to the Council's Youtube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmNHQruge3LVI4hcgRnbwBw>

Public speakers are now required to register to speak – for more information please use the following link: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/have-your-say-at-meetings/all-other-virtual-public-meetings/#article-content>

1 Public Speaking

Information on [public speaking is available online](#)

2 Minutes of the previous meeting (Pages 3 - 7)

3 Apologies

4 Declarations of interest

Guidance is available online to Councillors and co-opted members on making [declarations of interest](#)

5 Matters of urgency

Information on [matters of urgency](#) is available online

6 Confidential/exempt items

To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded. There are no items which Officers recommend should be dealt with in this way.

7 Community Buildings Grant (Pages 8 - 14)

[Decision making and equalities](#)

For a copy of this agenda in large print, please contact the Democratic Services Team on 01395 517546

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**Minutes of the meeting of Community Grant Panel held at Online via the zoom app on 26 January 2021****Attendance list at end of document**

The meeting started at 10.00 am and ended at 11.35 am

36 Public Speaking

Dave Underwood spoke on behalf of West Hill British Legion and reported that the British Legion had been in its current premises since 1947 and was a vital component of the village providing a social hub accessible to all members and guests as well as other clubs and societies that use the facilities regularly.

For a long time the kitchen had been a bugbear as it was only a small domestic fitted kitchen and was only suitable for reheating food and with the help of a veterans covenant fund was able to treble the size of the space. He explained the purpose of the grant application was to now equip the kitchen to help extend the range of facilities available to anyone using the premises by being able to prepare and serve food on site.

37 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2020 were agreed as a true record.

38 Declaration of Interests

Minute 42. West Hill British Legion.

Councillor Jess Bailey, Personal, West Hill Parish Councillor; As a West Hill Ward Member provided a supportive statement for the application and also use the British Legion Club.

Minute 44. Colyford Memorial Hall.

Councillor Helen Parr, Personal, As a Ward Member for Coly Valley had provided a supportive statement for the application and used the hall.

Minute 46. Beer Football Club.

Councillor Geoff Pook, Personal, Not a current member but did provide supporting statements in their application.

Minute 47. Current rules of the fund.

Councillor John Loudoun, Personal, Sidmouth Town Councillor; Had been involved in a campaign to save our village pub and was a former Secretary of a Limited Company that sought to purchase our local pub.

39 Matters of urgency

There were no matters of urgency.

40 Confidential/exempt items

There were no items that officers recommended should be dealt with requiring exclusion of the public or press.

41 **Amount of money available**

Jamie Buckley, Engagement and Funding Officer reported that there was £22,250 in the Community Buildings Fund pot for 2020/2021. She reminded Members that at the last meeting the panel had decided to use £2,383 from this year's pot on two worthy applications which had reduced this year's pot to £19,867 which ends 1st April 2021.

Members were advised that up until now, since 2008, there had always been two closing dates per financial year to enable applications to be received throughout the year. It was highlighted that to fund all of the projects received in the first deadline would take nearly all the money and suggested to Members that they may wish to consider not funding all the projects on the agenda so as to allow a second funding round.

42 **West Hill British Legion**

Jamie Buckley, Engagement and Funding Officer reported that West Hill British Legion had applied for a grant of £5,000 to fit out a bigger kitchen to enable hirers and members to prepare and cook food on the premises. Members noted that although there were other community buildings in West Hill the building was well used by members and other community groups. Members also noted that they do have a grant from the Parish Council.

Concern was expressed about the low scoring mark for the need by the local community which did not reflect that the building was heavily used by the school and the preschool.

RESOLVED that West Hill British Legion application for £5,000 be granted.

43 **Exton Village Hall**

Jamie Buckley, Engagement and Funding Officer reported that Exton Village Hall had applied for a grant of £2,567.76 for an audio and sound system with a hearing loop to allow more users of the hall to access all the facilities. Members noted that the village hall was the only one in Exton and under normal circumstances, outside of Covid-19 was used very regularly. They had obtained three quotes and the rest of the money was coming from the village hall itself.

RESOLVED: that Exton Village Hall's application for £2,567.76 be granted.

44 **Colyford Memorial Hall**

Jamie Buckley, Engagement and Funding Officer reported that Colyford Memorial Hall had applied for a grant of £4,611.68 to replace the tongued and grooved floor of the main hall. The hall was the only one in Colyford and was very well used. Members noted that the floor was failing on a regular basis and emergency repairs had been done as often as possible but it was at a stage now where they cannot do that anymore. The works were well planned and they had all their other funding in place. It was noted they did have a significant amount of money in reserve but this was to be used for other projects.

Councillor Parr advised the hall was vitally important to Colyford and was extremely well used and agreed with the Engagement and Funding Officer's comments. In response it

was suggested that because of the nature of the project the community did not know the floor was failing.

RESOLVED: that Colyford Memorial Hall application for £4,611.68

45 **Newton Poppleford Pavilion**

Jamie Buckley, Engagement and Funding Officer reported that Newton Poppleford Pavilion had applied for a grant of £2,000 from the Community Buildings Fund. The pavilion was very well used but often received complaints from users about the windows, doors and other woodwork. The works, if supported, would make the building more efficient, more secure and more sustainable. The works were well planned and they have all their funding in place including a grant from Devon County Council.

Councillor Paul Hayward, non-committee member urged Members to consider the application advising the building had in the past suffered vandalism of smashed windows and a damaged door. The windows leak and were no longer energy efficient and with the heating on full blast the heat just goes straight out the windows and the doors.

Councillor Pook concurred and said it was important to retain these types of village facilities that could be a target for vandalism if they were seen in a bad condition and suggested having only a single round of spending each year and highlighted that if it was viable and there was a community need the panel should be funding it.

In response to Minute 41 Councillor Loudoun advised that as there had been advertisement of the two deadlines for this financial year we should allow this but raised concerns about how much would be left in the budget for the second application deadline. He suggested top slicing each application on the agenda by 5% or 10% to help achieve a bigger budget for the end of the financial year.

RESOLVED: that Newton Poppleford Pavilion's application for £2,000 be granted.

46 **Beer Football Club**

Jamie Buckley, Engagement and Funding Officer reported that Beer Albion Football Club was well used by the Football Club and occasionally used by other groups and was also available for private hire. They were asking for a grant of £4,633. There was one other community building within Beer which was also well used and quite often booked up. Members noted the project was to expand the Football Club by making a viewing area which would mainly be used by the club's spectators.

She advised a number of letters of support had been received for the wider project, which included a new bar area and expanding the rest of the facility but Members were advised this could not be considered as a whole as the work had already started on the wider project.

Members noted that the accepted quote that they would like to continue to work with would include free labour which is something that we do not often see on applications.

Councillor Pook expressed disappointment that it felt like the Football Club was being persecuted for putting a lot of work in and starting the project based on all the other funding they had achieved.

Due to the limited community benefit of the viewing area project, Members discussed giving less of a grant than the Football Club were asking for.

RESOLVED: that Beer Football Club be granted £3,500. This is a reduced amount from the £4,633 applied for.

47 **Current rules of the Community Building Fund**

Members discussed the rule that community buildings in town council areas cannot apply for funding and considered the following factors in terms of allowing community buildings in town council areas to apply:

- a) There is only £22,250 a year in the Community Buildings Fund which is nearly always given out every year to high scoring worthy applications and recommend a much larger amount of funding to be made available.
- b) The possibility of receiving a higher volume of funding applications due to Covid-19.
- c) Town Councils versus Parish Councils. Town Councils are expected to help fund community buildings in their area from the receipt of higher precepts.
- d) Sustainability.
- e) Town council areas – some town councils include villages.

Members agreed a wider debate was required to understand what the council was trying to achieve, to address what support was needed and to help understand what assets the communities use in the East Devon area.

Members discussed the question about whether community pubs could be included in the current rules of the fund.

RECOMMENDED:

1. That Members defer subject to further discussion which will include data that needs to be obtained, including a timetable to then ensure that any details are considered into any budgetary considerations for 2022/2023.
2. That Members defer the question about whether to include community pubs in the current rules of the fund subject to further discussion and research.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

J Bailey
D Key
J Loudoun
H Parr
G Pook
J Rowland (Chairman)

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

P Hayward

Officers in attendance:

Jamie Buckley, Community Engagement and Funding Officer
Wendy Harris, Democratic Services Officer
Debbie Meakin, Democratic Services Officer

Chairman

Date:

East Devon District Council

Community Buildings Fund

1. Minutes and recommendations from the last Community Grants Panel meeting on 26 January 2021, which is why we are having this meeting.

Members discussed the rule that community buildings in town council areas cannot apply for funding and considered the following factors in terms of allowing community buildings in town council areas to apply:

- a) There is only £22,250 a year in the Community Buildings Fund which is nearly always given out every year to high scoring worthy applications and recommend a much larger amount of funding to be made available.
- b) The possibility of receiving a higher volume of funding applications due to Covid-19.
- c) Town Councils versus Parish Councils. Town Councils are expected to help fund community buildings in their area from the receipt of higher precepts.
- d) Sustainability.
- e) Town council areas – some town councils include villages.

Members agreed a wider debate was required to understand what the council was trying to achieve, to address what support was needed and to help understand what assets the communities use in the East Devon area.

Members discussed the question about whether community pubs could be included in the current rules of the fund.

RECOMMENDED:

- That Members defer subject to further discussion which will include data that needs to be obtained, including a timetable to then ensure that any details are considered into any budgetary considerations for 2022/2023.
- That Members defer the question about whether to include community pubs in the current rules of the fund subject to further discussion and research.

In order to fit in with the budgetary considerations for 2022 / 2023, discussions need to be concluded by mid-August 2021. Due to this, some information is included in this report as a starting point.

2. Information presented to Members at the last Community Fund Panel meeting on 26 January 2021.

A. 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 Alfington 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.

B. 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 only a couple of 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.

3. Examples of community buildings currently eligible:

Recently, Devon County Council shared the results of a trawl that has been completed on the Charities Commission database and social enterprise register. This resulted in a list of the following in East Devon:

- Registered charities.
- Registered social enterprises.

The following 68 community buildings from these lists would definitely currently be eligible to apply to the Community Buildings Fund, dependent on their project meeting all the other criteria. There will be others not included in the list below that would be eligible, but that aren't registered charities or registered social enterprises.

- NEWTON POPPLEFORD VILLAGE HALL
- COLATON RALEIGH VILLAGE HALL
- HARPFORD VILLAGE HALL
- VILLAGE HALL-ESCOT
- WEST HILL VILLAGE HALL
- VILLAGE HALL, BRANSCOMBE
- BEER VILLAGE HALL
- AXMOUTH VILLAGE HALL
- THE NEWTON POPPLEFORD PLAYING FIELD FOUNDATION PAVILION
- HAWKCHURCH VILLAGE HALL
- MEMBURY PARISH HALL
- CHARDSTOCK COMMUNITY HALL TRUST
- DALWOOD VILLAGE HALL
- ALL SAINTS AND DISTRICT VILLAGE HALL
- WHITFORD VILLAGE HALL
- UMBORNE HALL
- KILMINGTON VILLAGE HALL
- THE MUSBURY VILLAGE HALL
- THE PEEK HALL, ROUSDON
- THE GITTISHAM PARISH HALL
- FENITON VILLAGE HALL
- PARISH ROOM AWLISCOMBE
- PAYHEMBURY PARISH HALL
- BROADHEMBURY COMMUNITY CENTRE CIO
- COMBE RALEIGH VILLAGE HALL
- THROGMORTON COMMUNITY HALL
- SHELDON VILLAGE HALL
- DUNKESWELL VILLAGE HALL
- LUPPITT VILLAGE HALL
- THE MANOR ROOM
- COTLEIGH VILLAGE HALL
- WILMINGTON VILLAGE HALL
- VICTORY HALL-STOCKLAND
- SMEATHARPE VILLAGE HALL
- OFFWELL RECREATION GROUND AND VILLAGE HALL CHARITY

- MONKTON VILLAGE HALL
- NORTHLEIGH PARISH HALL
- COLYFORD MEMORIAL HALL
- REECE STRAWBRIDGE YOUTH CENTRE
- SOUTHLEIGH PARISH HALL
- CLYST SAINT MARY VILLAGE HALL
- WOODBURY VILLAGE HALL
- WOODBURY SALTERTON VILLAGE HALL
- THE SOWTON VILLAGE HALL
- MARSH GREEN VILLAGE HALL
- ROCKBEARE VILLAGE HALL
- TALATON PARISH HALL
- THE WHIMPLE VICTORY HALL
- VILLAGE HALL BROADCLYST
- STOKE CANON JUBILEE HALL
- REWE AND NETHEREXE PARISH HALL
- BRAMPFORD SPEKE VILLAGE HALL TRUST
- UPTON PYNE VILLAGE HALL
- LYMPSTONE VILLAGE HALL
- AYLESBEARE VILLAGE HALL
- KNOWLE VILLAGE HALL
- EAST BUDLEIGH WITH BICTON VILLAGE HALL
- THE OTTERTON VILLAGE HALL
- Royal British Legion Club (West Hill) Limited
- Hawkchurch Community Shop Limited
- Dalwood Community Shop Association Limited
- Payhembury Provisions Limited
- The Plymtree Village Shop Association Limited
- Talaton Community Shop Limited
- East Budleigh Community Shop Limited
- Otterton Community Shop Limited

In addition there are other community buildings that could be eligible:

- a) Church / chapel halls might be eligible if they're separate to the area of worship, are used regularly by a wide range of non-faith based community groups, and otherwise meet the criteria of the fund.
- b) Multi-use buildings whose main function is as a community sports hub might be eligible, but would need to be used regularly by the wider community, such as Pavilions.

Their eligibility would depend on whether their building, structure and users meet the eligibility criteria of the fund. It's worth noting that we've only funded a couple of eligible community buildings that fall into these two categories within the last few years.

4. Examples of community buildings not currently eligible.

Community buildings in town council areas

Examples of a few community buildings not currently eligible would be those within the catchment areas of town councils, such as:

- Budleigh Community Workshop
- The Beehive in Honiton
- Axminster Guildhall
- Ottery Station
- The Institute, Ottery St Mary
- Tipton St John Village Hall
- Sidbury Village Hall
- Sidford Social Hall
- Pippins Community Centre, Axminster
- Honiton Youth Club building
- Stowford Community Centre
- Budleigh Salterton Town Hall
- Younghayes Centre, Cranbrook
- Littleham Village Hall, Exmouth

In addition there are other community buildings that could be eligible:

- c) Church / chapel halls might be eligible if they're separate to the area of worship, are used regularly by a wide range of non-faith based community groups, and otherwise meet the criteria of the fund.
- d) Multi-use buildings whose main function is as a community sports hub might be eligible, but would need to be used regularly by the wider community, such as Pavilions.

Their eligibility would depend on whether their building, structure and users meet the eligibility criteria of the fund.

Community pubs

As far as I can see, there are currently two community pubs within East Devon:

- Stoke Canon Community Pub Limited
- Stockland Community Pub Limited

5. Amounts previously given out

Year of grants scheme	Amount of £22,250 budget given out	Underspend
2012 / 2013	£21,000	£1,500
2013 / 2014	£22,250	£0
2014 / 2015	£22,280.46	Overspend £30.46
2015 / 2016	£16,500	£6,000
2016 / 2017	£21,500	£1,000
2017 / 2018	£12,476	£9,774
2018 / 2019	£20,784.23	£1,465.77
2019 / 2020	£22,250	£0
2020 / 2021	£20,062.44	£2,187.56

Every year since 2007 there has been £22,250 available to be given out to eligible community buildings through the Community Buildings Fund. This has always all, or nearly all, been allocated to worthy projects, apart from in 2017 / 2018.

This would indicate that if the rules were to change to allow more community buildings to apply, more funding would have to be allocated to the grants scheme if we wish to be able to fund all the worthy projects that apply. The extra amount needed would depend on how the rules were to change:

- If community buildings in town council areas were to become eligible, I would strongly suggest this would mean the amount of funding available would have to dramatically increase. A dramatic increase in the funding available, and the amount of applications would significantly increase the time it takes to manage the fund.
- If community buildings in town council areas, but within a surrounding village were to become eligible, I would strongly suggest the available monies would need to increase somewhat.
- If community pubs were to become eligible, I would suggest the fund might need to increase slightly.

In addition, due to Coronavirus many community buildings have probably been using their reserves to keep them going. Due to this I would suggest the grants may well be more in need in the coming months.