

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.