

Crowdfund East Devon – Budleigh Salterton Community Workshop Bid

Decision to be made: Do you wish to support the Budleigh Salterton Community Workshop crowdfunding campaign? If so, how much of a grant do you wish to offer?

The Budleigh Salterton Community Workshop project on Crowdfunder has now raised more than 25% of their Crowdfunder total. They have also now sent back answers to a few supplementary questions we asked. They are therefore now eligible to be considered for a Crowdfund East Devon pledge.

As at 24 August 2020 they had raised £26,695 of a £50,000 campaign (53%) with 7 days left to raise the full amount. I have put them in touch with Crowdfunder and they have had one to one guidance on how to achieve their target amount.

1. Campaign closing date issue

Their campaign closes on 31 August, which is the day before we will make our decision. Delays were caused in part by them not providing answers to the questions we asked until 23 August. It also took them a while to reach the 25% threshold to be considered for a grant from us, as they're trying to raise a large amount. Although the campaign will have closed, we can still make a pledge if it means they will achieve their target amount of £50,000.

Due to the way that Crowdfund East Devon works however, unless they will have reached their target with our pledge and any pledge Devon County Council may decide to give them through Crowdfund Devon, they will not receive any money from us. This is because in order to unlock our grant they have to achieve the £50,000 they're trying to raise. This is to try and not have any issues with public funds going to unfinished, unachievable projects. We are currently unaware of what Devon County Council will decide to do, and may not hear for a while.

The panel should make a decision on whether they wish to give a grant, and if so how much. If this leaves the Budleigh Community Workshop short of their £50,000 target, we will then liaise with Devon County Council to see if any Devon County Council grant would help them achieve it.

2. Their campaign

Please note: some of the amounts they've raised from elsewhere in the information on and from their Crowdfunder page is no longer correct, it has been updated. Please see section 3 of this document for updated figures.

Please see their Crowdfunder campaign page: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/budleigh-salterton-community-workshop-bid> which has a video explaining the project. Please also check their campaign page for an update on how much they raised.

This is the wording from their project page which explains their project in brief:

“The Budleigh Community Workshop Trust (BCWT), a newly formed charity (a CIO – Registered Charity Number 1188475), is operating in partnership with the Budleigh Health and Wellbeing Hub and the local GP practice, with the shared objective of improving the vitality, health and wellbeing of the local community and particularly in a post Covid19 era.

“Specifically, BCWT plans to create a workshop and other recreational facilities for the community to enhance skills, confidence and inclusion. Volunteer led activities will be made available to individuals who have need for such facilities by reason of their age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances, with the object of improving their conditions of life.

“Activities will initially focus on carpentry, wood turning and allied DIY, textile crafts and repair skills under the supervision of experienced practitioners and support volunteers. Our aspiration is to make the Community Workshop socially inclusive and diverse, focussing wherever the need is, so that young adults and older generations can develop skills and enjoy the social and creative opportunities the Workshop will provide. The facility will be operated within strict health and safety guidelines and controls including disabled access.

“BCWT has identified Budleigh Salterton Fire Station adjacent to other workshops/industrial units on Station Road as highly suitable premises for its purposes. The building has a concrete ground floor ideal for machinery based activities and an upstairs well lit room suitable for craft activities, meetings and relaxation. It is estimated that total funding of £200,000 is required to purchase, refurbish, and to initially equip the building. BCWT has managed to raise, through donations and pledges, £150,000 but, clearly, we are short of our necessary target to be able to compete at the Auction in September.”

3. Things to think about in making the decision:

3.1 The project and its costs:

- They are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, who have recently been set up for the purpose of providing this community building.
- This will allow the BCWT to bid at auction for a building, they believe it may cost them over £200,000. It maybe that the building goes for more or less than the £200,000 they are aiming to raise. If they don't end up purchasing that particular building I would suggest we say that any grant must be returned to us.
- They are trying to raise over £228,000. Over £200,000 to attempt to buy the building, and estimate it will cost about £28,000 to refurbish it. Budleigh Salterton Town Council have just decided to donate £25,000 towards the £28,000 refurbishments if the group are successful in buying the building. I am confident they will be able to raise the remaining £3,000 needed for refurbishments if they are successful.
- They have currently raised £196,695 towards buying the building. This is £100,000 from donations, £70,000 from pledges and £26,695 from their crowdfunding campaign. The target of their crowdfunding campaign is £50,000, if we make a pledge they won't receive the money we pledge unless they achieve their target. Obviously the more money they can raise to try and buy it, the more likely they are to be successful.

3.2 Community support

- Both within and outside of Crowdfunder they have so far managed to raise about £220,000. This is a fantastic achievement and shows a wealth of support from the local community. 6+

3.3 Our Crowdfund East Devon grants

- If they don't raise the full £50,000 their crowdfunding campaign is for, under our terms and conditions we remove any pledge we make and they don't receive any funding from us. They will still receive all the funding they have raised from other sources.
- Our maximum grant is £10,000. We can decide to give less than this. It maybe that Devon County Council decide to give some crowdfunding monies. However, we won't know this for some time as it takes Devon County Council longer usually to make their decisions.
- They have currently raised £26,695 of a £50,000 campaign (53%) with 7 days left to raise the full amount. If the panel are supportive of the project I would suggest granting the maximum amount of £10,000 to try to ensure they meet their target, can access our grant and enable the project to happen.
- We have around £90,000 still available in the Crowdfund East Devon pot. This can't currently be used for any other purpose, technically it is mostly Devon County Council's money that they're allowing us to use to give grants to East Devon community projects. This £90,000 doesn't include:
 - £20,000 still left from the £25,000 that was taken from the Crowdfund East Devon pot and used to create a small grants stream joint with Devon County Council for coronavirus related projects. This is still with Devon County Council waiting to see if this grants stream needs to be revived.
 - £50,000 from the Transformation Fund that was placed into the Crowdfund East Devon pot and has been held to one side whilst we used monies available to us from alternative sources.