HELP AVAILABLE FOR VILLAGE HALL CAPITAL PROJECTS

August 2017 update

Help is available for new buildings, capital improvements or major work. Routine repair and maintenance work is not usually eligible for grant aid.

All Councils will expect the Town/Parish Councils to provide help for the project as far as possible. Normally grant aid is only available for work which has not yet been contracted or started.

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE COMMUNITIES CAPITAL GRANTS
Offers grants to capital community projects in South Oxfordshire through its two Communities Capital Grant Schemes. There is a large grant scheme offering between £15,000 and £100,000 and small scheme offering up to £15,000, please check with SODC about deadline dates.

There is also a Community Loan Scheme offering loans between £50,000 and £1,000,000, must be used to help fund projects such as the purchase of land and buildings, new build or building refurbishments.

Further details can be found

01235 540525 email grants@southandvale.gov.uk
  • Please note that you will need Copies of your Land Registry, evidence of ownership tenure (a registered a lease with at least ten years left on the term).
Please also note the other documents you will need to apply to this loan (list at the base of the page).

VALE OF WHITE HORSE
Offers capital grant funding, please check with VOWH about deadline dates
01235 540525 email grants@southandvale.gov.uk

WEST OXFORDSHIRE
Communities in West Oxfordshire can apply for up to £50,000 for capital projects for improvement/enhancement of existing community facilities and the procurement of new facilities/equipment through the Community Facilities Fund, please check with WODC about deadlines dates
http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/leisure-links/community-leisure-grants/

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL
Are no longer able to offer arts, sports and recreation grants. However, staff are available to discuss programmes of work and give advice on grant applications for
other external sources of funding. Check directly with CDC Community Development Team with regard to funding.

Email community.development@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or Paul Tysoe Paul.Tysoe@Cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk whose focus is Community Associations and the Voluntary sector.

Note
It is always best to contact the authorities at an early stage in the planning of your project to check on timing/procedures etc.

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
Oxford City Council has a limited amount of funding available for community and voluntary organisations delivering community projects/activities or events that benefit residents of Oxford City. Further information about how to apply can be found on the Councils website or by contacting the grants officer 01865 252685 grants@oxford.gov.uk

INFORMATION REQUIRED FROM APPLICANTS WILL INCLUDE

- Full details of proposed project
- Breakdown of estimated cost with quote
- Where applicable a copy of planning permission will be required.
- Details on all other sources of funding available or approached with time limits
- Funds in hand
- Annual accounts and balance sheet
- Estimated start date and completion date
- Copies of bank statement could be asked for throughout

TIMESCALE FOR TAKING UP GRANTS/LOANS
Each authority will have its own time limit for the taking up of grants/loans - usually within 1 or at most 2 years.

VAT
It is possible to make arrangements with the parish council and the grant aiding authority concerned, for grants required for a project planned by and for the benefit of an independent village hall committee to be applied for by and be paid over to their parish council for the parish council to use, contract and pay for a part of the proposed building work on the village hall, (please note CDC do not operate this arrangement). If this is done, the parish council can reclaim the VAT paid on that part of the work. (It should be noted that VAT cannot be reclaimed on work paid for by the parish council if the parish council has not contracted the work or if it uses funds handed over to it by the independent village hall committee including grants applied for by and awarded to the village hall committee - either at the time or after the event.) CFO has produced an information paper on this subject. Copies are available from Tessa Hall.
TOWN/PARISH COUNCILS
Town/Parish Councils have power under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to give grants or loans for work at village halls or in support of their annual expenses. There is no limit on the amount that may be given.

The County and District Councils will expect as far as possible to see evidence of Town/Parish Council support for a project.

BIG LOTTERY FUND
Their current programmes include “Reaching Communities (England)” funding projects that help people and communities who are most in need, and can really make a difference awarding grants of more than £10,000 up to £500,000.

This programme may be appropriate for some village hall projects. The BLF say this about this programme:

The funding will enable you to use your local knowledge, strengths and resources. You need to tell the BL about your ideas to make positive changes in your community. We particularly want to hear about projects that support:

- Lasting and sustainable changes to places and spaces
- Communities to develop happier and stronger relationships with each other
- Taking action to focus on the root causes of social problems to tackle them at the earliest possible stage.

Please call their Big Advice team on: 0345 4 10 20 30.

For further information about the BLF and their funding programmes visit their website: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

AWARDS FOR ALL
The Awards for All programme is a simple small Lottery Grants Scheme making awards of between £300 and £10,000 for local and small scale voluntary organisations. The programme aims to help improve local communities and the lives of people most in need.

If you are not sure whether your project is something they can fund, please look at their website www.biglotteryfund.org.uk for more information or call the advice line on 0345 4 10 20 30 Applicants will find out if successful within six weeks.

THE LANDFILL COMMUNITIES FUND (LCF)
The Landfill Communities Fund is a scheme for funding community and environmental projects, predominantly within ten miles of landfill sites.

Since 1996 landfill operators have had to pay tax on every tonne of waste they dispose of, the idea being to encourage everyone to create less waste and to recycle
or reuse more. Fortunately, they are allowed to give part of their landfill tax to certain types of good causes.

These funds are managed through distributive environmental bodies within the rules of the scheme. [http://www.entrust.org.uk/landfill-community-fund/finding-funding/](http://www.entrust.org.uk/landfill-community-fund/finding-funding/)

**Third Party Funding**

In order to get a grant from any of the following organisations, for each project an independent third party must provide a cash sum to the landfill operator of 10.2% of the grant sought in order to “trigger” funds available through landfill communities fund. Oxfordshire environmental bodies are listed below:

**TOE2**

TOE2 provides small grants for a wide range of projects to support Oxfordshire’s communities and environment. They can fund projects which improve biodiversity, improve access to green spaces. They also have funding to help make community buildings more energy efficient.

The first step to improving the environmental performance of a community building is to carry out an energy audit. Please contact EiE directly T-01865 483299 or email eie@brookes.ac.uk

TOE2 provide small grants (in some cases larger grants) towards the cost of carrying out works to reduce energy consumption, as recommended from an energy audit. This could be improving insulation, upgrading the boiler or installing double glazing. Once energy efficiency measures have been implemented they can consider applications for funding towards the installation of alternative sources of energy e.g. a ground source heat pump or solar or PV panels.

TOE2 is a registered Charity, a limited Company, and an ENTRUST registered Environmental Body. If you are interested finding out more about TOE2 contact Fiona Danks at toe@oxonrcc.org.uk telephone 01865 407003.

**WREN**

WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental) is responsible for distributing the credits generated by the landfill operator, Waste Recycling Group. This company operates landfill sites at Sutton Courtenay near Didcot, and Calvert over the Buckinghamshire border. WREN can support applications from within a 10-mile radius of these sites.

You can apply for funding of between £2,000 - £50,000 through their Grant Scheme with three deadline dates throughout the year.

WREN will no longer be accepting applications for funding to construct new buildings or extensions to existing buildings. Although they will still consider funding applications for internal finishes, fixtures and fittings within a newly built facility and will continue to fund the refurbishment of existing buildings.

Further guidance and information can be found on website [http://www.wren.org.uk/](http://www.wren.org.uk/)
VIRIDOR CREDITS
Viridor Credits run three funding schemes: Small, Main and Large grants scheme.

Small Grants Scheme
The Small Grants scheme is for Community projects that request up to £20,000.

Main Grants Scheme
The Main Grants scheme is for Community, Heritage or Biodiversity projects that request £20,000-50,000.

Large Grants Scheme
The Large Grants band is for Community, Heritage or Biodiversity projects that request £50,000-250,000 from Viridor Credits.

Viridor Credits support projects which are within 10 miles of a Viridor site (based in Ardley, Oxfordshire). They like to receive applications from groups, organisations and projects that might find it difficult to obtain funding from other grant schemes. In particular, they look for projects that provide wide community use and therefore give best value for the funds they have available.

To find out whether you may be eligible for funding please visit website http://www.viridor-credits.co.uk/apply-for-funding/ or telephone 01823 476476

BIFFAWARD
Grants are awarded to projects that improve community spaces, cultural facilities and places for outdoor recreation. They wish to make sure that everyone has access to high quality local community facilities. Your community space may need improvements in order to increase the range of services on offer to the local community.

They support projects which are within 7 miles of a Biffa operation (based in Didcot).

Further guidance and details can be found on website www.biffward.org or by telephone 01636 670000 Email : biffaward@rswt.org.uk

Please note: Biffaward is unable to fund requests to help an existing facility meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act

DORIS FIELD CHARITABLE TRUST
There is no need to be a registered charity to apply to this Trust for funding with Trustees usually meeting 2/3 times a year. Grants up to £1,000 have been given to a number of Oxfordshire projects including village halls over the last few years. Further details and application forms are available from Sue Robins, Blake Morgan LLP, Seacourt Tower, West Way, Oxford OX2 0FB. Tel: 01865 262102 sue.robins@blakemorgan.co.uk
OXFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION – Community Grant General Fund
The Community Grant General Fund has the capacity to award applicants up to £2,000 for eligible projects, you must be able to demonstrate that your organisation:-

- are a constituted group that has been established for at least 12 months
- group is not a public body or statutory organisation
- project is based in Oxfordshire and its beneficiaries are in Oxfordshire
- group is not a national charity or financially integrated branch of one
- group has a bank account in its own name
- not applying for the costs of building or construction
- have returned evaluation forms for any grants previously received and not applied in the past 2 years
- has an annual income of less than £50,000 and less than one year’s restricted reserves.

For more information visit http://oxfordshire.org/ or telephone 01865 798666.

HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS
Green Square (Previously known as OCHA)
Grants of up to £750 from the Community Chest Fund are available for local groups. The fund is open to all groups that operate within areas that GreenSquare have residents. You do not have to be a GreenSquare resident to apply, but your event/project/activity must be open to GreenSquare residents if they wish to take part. Contact Lew Fryer on 01865 788753 or email lew.fryer@greensquaregroup.com

Cottsway Wellcommunity Fund – West Oxfordshire
Welcommunity Fund provides small grants for starting up projects, for events, development, equipment and materials for community groups which operate within the areas covered by Cottsway. Funding is available of up to £2,500 for projects/groups who meet the eligibility criteria covering one of the following areas:-

- Young people and children
- Addressing rural problems/priorities
- Preventing debt, providing financial advice and reducing poverty
- Contribute towards climate change and energy efficiency

For further information call Freephone 0800 876 6366 or visit http://cottsway.co.uk/get-involved/community-support-and-funding.

Sovereign Vale Community Grant
Available to local groups and charities for projects and events that will benefit and improve the lives of Sovereign Vale Residents. Grants of up to £200 are available per project per year. For further details and an application form telephone 01235 536001 or visit www.vale-info@sovereign.org.uk

GARFIELD WESTON FOUNDATION
The Garfield Weston Foundation has supported a wide range of organisations with grants of varying sizes over recent years including village hall projects in Oxfordshire. All applications must be sent by post.

There are no formal deadlines for submitting applications and organisations should allow approximately four months for a final outcome, though acknowledgement letters are sent within four weeks. Please note that once an acknowledgement letter has been sent there is typically no further correspondence until the outcome of the application.

Further guidelines and information required by the Foundation are available on website www.garfieldweston.org or telephone 020 7399 6565. Incomplete applications may result in delays to the outcome, so please read guidelines carefully.

ASDA FOUNDATION
https://www.asdafoundation.org/applying-for-funding/significant-local-community-projects. In Oxfordshire Asda have a store in Wheatley and a Depot in Didcot. Didcot Community Champion, Emma Kahlon: Emma.Kahlon@asda.co.uk. Tel 01455 884838, Wheatley Community Champion, Angie Young. Tel 01865 873888

THE MIDCOUNTIES CO-OPERATIVE
The Midcounties Co-operative believes in using its profits for the development of the business, the benefit of the members and to support the community that they trade with.

You can apply for grants of up £250 as long as you are based in their trading area and provide a benefit to the local community, they can also provide volunteers for you if you need an extra pair of hands.

Individual branches also have community chequebooks which the local manager can use at their discretion to provide the means for purchase of small items by local groups e.g. raffle prizes, refreshments etc.
More details are available on website www.midcounties.coop or phone 01902 405700.

SCREWFIX FOUNDATION
The Screwfix Foundation is a new charity offering small grants (up to £2,000 max) to local charities, including projects that fix, repair, maintain and improve properties and community facilities for the benefit of those in need. For more information visit their website. http://www.screwfix.com/jsp/landing.jsp?id=ScrewfixFoundation

BERNARD SUNLEY CHARITABLE TRUST
This trust has been supporting village hall projects around the country but will only assist registered charities. When applying a letter should be included to explain what the charity does, and its objectives, an explanation of the need and purpose of the project, costings, size of grant needed and how much has been raised already and from whom and how it is planned to raise any shortfall. The principal areas of interest of the Foundation is assisting community projects, the disadvantaged and where there is a focus on environmental issues.
To obtain further information of how to apply, contact the Trust at 4th Floor, 20 Berkeley Square, London W1J 6LH Tel 0207 408 2198 or email office@sunleyfoundation.com

DHL UK
DHL UK Transform It Fund gives grants of up to £10,000 for physical improvements to community facilities, aiming to change the lives of children and young people. Funding is only available for the purchase, building or obtaining of long-term fixed assets. To apply you must be a DHL employee working with a voluntary organisation. In Oxfordshire DHL is based on Milton Park in Abingdon
www.dhlukfoundation.org/index.php?ID=1036

RURAL COMMUNITY BUILDINGS LOAN FUND
The loan fund is operated by ACRE, CFO’s national organisation. Loans are usually available to halls established on charitable trusts for work to provide a new hall or to improve an existing one. The interest rate changes daily and depends on the length of term of the loan. The rate will be fixed at the rate on the day the cheque is issued and will remain for the whole term of the loan. Please contact Tessa Hall
tessa.hall@communityfirstoxon.org if you require further details.

CHEAP PAINT
“Community Re-Paint”
This scheme is to recycle left-over emulsion, gloss, undercoat and masonry paint which is less than 10 years old for re-use by local voluntary organisations. Further details can be found on www.orinoco.org or by contacting ORINOCO (the Oxfordshire Scrapstore) on 01865 761113. The Scrapstore is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 11am to 4pm

B&Q WASTE DONATION SCHEME COMMUNITY GROUPS, CHARITIES, SCHOOLS
Every B&Q store is striving to be a ‘good neighbour’ by forming partnerships within its local community.

B&Q operates a waste donation scheme through all stores. This scheme allows donation of waste materials, for example slightly damaged tins of paint, off-cuts of timber, odd rolls of wallpaper and end of range materials, to community groups, charities and schools.

The waste donation scheme is co-ordinated in store either by the environmental champion, duty or Warehouse manager who will keep a Waste Donation Form on file for interested groups.

Before any materials are donated, the form must be signed by a representative of the group. Please note that it is company policy that health and safety is taken into consideration, therefore electrical, petrol and gas items are not available for donation. Any waste or surplus stock donated must not be re-sold.
http://www.diy.com/diy/jsp/corporate/content/environment_ethics/ethics/community/waste_donation.jsp

THE GOOD EXCHANGE
The Good Exchange is an online community funding website that matches eligible applications for charitable funding with funders, donors and fundraisers who want to support your project.

If you are a UK registered charity or a group seeking to fund a local project, there are several ways you can access sources of funding through funding site. There is a questionnaire at the start of the process to find out if you are a suitable organisation.

You just make a single application for grant funding and The Good Exchange will match you with multiple funders which could potentially back your project. You can also fundraise by attracting donors and fundraisers to support your project, or you can do both.

The Good Exchange will also claim Gift Aid on your behalf and funders have the opportunity to match fund donations to your project. 

*The Good Exchange will automatically add a 5%+VAT fee to your target amount which will be shown on your project page. The fee is applicable only to funds raised.*

Here is a link to their website.

https://thegoodexchange.com/starting-a-project

This service was based locally in Berkshire but it is now building up to being a national funding service.

‘FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS’ IN OXFORDSHIRE

This guide is only available in an electronic format and can be accessed by visiting [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk) and then clicking on *Community and Living* and then click on *Funding and Grants*.

It gives an overview of funding opportunities across Oxfordshire for a wide range of projects which you may find useful. Local Authority grants are divided into the relevant Districts and general grant availability in major topic areas such as Learning, Community Safety and the Environment are also detailed.

The information is abbreviated, to provide a manageable guide to local people and communities looking to take the initial step on the funding ladder. The aim of the document is to translate the complexities of grant schemes and awards into a meaningful reference guide, on who to contact, for what type of funding and general tips on completing the application forms.

Please note that due to the rapid change of entrants to the funding scene the listings will never be 100% accurate, but will hopefully provide a good start to unravelling the myriad of grants available in your locality.

TAX RELIEF ON CHARITABLE GIVING

*Gift Aid*

If an individual tax payer or a company gives a lump sum donation of any size to a charity, the charity can reclaim tax from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) on its ‘gross
equivalent – its value before tax was deducted at the basic rate if a Gift Aid Scheme is used.

For further details and guidance on Gift Aid please visit their website: www.hmrc.gov.uk or by Tel: 0845 3020203 (select option 2)

AND DON’T FORGET YOUR VILLAGE COMMUNITY
Keep the village informed of your plans and progress from the outset. Appeal for help “in kind” as well as in donations and attendance at fund raising events. There may be professional expertise, skilled labour or sources of cheap materials you can call on.

PLANNING A VILLAGE HALL BUILDING PROJECT - CHECKLIST OF POINTS TO CONSIDER
The sources of help for building projects mentioned in this leaflet are sympathetic to the needs of village hall management committees and will try to help as far as they can. But to be able to consider your application effectively and, if resources are limited, to weigh it up alongside other applications, grant aiding bodies especially will want to see as far as possible efficient forward planning of your project and evidence of the consultation that has taken place in the community which supports your project.

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www.communityfirstoxon.org
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