

Community Impact Bucks' COVID-19 Briefing #21

RETAIL, HOSPITALITY AND LEISURE/ COMMUNITY BUILDINGS NEWS

Short regular briefing from Community Impact Bucks

23rd April 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Many community buildings and villages halls in the county are losing out on much needed funds due to enforced closure during the pandemic. With continuing overheads and juggling tight budgets, the current loss of income undoubtedly will have repercussions in the longterm but there is help available.

Have a look below at the update on the **Retail and Hospitality and Leisure Grant** which your charity or community building may be eligible for, the help we can provide through our [Community Buildings Service](#) as well as other [funds](#).

RETAIL, HOSPITALITY AND LEISURE GRANT ELIGIBILITY

On 19th March in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government announced there would be support for small businesses, and businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors. This support takes the form of two grant funding schemes, the [Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund](#).

We are delighted that Buckinghamshire Council has confirmed that the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant has provision to support charities including village halls and community buildings. Clause 24 of the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's guidance for the grant confirms eligibility – "Charities which would otherwise meet this criteria but whose bill for 11 March had been reduced to nil by a local discretionary award should still be considered to be eligible for the RHL grant."

Buckinghamshire Council may have already written to you about applying for this grant. If they haven't, don't worry you can apply directly via this [form](#).

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS NEWS

- **If your building is temporarily closed:** Zurich has produced useful guidance and a check list for buildings that have temporarily closed. Have a look at the [Temporary Closure Security Guidance](#).
- We recommend all community buildings should **check their insurance cover:** insurers will have different policies on the COVID-19 lock down and you should check to see what measures should be put in place for what will largely be unattended buildings. Many insurers have a clause about the building being unoccupied after a certain number of days so committee members should draw up a rota to visit halls on a regular basis and keep a record of such visits.
- [Community Buildings Service:](#) this week we launched our 2020/21 subscription offer which is £60 (including VAT) for the year – with staggered subscription payments of £30 (April and October). Community Building Service benefits include:
 - E-bulletins about issues that matter to community buildings and village halls, including the latest funding opportunities.
 - Free access to 42 National Village Hall information sheets from ACRE (normally £10 each) and model documents.
 - A 'light touch' advice and information service including one to one telephone and email support on a range of issues such as insurance, building work, employment, health and safety, governance, constitutions and volunteers.
 - Up to four hours specialist support and advice for more complex issues on a case by case basis.

For more information, go to our [Community Buildings](#) page or contact debi@communityimpactbucks.org.uk.

VILLAGE HALL SURVEY

We have been asked by ACRE to make one final push to encourage village halls to complete its survey – can 10 more of our brilliant halls respond to this request?

Carried out every 10 years, your responses will help to secure essential future funding for halls and tailor future advice and information that addresses the challenges being faced by volunteer hall committees. Your feedback will also help to ensure that the ACRE Network can continue to provide the best support.

To help ACRE help you, click [here](#) to complete the survey. This is an online survey but to make it easier you can also [download a PDF](#) of the questions and draft your answers in advance.

If you would prefer not to receive our COVID-19 Briefings, you can **opt out** by emailing info@communityimpactbucks.org.uk



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