

Community Impact Bucks' COVID-19 Briefing #7

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

Short regular briefing from Community Impact Bucks

1st April 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

In line with COVID-19 restrictions, thousands of village halls and community buildings have temporarily closed leaving a feeling of uncertainty amongst both the communities they support as well as the committees which will be looking at the long-term future of their hall.

If you are involved in the running of a community building, have a look below at Sport England's Community Emergency Fund which you may be eligible for, and the revised guidance from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy regarding the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant.

Also you still have a chance to tell Action for Rural England (ACRE) about your hall to help them secure future funding - details below.

GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY SPORT ORGANISATIONS

Sport England has launched a £20m Community Emergency Fund to help **community sport and physical activity organisations** which are experiencing short term financial hardship or the ceasing of operations due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

Grants of up to £10,000 could help to cover core costs such as rent, insurance, and core staffing costs, and are available to:

- Local sports clubs
- Voluntary and community sector organisations that deliver or enable sport and/or physical activity, including organisations that are not solely or primarily sports organisations but have an important role to play in keeping people active, as well as those which may need support for other parts of their organisation to remain open
- Small charitable trusts that do not qualify for financial help elsewhere
- Regional or county level organisations or leagues that have already paid out funds for activities that are now cancelled and are not able to claim funds from elsewhere.

The fund is designed to complement other sources of funding from the government, such as funds targeted at small businesses. For information on Government funding support, click [here](#).

For more information on Sport England's fund and to apply, click [here](#), or to see other COVID-19 funding opportunities which are available, visit our [COVID-19 funding section](#).

RETAIL, HOSPITALITY AND LEISURE GRANT

Hot of the press: we have just been notified by ACRE, our umbrella organisation for our work as Rural Community Council, that the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has revised its guidance today.

This guidance now indicates that **village halls and similar charities**, which are already in receipt of full rate relief, may be eligible for the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant. This is only applicable to organisations with a rateable value of under £52K.

For more information, read the [BEIS guidance](#), with particular reference to Section 24 and the [Government's business support](#). We will keep you updated on any further developments.

ACRE VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY HALL SURVEY

The deadline for ACRE's national survey has been extended to Monday 20th April 2020. Data collected in the survey will be used to **help secure future funding** for halls and to **tailor their advice and support** to meet the challenges faced by community halls in Buckinghamshire and beyond.

The current COVID-19 crisis has shown how important these facilities are to our communities: your feedback is invaluable now more than ever.

To complete the survey, click [here](#).

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