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## Grant schemes – local funds

### **Buckinghamshire Community Boards**

Community Boards are a new way of bringing the council, groups, organisations, and local people together to look at local issues and find ways of improving them together. Each board has a set of priorities and an allocated budget to fund local projects and initiatives.

*(Please read the guidance and criteria carefully and discuss your application with the relevant Community Board Co-ordinator before applying)*

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/improving-your-local-community/apply-community-board-funding/>

### **Your town / parish council**

Some town / parish councils run grant schemes for not-for-profit groups. Keep in touch with the relevant officers and the councillors that cover your area.

### **Section 106 Developers' Contributions / Community Infrastructure Levy**

These are levied on new building developments, and community buildings may be able to obtain funds for improving their facilities. The funds are held by borough / district councils, but if you have a parish / town council then contact them first to explain your need and find out what funds are available for your area.

### **Landfill Communities Fund**

These schemes are for not-for-profit organisations operating near waste processing and recycling sites.

Veolia: [www.veoliatrust.org](http://www.veoliatrust.org) or call 0203 567 6820

Suez: <https://www.suezcommunitiestrust.org.uk/apply-for-funding/england/>  
or call 01934 524013

Biffa: [www.biffa-award.org](http://www.biffa-award.org) or call 01636 670051



## Heart of Bucks

Heart of Bucks runs various grant schemes aimed at local voluntary and community groups in Buckinghamshire. Register with them to receive updates and information on new schemes.

<https://heartofbucks.org/> or call 01296 330134

## Milton Keynes Community Foundation

Milton Keynes Community Foundation runs various grant schemes aimed at local voluntary and community groups in Milton Keynes. Register with them to receive updates and information on new schemes.

<https://www.mkcommunityfoundation.co.uk/> or 01908 690276

## High Wycombe Town Committee

The High Wycombe Town Committee provides an annual budget to deliver two rolling grant programmes for voluntary and community sector organisations based in High Wycombe town (the unparished area of High Wycombe), including the Community Support Fund and Facilities Fund.

<https://www.wycombe.gov.uk/pages/Community/Grants/Apply-for-a-community-grant.aspx> or call 01494 421806

## Leap

Leap is the strategic lead for physical activity and sport in the county, with funding from Sport England. They work with a huge range of partners to enhance people's lives through physical activity and sport. The Leap team help support community sport and activity groups access funding to sustain them if they are under financial threat.

<https://www.leapwithus.org.uk/> or call 01296 585215



## **Rothschild Foundation**

The Rothschild Foundation is a charity which supports the local third sector through two grant-making programmes. Strategic grants make longer-term investments in culture, secure and nutritious food, and young people.

Community grants respond to broader needs of Buckinghamshire communities, and support organisations addressing disadvantage and inequality.

<https://rothschildfoundation.org.uk/>



## Grant schemes – national funds for buildings and rural projects

These national funding bodies offer grants for various projects, usually including work on buildings. Contact them directly for the latest information.

### **Aviva Community Fund**

Grants up to £50,000. Includes grants to help communities prevent, prepare, and mitigate the effects of climate change.

[aviva-community-fund-eligibility.pdf](#) ([avivacommunityfund.co.uk](http://avivacommunityfund.co.uk))

### **The National Lottery Community Fund**

Details of all the Community Fund programmes, both for large and small grants, can be found from this main site and on this phone number.

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/> or call 0345 410 2030

### **Garfield Weston Foundation**

Several community halls and centres have been funded through the 'Community' strand, with grants from £1,000 to well over £100,000. Their policy is to give grants of a small proportion of the total project cost, typically around 10% for building works. The grant can support capital projects, revenue/core costs or project costs. It is recommended that applicants should have around half of their funding identified before applying to the Foundation.

[www.garfieldweston.org/](http://www.garfieldweston.org/) or call 020 7399 6565

### **Trusthouse Charitable Foundation**

The Foundation awards grants to small, well-established charitable organisations whose postcode falls within the Indices of Multiple Deprivation:

<https://www.trusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk/our-grants>

or email [grants@trusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk](mailto:grants@trusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk)



## **Tesco Community Grants**

Grants of up to £1,500 for a wide range of community projects / activities, voted on by customers.

<https://tescobagsofhelp.org.uk/> or call 0121 237 5780

## **Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation** (buildings and equipment costs only)

Grants are available in the areas of community, education, health, and social welfare. The funding is for one-off capital projects (not running costs) such as new buildings, major refurbishments, transport, and equipment. The majority of grants awarded are under £5,000. Grants exceeding £25,000 are exceptional and are typically awarded to major capital projects. Continuous rolling programme.

<http://www.bernardsunley.org/> or call 020 7408 2198

## **Screwfix Foundation**

Grants of up to £5,000 for work on community buildings and people's homes.

<https://www.screwfix.com/help/screwfixfoundation/> or call 0500 414141

## **B&Q Foundation**

Grants to registered charities for a range of purposes, including improving community spaces.

<https://www.neighbourly.com/BandQFoundation>

## **Sport England**

National Lottery funding relevant to community buildings with any kind of sporting facilities.

<https://www.sportengland.org/funding/> or call 0345 8508 508

## **Pilgrim Trust** – (preserving heritage, including buildings)

<https://www.thepilgrimtrust.org.uk/grants/> or call 020 7834 6510



## **The Prince's Countryside Fund**

Grants for projects that will have 'a long-term positive impact on rural communities.

<http://www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/grant-giving-programme/grant-programme>

## **Heritage Fund**

A range of grant schemes, some of which will be relevant to community buildings.

<https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding> or call 020 7591 6042

## **National Churches Trust**

Particularly note the Community Grants programme to increase churches' community usage.

<http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/our-grants> or call 020 7222 0605

## **Allchurches Trust**

Mainly capital funding for churches and other Christian-based charities.

<https://www.allchurches.co.uk/>

## **Power to Change Community Business Fund**

Funding to start and develop community businesses such as shops, pubs, farms, and cafes. Community halls and associations might be able to apply for aspects of their own work; see the websites for more details.

<https://www.powertochange.org.uk/get-support/programmes/community-business-fund/>

## **Henry Smith Charity**

[www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk](http://www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk) or call 020 7264 4970

## **Lloyds Bank Foundation**

<http://www.lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk/> or call 0870 411 1223





## **Clothworkers' Foundation**

[foundation.clothworkers.co.uk](http://foundation.clothworkers.co.uk) or call 020 7623 7041

## **Masonic Charitable Foundation**

Current priorities: disadvantaged children and young people and reducing isolation in later life.

<https://mcf.org.uk/get-support/grants-to-charities/> or call 020 3146 3337

## **Tudor Trust**

[www.tudortrust.org.uk/](http://www.tudortrust.org.uk/) or call 020 7727 8522

## **Aviva Community Fund**

<https://www.aviva.co.uk/good-thinking/community-fund/>

## **Asda Foundation**

Apply through your local Asda store

<https://www.asdafoundation.org/>

## **People's Postcode Trust and Postcode Community Trust**

<http://www.postcodetrust.org.uk/>

<http://www.postcodecommunitytrust.org.uk/> or call 0131 555 7287

## **Foyle Foundation**

<http://www.foylefoundation.org.uk/small-grants-scheme/> or  
call 020 7430 9119



## Support and funding for energy efficiency / renewable energy

### Rural Community Energy Fund

A grant scheme of up to £100,000 for the development of renewable energy projects that will benefit rural communities (not just individual organisations in those communities). The Fund is being run by across England by five 'Energy Hubs'; with Buckinghamshire in the Southeast Energy Hub:

<https://www.energyhub.org.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rural-community-energy-fund>

### MCS Charitable Foundation

Grants for renewable energy and low carbon technology projects. These 'should have a UK wide impact, either through having a national reach or through developing/demonstrating an innovative approach that could be replicated, adapted or scaled up.'

<https://www.mcscharitablefoundation.org/>

### ACRE Rural Community Buildings Loan Fund

For halls in rural areas, this loan fund is worth considering if you need funding for work that will quickly reduce your energy bills (e.g. by improving your building's insulation) or increase your income (e.g. by making your building more appealing to potential hirers). Then you can use the money saved to pay off the loan. See the next page for more details about the Loan Fund.

[www.acre.org.uk/our-work/rural-community-buildings-loan-fund](http://www.acre.org.uk/our-work/rural-community-buildings-loan-fund) or call 01285 653477



## **Energy audit tool for use by community building staff and committees**

The Centre for Sustainable Energy has an energy audit template that you can download free of charge from their website (at the link above). It is intended for use by non-experts and should provide useful evidence to help with grant applications and other fundraising.

<https://www.cse.org.uk/local-energy/resources>  
<https://www.cse.org.uk/local-energy/resources>

## **Energy Saving Trust**

The website has a range of resources and information about saving energy and generating your own heat or power.

[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/) or call 0300 123 1234

## **Carbon Trust**

Guides and toolkits on a range of energy-related issues. The most useful topic for community buildings to search in is probably 'Future energy systems'.

<https://www.carbontrust.com/resources>



## Other Funding

### Local businesses

They may be able to help with grants, sponsorship (in return for some publicity), resources, equipment, staff time etc. Be creative with what you can offer local companies in return for their support and use any contacts or other links you have.

See the link below for more details:

<https://communityimpactbucks.org.uk/funding/sources-of-income/corporate-partnerships/>

### Crowdfunding

This is a new approach to fundraising which uses online technology to enable the gaining and handling of donations from a large number of people.

A list of crowdfunding sites for charities:

<https://www.charitydigitalnews.co.uk/2019/02/21/the-best-free-online-fundraising-platformsfor-charities/>

One of the most well-known fundraising platforms used by charities is JustGiving. See the link below for more details:

<https://www.justgiving.com/for-charities/a-new-free-way-to-join-justgiving>

### Gift Aid

Charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs embarking on a major fundraising drive should consider registering for Gift Aid:

<https://www.gov.uk/claim-gift-aid/overview>

You can then claim 25p for every £1 you receive in donations from individuals.

Also see: <https://www.gov.uk/claim-gift-aid/small-donations-scheme>

For more details see the link below:

<https://communityimpactbucks.org.uk/funding/sources-of-income/gift-aid/>



## **Dulux Community Re-Paint scheme**

Community buildings can apply for paint for their halls from their local scheme.  
[www.communityrepaint.org.uk](http://www.communityrepaint.org.uk)

## **Burg-Wächter Community Security Scheme**

Europe's largest safe and post box manufacturer is awarding up to £1,000 and security products/advice to charities, social enterprise, not for profit and community ventures.

<https://www.burg.biz/uk/community/>

## **B & Q**

B & Q stores can donate items like slightly damaged tins of paint and end-of-range materials, and they give grants of up to £250 for projects that save energy, conserve nature, help people grow their own produce or support local culture and heritage.

<https://www.diy.com/responsible-business/waste-donation> or contact your local branch

## **Community Payback**

Formerly known as Community Service. Organisations put themselves forward to get support from offenders, with decorating a community centre being one of the suggested projects.

<https://www.gov.uk/nominate-community-payback-project>



## Further help and tools for finding grants

### Online funding search tools

#### Bucks Funding Search

Bucks Funding Search is a searchable database of funding opportunities. It is easy to use, allows you to tailor your searches, is regularly updated and allows you sign up for email updates direct to your inbox.

<https://www.idoxopen4community.co.uk/bucksfunding>

#### Charity Excellence Framework

A free database of funding bodies, along with other toolkits and resources.

<https://www.charityexcellence.co.uk/>



## Loan schemes

### **ACRE Rural Community Buildings Loan Fund**

Loans from £1,000 to £20,000 (and occasionally higher) to help community halls in rural areas to meet the cost of capital works. The Fund is often over-subscribed so please contact ACRE as soon as you decide that you might want to apply for a loan.

[www.acre.org.uk/our-work/rural-community-buildings-loan-fund](http://www.acre.org.uk/our-work/rural-community-buildings-loan-fund) or call 01285 653477

### **Co-op Foundation**

Interest-free loans of up to £50,000 for 'enterprising ideas to improve community spaces'. See the website for examples of projects they would like to support.

<https://www.coopfoundation.org.uk/> (scroll to the bottom of the page)

### **Charity Bank loans**

Charity Bank can give loans for a range of purposes up to £1,000,000.

[www.charitybank.org/](http://www.charitybank.org/) or call 01732 774040

### **Venturesome – loans from the Charities Aid Foundation**

Loans to incorporated organisations only, for a wide range of charitable / social purposes.

<https://www.cafonline.org/about-us/caf-venturesome> or email [venturesome@cafonline.org](mailto:venturesome@cafonline.org)

### *Top Tip*

We recommend that unincorporated organisations (e.g. village hall charitable trusts) do not generally consider borrowing money, because of the potential liability to the charity trustees as individuals. The ACRE Loan Fund (above) is an exception; it is specifically designed for small, unincorporated charities, with flexible terms and a low interest rate.



## Free or low-cost legal advice and other useful contacts

### Charity Property Help

A service run by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors that offers free professional advice and support to charities on building-related issues.

<https://www.rics.org/uk/about-rics/responsible-business/welfare-and-corporate-responsibilities/charity-property-help/>

### LawWorks

This service links up charities and non-profit groups in need of legal advice with solicitors willing to give their time free of charge. Their resources are limited and community halls are low on their list of priority groups, but it may be worth asking if your resources are very tight.

<https://www.lawworks.org.uk/legal-advice-not-profits>

### Ethical Property Foundation

Free initial advice on buying, managing, and letting property.

<https://desk.zoho.eu/portal/ethicalproperty/en/home> or call 0300 333 6595

### Cranfield Trust

Free advice for charities on management consultancy and HR issues.

<https://www.cranfieldtrust.org/> or call 01794 830338

### Local solicitors and churches

Some solicitors and churches (especially Church of England) run funds focusing on small geographical areas. These aren't often advertised widely but may be able to fund your work.





## Further Support

Community buildings and village halls are very often at the heart of rural communities, providing essential services and activities to the local area. As the Rural Community Council for Buckinghamshire and member of Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE), we offer a Community Buildings Service providing light touch advice and information to community building management committees.

To find out more and to subscribe, please visit:

[www.communityimpactbucks.org.uk/community/buckinghamshire-community-buildings/](http://www.communityimpactbucks.org.uk/community/buckinghamshire-community-buildings/)

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Please let us know if you come across other funds, or if any details are out of date.

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For further information about any issues raised in this guide please contact:

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