

Kent & Medway village and community halls funding sources list

Last updated June 2021, Angela Milligan, Rural Kent, angela.milligan@ruralkent.org.uk

Contents

1. Listings of funding sources & search engines
 2. Local Grants: parish, district, KCC and others
 3. National grants for buildings and rural projects
 4. Loan schemes and other fundraising options
 5. Specific themes:
 - sport & playgrounds
 - energy efficiency & renewables
 - setting up & developing community businesses, eg shops, cafes, pubs
-

1. Listings of funding sources & search engines

KCC – Inside Track

[Inside Track newsletter - Kent County Council](#)

Regularly updated and comprehensive listing of funding sources (not just for village halls). Follow this link to sign up.

Funding for All

[Community Buildings/Halls Archives - Funding for All](#)

Provides a list of funding specifically for community buildings. Most are listed below but worth keeping an eye on. They also provide free fundraising advice (see below under Funding Advice listing)

[Welcome | My Funding Central](#)

Search engine. Easy access to thousands of grants and social investment opportunities from local, national and international funding sources, all in one place.

Subscribe to search the comprehensive database containing billions of pounds of up to the minute grants information and social investment opportunities from a range of providers. Free for charities/community organisations with up to £30,000 annual turnover.

[Home | Kent 4 Community \(idoxopen4community.co.uk\)](http://idoxopen4community.co.uk)

Funding search engine supported by KCC.

NAVCA

[Funding \(navca.org.uk\)](http://navca.org.uk)

Directory of Social Change

[Directory of Social Change - Fundraising \(dsc.org.uk\)](http://dsc.org.uk)

Help with fundraising

Funding for All

[Get Fundraising Support - Funding for All](#)

- writing bid/grant applications;
- income generation;
- fundraising – individual, trusts and foundations, digital, corporate;
- claiming Gift Aid;
- impact measurement;
- fundraising strategy;
- marketing and communications; and
- legacy programmes.

2. Local Grants

Parish Councils

If your village hall is in a parished area it may be worth speaking to your parish council to see if they are able to give a donation to the hall or consider pledging future financial support by raising some money on the parish precept (local taxation). Many parish councils do support refurbishment work. They also have access to public works loans and can gift this to village halls (not lend on). They can also submit planning applications for half the usual fee. See ACRE information sheet 2 Parish Council Help for Village Halls (free to Rural Kent members).

District level

Ashford: [Information on the capital grants scheme. | Ashford Borough Council](#)

Funding available - up to £5,000 for any one project. Value of grant must not exceed 25% of total project costs. Visit the website for list of conditions (charities and parish councils are eligible). Need to have support of ward councillor.

[Information on the ward member community grant scheme. | Ashford Borough Council](#)

Each ward member has a small budget of £3000 each year Small grants, minimum £100. Contact your ward member first.

Canterbury City Council:

Councillors' opportunity fund

£200 grants. Contact any councillor.

Dover

[Community Grants Scheme \(dover.gov.uk\)](#)

£100 to £2000. Focus on creating Covid-secure environments. Applications to the winter round will open on Monday 26th of July, and close at 12 noon Monday 6th of September 2021.

Folkestone & Hythe

[Ward budget scheme - Folkestone & Hythe District Council \(folkestone-hythe.gov.uk\)](#)

Small grants awarded by ward councillors. See Ashford.

Sevenoaks

[Community Grants Scheme Guidelines 2021 up to 500 \(2\).pdf](#)

Up to £500.

KCC

KCC Combined members grant (county councillors)

[Combined Members Grant - Kent County Council](#)

Each county councillor can individually recommend expenditure up to £10,000 per year in grants to benefit local services or projects.

These grants can support the following activities which might be relevant for community buildings: local events and activities, purchase or repair of equipment and furniture; promotional materials; marketing and training costs; website creation and redesign; sports projects.

Applications can be submitted at any time to your local county councillor. [Find Councillor \(kent.gov.uk\)](#). You must contact your county councillor to discuss your application before applying as they need to countersign your application for it to be considered.

KCC Village and Community Halls Grant scheme

[VCS Grant prospectus \(kent.gov.uk\)](https://www.kent.gov.uk/vcs-grant-prospectus)

These grants are available to enable communities to improve existing facilities or build a new facility that meets an identified need in the community. Examples of work are building an extension, building a new hall, upgrade of toilets and/or kitchens, replacement windows and heating systems, improved insulation.

Grants of up to £30,000 are available and matching funding must be found. A grant from this scheme is conditional upon pound for pound match funding. For example, if the total project costs £30,000, the maximum the applicant can apply for is £15,000 and the remaining £15,000 must come from the applicant or other sources. The fund is only open to registered charities. It is not open to parish council and church-run halls.

All applications must be submitted by 31st December each year. Applicants are notified of the decision 3 months after the deadline date (before 1st April) Successful applicants are required to start the project within the financial year that the award is made. Read the brochure at the link above for more info then apply online at [Village and Community Hall Grant Scheme - Kent County Council](#)

Other local grants

Roger de Haan Charitable Trust

[Roger De Haan Charitable Trust | supporting charities and communities \(rdhct.org.uk\)](https://www.rdhct.org.uk)

The Roger De Haan Charitable Trust supports charitable causes and projects in east Kent, and in particular the District around Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh. Give capital grants and also for development of amateur sports facilities. Continuous rolling programme. See the Trust's website for upcoming Trustee meeting dates.

Veolia Trust

[Funding \(veoliatrust.org\)](https://www.veoliatrust.org)

£10,000 to £75,000. Must be within 5 miles of a landfill site (Canterbury, Rainham, Rochester). Check postcodes on the website. Contributing Third party payment of 10% must be paid.

Biffa Award

[Community Buildings - Biffa Award \(biffa-award.org\)](https://www.biffa-award.org)

Check postcodes as must be within 5 miles of a 'significant' Biffa operation or 10 miles of a landfill site (see website, but broadly Ashford, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Swale, Tunbridge Wells). Up to £75,000. Church halls can also apply if used more widely by the community. 10% Contributing Third party payment.

Viridor: Landfill Communities Fund

[Apply for Funding | Viridor Credits Environmental Company \(viridor-credits.co.uk\)](https://www.viridor-credits.co.uk)

Grants available for the maintenance, repair or restoration of a building of historic or architectural interest which is open and accessible to the public. Must be within 10 miles of the Viridor Canterbury landfill site. Three levels of grant, £20,000 up to £100,000. Contributing Third Party payment of 10% must be made.

Ibstock Enovert Trust

www.enovert.co.uk

Must be within 10 miles of their Sevenoaks landfill site. Help to preserve, maintain, restore and/or repair a religious building or one of historical or architectural interest. No matching funding required.

Enovert Community Trust: Landfill Communities Fund

Grants up to £50,000. Must be located within ten miles of a landfill or waste facility operated by Enovert Limited (see website). If your project requires higher levels of funding you must have secured at least 60% of the total funding required before making a submission to the Trust. Fundraising by applicants is looked upon favourably by the Trustees. Applicants will also be responsible for paying the Contributing Third Party payment – 10% of the amount awarded.

Suez Communities Trust: Landfill Communities Fund

[Landfill Communities Fund - SUEZ Communities Trust](https://www.suezcommunitiestrust.co.uk)

Grants up to £50,000, within in a 2.5 mile radius of a SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK waste processing location (West Lane, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3TT) and within a ten miles radius of any licensed landfill (Kemsley Mill Landfill, Kemsley, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 2SG). Won't fund new builds or extensions but will fund refurbishments. Successful applicants will have to pay a 11.5% Contributing Third Party (CTP) payment before any funds are released.

Note on Landfill Communities Funds and Contributing Third Party payments: the CTP is paid back to the landfill operator. It can be funded by a local authority, another charity, private companies, voluntary organisations, private donors, monies from fundraising. There is some confusion about whether the applicant can pay it – guidance varies so check with the particular company.

2. National grants 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.

ACRE Village Hall Improvement Grant

<http://acre.org.uk/our-work/village-hall-improvement-grant%20fund> or call 01285 653477

Grants of up to £75,000 for major building works on halls in villages and small towns.

Scheme currently closed but please log your interest so the demand can be noted.

The National Lottery Community Fund

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

This is the new name for the Big Lottery Fund. Details of all the Community Fund programmes, both for large and small grants, can be found from this main site and on the phone number above.

Garfield Weston Foundation

www.garfieldweston.org/ or call 020 7399 6565

Several community halls and centres have recently been funded through the 'Community' strand, with grants from £1,000 to well over £100,000. Their policy is to give grants of a fairly small proportion of the total project cost, typically around 10% for building works.

Trusthouse Charitable Foundation (phone number 020 7264 4990)

<https://preview.tinyurl.com/yapp2qqf> (specific fund for some community buildings)

Grants of £2000 to £10,000. In rural areas must be in the bottom 50% most deprived areas based on indices of deprivation. 50% match funding needed.

Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation (buildings and equipment costs only)

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

Screwfix Foundation

<https://www.screwfix.com/help/screwfixfoundation/> or call 0500 41 41 41

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

B&Q Foundation

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

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

Tesco Community Grants

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

Grants of up to £2,000 for a wide range of community projects / activities.

Burg-Wachter

[Secure Communities Scheme – Burg-Wächter UK](#)

Currently providing security kits but have also provided wider funding, with a security element.

The Prince's Countryside Fund

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

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

Heritage Fund (previously the Heritage Lottery Fund)

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

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

Pilgrim Trust – (preserving heritage, including buildings)

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

National Churches Trust

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

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

Allchurches Trust

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

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

Power to Change Bright Ideas Fund and Community Business Fund

<http://mycommunity.org.uk/funding-options/bright-ideas-fund/>

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

4. Loan schemes and other useful contacts

ACRE Rural Community Buildings Loan Fund

www.acre.org.uk/our-work/rural-community-buildings-loan-fund or call 01285 653477

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.

Other loan funding

Co-op Foundation

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

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.

Charity Bank loans

www.charitybank.org/ or call 01732 774040

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

Venturesome – loans from the Charities Aid Foundation

preview.tinyurl.com/hanu5cs or call 0300 0123 300

Loans to incorporated organisations only, for a wide range of charitable / social purposes. 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 and has flexible terms and a low interest rate.

Gift Aid

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

If your organisation is charitable (or a Community Amateur Sports Club) and you are embarking on a major fundraising drive, consider registering for Gift Aid. This allows you to claim back 25p on every £1 you receive in donations from individuals. Also note the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme: <https://www.gov.uk/claim-gift-aid/small-donations-scheme>

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.

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.

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.

<https://www.charitydigitalnews.co.uk/2019/02/21/the-best-free-online-fundraising-platformsfor-charities/> A list of crowdfunding sites for charities

Two of the most well-known fundraising platforms used by charities are Just Giving and Virgin

Money Giving. See the links below for more details:

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

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/giving/charities/>

Dulux Community Re-Paint scheme

www.communityrepaint.org.uk

Community buildings can apply for paint for their halls from their local scheme.

B & Q

preview.tinyurl.com/2wccga5 or contact your local branch

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.

Community Payback

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

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.

5. Specific themes

Sport and playgrounds

[Capital grants for sport - Kent County Council](#)

If you offer sports facilities at your community building, these might be of interest.

Kent Sport

[Funding & Insight - Kent Sport](#)

Useful site to finding funding for a range of sports, including badminton, tennis etc.

Kent Playing Fields Association

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

Grants and loans for playing fields and children's playgrounds.

Sport England

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

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

Support and funding for energy efficiency / renewable energy

Rural Community Energy Fund

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/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).

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

Naturesave Trust: Community Renewable Energy Grants

<https://www.naturesave.co.uk/the-naturesave-trust/> or call 01803 864390

Small grants for specific initiatives to promote sustainable development, e.g. energy efficiency surveys, solar panels, heat pumps etc.

ACRE Rural Community Buildings Loan Fund

www.acre.org.uk/our-work/rural-community-buildings-loan-fund or call 01285 653477

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 above for more details about the Loan Fund.

Helpful resources for planning an energy-saving or renewables project

Energy audit tool for use by community building staff and committees

preview.tinyurl.com/o8h6nqm

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.

Energy Saving Trust

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/ or call 0300 123 1234

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

Carbon Trust

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

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'.

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.

Henry Smith Charity

www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk or call 020 7264 4970

Lloyds Bank Foundation

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

Clothworkers' Foundation

www.foundation.clothworkers.co.uk or call 020 7623 7041

Masonic Charitable Foundation

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

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

Tudor Trust

www.tudortrust.org.uk/ or call 020 7727 8522

Aviva Community Fund

<https://www.aviva.co.uk/good-thinking/community-fund/> (no telephone number listed)

Asda Foundation

<https://www.asdafoundation.org/> Apply through your local Asda store

People's Postcode Trust and Postcode Community Trust 0131 555 7287

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

Foyle Foundation

<http://preview.tinyurl.com/noywuax> or call 020 7430 9119