



Kent & Medway village and community halls funding sources list

Last updated March 2022. Do let me know if you come across other funds, or if any details are out of date. Many thanks.

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1. Searching for funding sources

1.1 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.

1.2 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 high quality free fundraising training, fundraising surgeries and 1 to 1 mentoring – see their website for details.

1.3 Kent For Community

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

Funding search engine supported by KCC. You have to register to use it (free).

2. Local Grants

2.1 Parish Councils

If your village hall is in a parished area, speak to your parish council to see if they can make a grant to the hall or raise some money on the parish precept (local taxation). 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).

2.2 District level

- **Ashford**

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

Funding available - up to £10,000 for any one project. Value of grant must not exceed 75% 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 \(dover.gov.uk\)](http://dover.gov.uk)

£100 to £2000. Focus on creating Covid-secure environments. Keep checking for the latest round.

- **Folkestone & Hythe**

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

2.3 Kent County Council

[Community grants and funding - Kent County Council](#)

Keep an eye out on this website for new grants. Currently available to village and community halls:

- **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 \(kent.gov.uk\)](#)

These grants 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 (not normal maintenance/repair work or car park surfacing).

Grants of up to £30,000 available, up to 50% of costs. Matching funding must be secured. Open to registered charities (not parish councils or church-run halls). Competitive. Strict criteria (evidence of community demand, representative management committee, business plan for larger amounts).

Deadline: 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](#)

- **Crowdfund**

[CrowdFund Kent - Home \(spacehive.com\)](https://www.spacehive.com)

KCC are providing match funding (up to 50% of total funding required, maximum £20,000) for projects created on this crowdfunding site. Must be a charity and project contributes to wider community. You need to complete an expression of interest online and set up a Spacehive fundraising page (very easy – follow on-line guidance). Worth a go if you've got lots of supporters willing to each make a small contribution, which KCC could then match. You can also apply for Gift Aid on donations. Crowdfund Kent is designed to support local organisations and groups the opportunity to take forward projects and ideas to improve their local area.

The Spring round has just opened with a deadline of the 20th of April to get involved. This means having projects fully costed and permissions secured by this date.

For a full overview of the process and the criteria of the funding, visit [spacehive.com/movement/crowdfund-kent/about](https://www.spacehive.com/movement/crowdfund-kent/about)

2.4 Other local grants

- **Asda Foundation**

[How to Apply | Asda Foundation](#)

Apply through your local Asda store Community Champion. The Investing in Spaces and Places programme offers grants of £5000 to £25,000. Funds can be used to transform, renovate or create a safe and inclusive space and place for the community to be together.

- **Kent Community Foundation (KCF)**

[Kent Community Foundation - Improving the Lives of Local People \(kentcf.org.uk\)](https://www.kentcf.org.uk)

KCF administers a range of privately donated funds and awards grants of on average £5,000 in Kent and Medway. Projects need to fit within one of their themes. They have recently funded refurbishment work to a village hall which was making real efforts to reach vulnerable and isolated residents.

- **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.

- **FCC Communities Foundation**

[CAF criteria / FCC \(fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk\)](http://fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk)

Up to £100,000. Don't cover extensions or new builds, but will fund refurbishment eg new windows. Must be within 10 miles of an FCC landfill site (the two in Kent are Allington and the Isle of Sheppey). The website allows you to see which areas fall within this area.

- **Biffa Award**

[Community Buildings - Biffa Award \(biffa-award.org\)](http://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 \(viridor-credits.co.uk\)](http://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](http://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.

3. 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.

- **Aviva Community Fund**

aviva-community-fund-eligibility.pdf (avivacommunityfund.co.uk)

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

- **ACRE/DEFRA 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.

- **B&Q Foundation**

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

Grants of up to £5,000 (occasionally more) to registered charities. Funding to maintain, repair or improve housing or community space. Need to show helping people in need (due to eg disability, isolation, age etc). Register your interest by filling in an on-line form.

- **Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation**

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

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

- **Government Community Ownership Fund**

[Community Ownership Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Grants of up to £250,000 to voluntary, community and charitable organisations to support them in taking ownership of local assets which are at risk of being lost to the community. The Fund will contribute up to 50% of the total capital required. Proposals will need to prove the value of the asset to local people and that the asset can run sustainably for the long-term benefit of the community. Projects could include community centres, sporting and leisure facilities, pubs, post office buildings and shops. The Fund will support proposals to:

- Acquire a physical community asset or facility at risk, such as land and buildings which deliver a benefit to local people
- Renovate, repair or refurbish the asset, only where this is part of a sale or transfer to save a community asset at risk and where this is critical to saving the asset and making it sustainable
- Set up a new community business or buy an existing business in order to save an asset or amenity of importance to the community
- The purchase of associated stock, collections or intellectual property, where it is associated with buying a physical asset or buying a business to save an amenity
- Move a community amenity to a new, more appropriate location within the same community. This might be because a different location offers better value to continue the amenity, or because the venue is in itself an asset of community value.

Round 2 will open in December 2021. Round 3 will open in May 2022.

- **Garfield Weston Foundation**

www.garfieldweston.org/ or call 020 7399 6565

Grants from £1,000 to £100,000. Their policy is to give 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.

- **The National Lottery**

[Funding programmes | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](https://tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)

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. Support is currently focused on people and communities most affected by Covid but may now be widening out.

Larger schemes (over £10,000):

[Reaching Communities England | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](https://tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)

[Partnerships | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](https://tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)

Under £10,000:

Awards for All: [National Lottery Awards for All England | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](https://tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)

Awards from £300 to £10,000, focus on Covid-19 and Platinum Jubilee.

Screwfix Foundation

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

Grants of up to £5,000 for projects that fix, repair, maintain and improve properties and community facilities for those in need across the UK. Continuous rolling programme, projects reviewed on a quarterly basis.

- **Tesco Community Grants**

[Apply for a grant – Tesco Community Grants](#)

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

- **Trusthouse Charitable Foundation** (phone number 020 7264 4990)

[Small Grants | Trusthouse Charitable Foundation](#)

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, which must already be secured before applying.

- **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.

As with many other funds, you need to show evidence of community demand and the benefits there will be for the community. As the deadline is short, if you don't have evidence of community demand for your project, it may be too late - but there will be forthcoming rounds so worth considering.

- **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

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

- **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. Repayments over 5 to 8 years. The Fund is often over-subscribed so please contact ACRE as soon as you decide that you might want to apply for a loan.

- **Co-op Foundation**

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

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**

[Unsecured loans to help you grow | Social investment CAF Venturesome \(cafonline.org\)](http://www.cafonline.org/)

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

5. Other options

- **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>

- **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. See KCC scheme above but also:

<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

<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**

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.

- **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.

6. Specific themes

6.1 Support and funding for energy efficiency / renewable energy

Kent Community Foundation

[Kent Community Foundation - Improving the Lives of Local People \(kentcf.org.uk\)](http://kentcf.org.uk)

Nothing currently but keep checking their website.

[The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](http://tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)

Nothing currently but have had funds in the past. Keep checking the website. They also have a list of other possible funders: [Climate action - other funders | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](#)

Kent County Council

[Solar Together Kent - Kent County Council](#)

Solar panels for residents and small businesses. Up to 50 panels. Will also cover battery storage if panels already installed.

Reopens 7 February but you can register your interest for Spring 2022. **Includes Medway.**

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 as a whole (not just individual community buildings in those communities).

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. Not currently accepting applications but keep checking their web page for the next round.

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.

The Ashden Trust

Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts, The Peak, 5 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1AP | 020 7410 0330 | ashdentrust@sfct.org.uk | www.ashdentrust.org.uk

The Ashden Trust is a grant-making charity focusing on climate change, sustainable development and improving the quality of life in poorer communities across the UK. In order to make lasting changes in the UK and internationally small grants (typically between £1,000 - £20,000) are offered to organisations with a track record of delivering innovative and effective projects. Don't generally accept unsolicited applications but occasionally put out requests for bids.

6.2 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.

Football Foundation

[Football Foundation](#)

Funding for grassroots football facilities.

6.3 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