

Kent County Council

VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY HALL GRANTS



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VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY HALL GRANTS

- KCC is responsible for administrating the scheme
- The Village Halls and Community Centres Capital Grants scheme has provided capital grants to assist with the building of new halls or to contribute to extensions or other modifications and refurbishment since 1999.
- The scheme has awarded a total of £3.1 million with grants ranging from £1,450 to £100,000, and has helped fund 117 projects.



VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY HALL GRANTS

- There are 450 village/community halls in Kent and approximately 400 of those would be eligible for consideration under the scheme as it now stands.
- Jenny Bradbury - the ACRK Community Halls Advisor has considerable role in the operation of the scheme in terms of assessing bids and promoting the scheme



Action with Rural Communities in Kent

Offers Advice on:

- Charitable Status, Trust Deeds and Constitutions
- Design & Build, Improvements to Premises
- Fund Raising, Grant Aid & Loans
- Good Practice and Management Issues
- Insurance
- Legal Advice and Licensing

Action with Communities in  Rural Kent



Eligibility

1. Establish your eligibility for a grant at an early stage
2. A Village hall must have its own management committee separate from the Parish Council
3. Management Committees should be appropriately constituted and representative of a wide variety of community members
4. Applicants must be of registered charitable status



Funding

1. Kent County Council will normally offer up to £50,000
2. Grant can cover up to 50% of project costs
3. This grant is conditional upon matchfunding
4. Possible sources of matchfunding include:
 - District/Borough Councils
 - Village Hall Committee/Parish Councils
 - Trusts, Biffaward, Viridor, etc.



Funding *continued*

4. For example – Total Project Cost is £80,000

Possible grants available:

Kent County Council -----	£40,000 (50% Of £80,000)
Management Committee -----	£10,000
Borough/District/City Council -----	£10,000
Charitable Trusts -----	£15,000
Local fundraising -----	£5,000
Total Funding -----	£80,000



Funding *continued*

5. Projects that have parish or town council sponsorship, demonstrating local support are looked upon favourably
6. Proposals must detail all funding partners and level of their contribution.
7. Other KCC grants cannot be used as a source of matchfunding



Funding *continued*

8. It is imperative that work on an approved grant-aided project starts in the financial year for which the grant is approved. If no start is achieved the offer of a grant may be withdrawn.
9. This does not prevent a resubmission in future years but the same process will need to be followed.
10. Ideally work should be completed within the financial year of the grant allocation.



Timescales

Grants allocated twice a year

Deadlines:

- Round 1: 31st December (for April decision)
- Round 2: 31st June (for October decision)

Round 2 dependent on unallocated funds from Round



Purpose of Grant

1. A grant is given for capital projects to enable the community to improve an existing facility or build a new one that meets an identified community need
2. Grants will not be provided for normal repairs and maintenance work or for the replacement of equipment.
3. Grants are considered where deterioration would lead to the eventual closure of the facility.
4. Car park resurfacing is not usually considered



Examples

1. Building a new hall
2. Extension to an existing hall
3. New windows
4. New roof and floor
5. Improvements to facilities for people with disabilities
6. New toilets and kitchen
7. New heating system
8. Improved insulation



Necessity of Provision

1. Evidence of necessity must be provided to show that no other provisions exist locally that could serve the purpose more efficiently and economically either as a joint scheme or stand-alone provision



Project Plan

1. Detailed plans and specifications must be submitted for projects over £20k
2. Three quotes required, or
3. Three tenders required (for projects over £20k)
4. Business Plans are required for new builds or large extensions



Community Consultation

1. Applicants must be able to show that the community has been consulted (consultations, surveys, minutes of meetings)
2. Letters from user groups will support your application



Usage

1. The proposed usage of the hall must be indicated, demonstrating flexibility, accessibility to all, consideration of future needs and innovation of approach
2. Due attention should be given to the Disability Discrimination Act (1995)



Cost

1. The financial viability of the proposal and the ability to meet the costs involved must be established



Payment of Grant

- Grants are paid in arrears following submission of paid invoices, builder's certificates and evidence of matchfunding.
- Grants must be claimed within one year



Hallmark Scheme

- Promotes the delivery of effective and well-managed halls through a quality standards scheme
- Trained peer visitors use of system of checklists to identify performance and provide an external evaluation
- Halls that have completed one or more Hallmark will be viewed favourably
- The scheme is currently free to any hall management committee - for more information contact **Action with Rural Communities in Kent**

Action with Communities in Rural Kent



Environment

1. Schemes should be environmentally friendly
2. Buildings should aim to be energy efficient
3. Use of the building should aim to reduce the necessity for transport out of the area by providing access to facilities and activities under one roof
4. ACRE information sheet “**how green is your hall?**” is recommended as a guide



Other funding

1. District/Borough Council
2. Lottery
 - Awards for All
 - Reaching Communities
3. Landfill tax credits
 - Biffaward
 - Viridor Credits
 - Cemex Community Fund
4. Trust funds



Reaching Communities

Reaching Communities supports projects that help people and communities most in need.

Reaching Communities has two strands:

1. Revenue and small capital – funding from £10,000 to £500,000 for revenue projects and/or smaller capital projects up to £50,000
2. Buildings – funding of between £100,000 and £500,000 for large capital projects



LOTTERY FUNDED



Reaching Communities

Checking your eligibility:

1. The fund is targeting buildings or sites based in the most deprived 'Lower Super Output Areas' in England, while also taking into account rural needs.
2. It is vital that you can check whether or not you are eligible to apply for this funding by using the eligibility checker on the Big Lottery website.

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



LOTTERY FUNDED



Biffaward

Main Grant Scheme

Up to £50k to make a difference to a local facility, be it a community building, nature reserve, cultural facility or outdoor space.

The main criteria include:

- The project's site is within 10 miles of a Biffa operation <http://www.biffaward.org>
- The project's site is also within 10 miles of a landfill site <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk>



Building Communities. Transforming Lives.



Trust Funds/Foundations

Garfield Weston Foundation

The Foundation has no specific priorities for funding. It aims to support a wide range of charitable activity in the UK. <http://www.garfieldweston.org>

Kent Community Foundation

Various support is available through the number of schemes which Kent Community Foundation administers. Grants of up to £5,000 may be available. <http://www.kentcf.org.uk>



Trust Funds/Foundations

Henry Smith Charity

Supports a wide range of activities benefitting the disadvantaged, and operates a capital grant scheme – with grants of £10k and over for purchase or refurbishment of a building. <http://www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk>

Colyer Fergusson - Supporting Communities in Kent

Aims to improve the quality of life of local people by funding community projects that tackle poverty and social exclusion. <http://www.cfct.org.uk>



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