

# Village Hall Guide to Funders

2021



**ACTion**  
with communities  
in cumbria

Village Halls are at the very heart of our communities. ACTion with Communities in Cumbria supports the volunteers who manage these facilities with guidance on: Governance, Funding & Project Planning, and People Skills.

## Introduction

There are lots of different ways of raising money:

- Holding events that people will pay to attend (i.e. a ceilidh) or where they will spend money (i.e. a cake sale)
- Asking for sponsorship for taking part in a challenge (i.e. marathon or long-distance swim)
- Selling something; village halls “sell” or hire out space but might also sell goods such as calendars or tea towels to raise money
- Requesting donations from local residents or companies towards to cost of a new piece of equipment or upgrading facilities
- Applying for grants

In this guide we’re focusing on applying for grants. Funders, or grant makers, exist to give money to organisations which provide solutions to the problems they want to fix. If a funder is interested in fixing the problem of rural isolation then a village hall, which provides services and activities that reduce isolation, could offer them a solution.

## Who makes grants?

- The National Lottery; there are different lottery grant making bodies which make grants according to their area of interest i.e. Sport England, The BIG Lottery, Heritage Lottery Fund
- Charitable Trusts; charities that are set up to give money away. Sometimes they’ve been established by a wealthy benefactor or are the charitable arm of a large company. They may raise money annually through holding events or requesting donations such as Children in Need or Comic Relief
- Public organisations such as district councils or national park authorities

## The Basics

There are some fundamental questions you should ask before you start to consider who to approach for funding. Without asking these questions your project, and therefore your funding applications, won’t stand up to scrutiny:

- Why are you doing this project?
- What difference will it make to people in your community?
- Is there really a need for it?
- If there is a need, how do you know? What evidence do you have?

The most common mistake we see village halls make when they’re applying for funding is to focus on the immediate problem “*the roof is leaking; it needs fixing*” rather than explaining the difference that a comfortable, watertight village hall will make to local people.

## How do you know there is a need for your Hall?

You will have to provide some sort of evidence that people need your Village Hall. Try consulting ‘user groups’; the groups of people that use the hall already as well as local residents who may not use it. ACT has examples of survey forms that you can use.

See what other information exists to support your case. ACT has Parish Profiles for nearly every parish in Cumbria on our website which could give you background information and statistics about your area to support your application: <https://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/resources/parish-profiles>

If your parish or community has produced a ‘Community Led Plan’ or ‘Parish Plan’ it’s possible that people will have been questioned about the village hall or community facilities as part of the consultation.

Completed Plans are also on the ACT website: <https://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/resources/community-led-plans> and, if your area has one, it should be on your Parish Council website too. If your Community Led Plan is more than five years old the consultation is likely to be out of date

## What to put in an application

Many grant makers have application forms that you fill in. By answering the questions on the form you should have given them the information they need to decide whether to fund your project.

Some funders don't have application forms, or any guidelines about how to apply, so you need to write them a letter which contains all the information they need.

These letters will be read by trustees who need to understand very quickly what your project is and how much money you need. Your letter should be concise (ideally no more than two sides of A4 paper) and clear.

If there's little information about a Trust you're interested in applying to, look for their annual accounts on the Charity Commission website: [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk).

Their accounts should give contact details and may give an indication of the size of grant they make. You might need to address your letter to the Chair, the Secretary or a named contact or 'correspondent' whose role it is to sift through applications.

If you use the following structure for your letter or application then you should have provided the trustees with all the information they need:

- **A summary** - A few lines that summarises everything in the letter. Write this last. This could be the only part of your application a busy board of trustees will see.
- **A brief introduction about your organisation** - Whether it's a charity (include the charity number), how it's managed, how long it's been in existence for.
- **The problem you want to solve** - i.e. *older people in xxxx parish are becoming increasingly isolated due to loss of services.*

- **What you want to do about the problem** - i.e. *we want to create opportunities to bring people together and encourage different ages to mix.*

- **How we will do this** - i.e. *we will hold a volunteer-run community café once per week.* State whether your project is financially sustainable; after you've covered the set-up costs will it pay for itself? If it won't, how will you cover the running costs in the future?

- **Monitoring and evaluating the project** - How will you track the numbers/type of people using your project and assess whether it's worked? i.e. *we will record the numbers of people who use the community café and survey users about possible improvements once every six months.*

For more information on monitoring and evaluating projects take a look at the ACT Guidance Sheet on this subject available on our website here:

[www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/ResourcesPublications/GuidanceSheets](http://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/ResourcesPublications/GuidanceSheets)

- **The budget** - What will you need to spend money on and how much funding are you looking for? How much money do you already have and where are you going to get the remaining money from?

Some funders will be happy to fund the whole of your project, but others will only want to contribute part of it and will want to see 'match funding' with some of the funds coming from other sources. They may want you to have raised some of it through community fundraising i.e. local fundraising from holding events etc.

Other funders will make grants for 'capital' projects such as equipment, building work, furniture, and others will want to make grants for 'revenue' projects such as salaries and running costs.

Finally, funders don't generally want to fund projects which have already started and so please get all the funding you need in place before you get your project underway. If necessary, break it down into smaller stages and fund each stage as a separate project.

## The Grant Makers

The grant makers listed in this guide *may* be interested in giving you a grant but you will need to take a careful look at them before you apply.

They are likely to have specific criteria about what they will fund and your project might not fit. Others may have very broad aims but will have many more applicants than they can possibly fund and so the percentage of successful applicants will be small.

Information goes out of date quickly and they may have new deadlines for applications or change their priorities so always find out as much information as you can about them before you apply.

Finally, this list isn't exhaustive but it is a starting point. You can do your own search for funding by using databases like [my funding central](#) which is free to subscribe to for organisations with an annual income of less than £30,000 and a sliding scale of charges for organisations with a larger turnover. Another one to try is [Get Grants](#) which has free resources.

If you can make contact with funders before you apply than this can help to build a relationship with them. You can meet local funders at the Funding Fairs organised by who also run funding training courses and offer funding advice.

Tel: 01768 800350

Email: [info@cumbriacvs.org.uk](mailto:info@cumbriacvs.org.uk)

Website: [www.cumbriacvs.org.uk](http://www.cumbriacvs.org.uk)

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## ACRE Village Hall Improvement Grant Fund

This grant fund is managed by ACRE on behalf of Defra for improvements to village halls, with grants equivalent to the VAT to be paid on the project (20%).

Please note, this fund is currently closed for applications. To complete an expression of interest form so ACRE can evidence that further funding is needed and can contact you if this happens, please visit: <https://acre.org.uk/our-work/village-hall-improvement-grant%20fund.php>

## Awards for All England

- A Lottery grants scheme funding small, local community-based projects in the UK.
- Grants of between £300 and £10,000 in any one year period.
- Community groups, not for profit groups, parish or town council, health body, or schools are eligible. You do not need to be a registered charity to apply.

Contact - Tel: 0345 4 10 20 30 Email: [general.enquiries@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk](mailto:general.enquiries@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)

Web: [www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england](http://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england)

## Bernard Sunley Foundation

The Foundation gives grants in the following categories: Community; Education; Health; Social Welfare. Under the 'community' category they will fund: new build, refurbishment and improvements of village halls, community centres and similar. This often includes disabled access, modernising kitchens, new storage space and updating toilets. For any building, the length of lease will be taken into account. The applicant needs to be a registered charity.

They offer three levels of grants. These are large grants of £20,000 and above, medium grants of up to £20,000 and small grants of £5,000 and under. The large and medium grants are considered and agreed upon at our Trustees' meetings. The small grants are agreed by Trustees on a monthly basis and form the majority of their grants. Email: [office@bernardsunley.org](mailto:office@bernardsunley.org) Grant applications are made online at [www.bernardsunley.org](http://www.bernardsunley.org)

## **Calor Community Grant Fund**

Communities which are off mains gas are eligible to bid for up to £5,000 for projects which will make a positive difference to their rural community. The grant scheme is open once per year and you need to generate public support for the project either through social media or local donations. For more information visit: <https://communityfund.calor.co.uk/>.

## **Charity Bank**

Loans of a minimum of £50,000 for charities, social enterprises and other organisations where the loan is being used for a social purpose. Contact - Tel: 01732 441919 Web: [www.charitybank.org](http://www.charitybank.org)

## **Copeland Community Fund**

The Copeland Community Fund 2019-22 'Local Communities Fund' will make grants between £3,000 and £25,000 for projects in Copeland District with the following focus: Quality Open Spaces; Improvements to Built Environment; Arts, Culture & Sports; Community Action; Work and Skills; Youth.

To make an initial enquiry, contact the Fund by phone or via their online enquiry form. Tel: 01946 598352 Web: [www.copelandcommunityfund.co.uk](http://www.copelandcommunityfund.co.uk)

## **The Craven Trust**

A grant-making charity supporting community projects in the Craven area (parts of North and West Yorkshire, Cumbria and Lancashire, which make up the northern part of the former West Riding of Yorkshire) In Cumbria, this is the Sedbergh area. Grants are generally £100 to £1,500. For more information contact administrator Rowena Garton.

Tel: 07954 803327, Email: [enquiries@craventrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@craventrust.org.uk), Web: [www.craventrust.org.uk/](http://www.craventrust.org.uk/)

## **Cumbria Community Foundation**

The Foundation makes a range of grants to local charities, community groups and social enterprises and distributes small grants on behalf of other organisations.

Tel: 01900 825760, Email: [enquiries@cumbriafoundation.org](mailto:enquiries@cumbriafoundation.org), Web: [www.cumbriafoundation.org](http://www.cumbriafoundation.org)

## **Cumbria County Council Community Grants**

The County Council's Area Support Teams manage a range of grant funds that are used to invest in communities to bring about a positive and lasting change for the benefit of the whole community. Funded through the County Council's six Local Committees, grant funding is currently available from the following funds:

- Community Grants - Small grants of usually around £1,000 to £1,500 or less to contribute towards the set up of new community initiatives or the purchase of new equipment or refurbishment costs for existing groups
- 0 - 19 Youth Grants - To support projects and initiatives that have a child or youth focus

To find out if your project is eligible, or for further information contact your local Area Support Team for a pre-application discussion. Visit: [www.cumbria.gov.uk/yourcommunitysupport/communitygrants.asp](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/yourcommunitysupport/communitygrants.asp)

## **Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust (CWMET)**

This grant maker will fund community projects but one of the main criteria is that your project must be within a 10 mile radius of either Hespin Wood (CA6 4BJ) or Flusco Pike (CA11 0JB) landfill site. A quick telephone call to our office will help you decide if your project is eligible under this rule. Consideration will be given to projects within a 10 to 15 mile radius of Hespin Wood or Flusco Pike if there is a fee paying landfill site within 10 miles of the project.

Contact - Tel: 01228 822106, Email: [enquiries@cwmet.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cwmet.org.uk) Web: [www.cwmet.org.uk](http://www.cwmet.org.uk)

## **Eden Community Fund**

Funding from Eden District Council for community and voluntary groups, parish and town councils, charities and social enterprises to deliver capital projects that benefit communities in Eden District. Groups and organisations must demonstrate how their project or event will deliver wide benefit, contributing to the sustainability, vitality and well-being of Eden's communities. Three application deadlines per year. Grants range from £500 to £10,000 and 'community buildings' are one of the categories they will fund. They recommend contacting them in advance. Tel: 01768 817817, Email: [edencommunityfund@eden.gov.uk](mailto:edencommunityfund@eden.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.eden.gov.uk/your-environment/your-community/community-funding/eden-community-fund/](http://www.eden.gov.uk/your-environment/your-community/community-funding/eden-community-fund/)

## **Frieda Scott Charitable Trust**

The Trust makes grants in the area covered by the old county of Westmorland and the area covered by South Lakeland District Council. Dalton and Penrith are outside the area. Trustees award around 50 grants each year, mainly ranging from £200 to £20,000. The average grant is below £10,000. Grant applications for over £3,500 will be considered at meetings in mid March, July and November and should be sent to the Trust Secretary at least five weeks beforehand. Grants of less than £3,500 are considered by the Small Grants Committee who meet in between the main Trustee meetings. One of their priorities is village halls and community centres. Contact Celia Forsyth, Trust Secretary, on Tel: 01539 742608; Email: [info@fcsct.org.uk](mailto:info@fcsct.org.uk), or visit Web: [www.friedascott.org.uk](http://www.friedascott.org.uk)

## **FCC Communities Foundation**

The Foundation is the Landfill Tax Fund for FCC Environment and can fund capital projects located within 10 miles of the Bennett Bank Landfill Site near Barrow in Furness and the Lillyhall landfill site at Workington. There are a number of restrictions on what can be funded. Visit the website for more information. [fccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk](http://fccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk)

## **Furness Community Awards Scheme**

Donations of £150 to community groups can be applied for from Furness Building Society. Apply online at: [www.furnessbs.co.uk/furness-community-awards-scheme/](http://www.furnessbs.co.uk/furness-community-awards-scheme/)

## **Garfield Weston Foundation**

The Foundation supports a broad range of organisations and activities that share a commitment to making a positive impact to the lives of the communities in which they work, and that are driven by a desire to achieve excellence. Their Community category is most appropriate for applications from community centres and village halls.

There is a one stage application process and they accept applications at any time, there are no formal deadlines for submitting applications and organisations should allow approximately four months for a final outcome. Major Grants are £100,000 and above, Regular Grants range from £1,000 - £99,999. Contact - Tel: 020 7399 6565, Web: [www.garfieldweston.org](http://www.garfieldweston.org)

## **Hadfield Trust**

Priorities include social needs; youth and employment; older people; the arts; the environment. They make grants to Cumbrian organisations of up to £5,000 but most are between £1,500 to £3,000. Application deadlines are 1st February, 1st June and 1st October.

Contact - Ms Susan Berriman, Tel: 01539 823112, Email: [admin@hadfieldtrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@hadfieldtrust.org.uk) The application form is available on their website [www.hadfieldtrust.org.uk](http://www.hadfieldtrust.org.uk)

## **Harold and Alice Bridges Charity**

The Harold and Alice Bridges Charity provides grants for capital projects and village halls. The primary geographical area covered is Lancashire and South Cumbria, particularly the River Ribble area and northwards, the Blackburn area, and South Lakes. The application deadlines are 15th January, 15th May, and 15th September each year. There's an application form on their website: [www.haroldandalicebridgescharity.co.uk](http://www.haroldandalicebridgescharity.co.uk)

## **Lake District Foundation**

The Foundation offers grants to projects which deliver their goal that the Lake District and Cumbria will be an inspirational example of sustainable development in action, and a place where a prosperous economy, world-class visitor experiences and vibrant communities come together to sustain its spectacular landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage [www.lakedistrictfoundation.org](http://www.lakedistrictfoundation.org)  
email: [info@lakedistrictfoundation.org](mailto:info@lakedistrictfoundation.org) tel:01539 822622

## **Magic Little Grants**

Together with Postcode Community Trust, Localgiving is offering charitable organisations grants of £500 for projects which deliver any of the following:

- Improving mental wellbeing
- Enabling community participation in the arts
- Preventing or reducing the impact of poverty
- Supporting marginalised groups and promoting equality
- Improving biodiversity and green spaces
- Enabling participation in physical activity
- Responding to the climate emergency and promoting sustainability
- Increasing community access to outdoor space

The deadline for applications is 31st October 2021 <https://localgiving.org/magic-little-grants/>

## **Morrisons Foundation**

The Morrisons Foundation supports charities making a positive difference in local communities. Grant funding applications have a limit of £25,000 and must be submitted for fully-funded projects only. The Morrisons Foundation does not support part-funded projects.

[www.morrisonsfoundation.com](http://www.morrisonsfoundation.com)

## **National Lottery Community Fund - Reaching Communities Grants**

Reaching Communities grants are for over £10,000 in England and support projects that enable communities to thrive. The grants are awarded to voluntary and community organisations or social enterprises for up to five years; funding project activities, operating costs, organisational development and capital costs. Grants to village halls are made by working with ACT staff to support the application process. INLCF run a number of grant funds and it's worth checking the NLCF website to see if there's anything suitable for your project.

Web: [www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/reaching-communities-england](http://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/reaching-communities-england)

## **NFU Mutual Charitable Trust**

The NFU Mutual Charitable Trust was set up in 1998, to promote and support charities in the United Kingdom working in agriculture, rural development and insurance.. The Trustees are particularly interested in initiatives in the areas of education of young people in rural areas and relief of poverty within rural areas. Grants are available between £1000 and £50,000 with larger grants being reserved for projects which would have national significance.

The Trustees meet twice a year to consider applications received. These meetings are currently held in June and November. Applications for the November meeting must be submitted by 29th October 2021. [www.nfumutual.co.uk/about-us/charitable-trust/](http://www.nfumutual.co.uk/about-us/charitable-trust/)

## **Postcode Neighbourhood Trust**

The Trust supports smaller charities and good causes in the north of England under these themes:

Improving mental wellbeing; Enabling community participation in the arts; Preventing or reducing the impact of poverty; Supporting marginalised groups and promoting equality; Improving biodiversity & green spaces; Enabling participation in physical activity; Responding to the climate emergency & promoting sustainability; Increasing community access to outdoor space.

There are monthly funding rounds and an online application form

[www.postcodeneighbourhoodtrust.org.uk](http://www.postcodeneighbourhoodtrust.org.uk)

## **Prince's Countryside Fund**

They support activity that results in a long-term positive impact on rural communities by helping the people that live and work in the countryside. The Supporting Rural Communities Grant funds projects that enhance the viability and sustainability of rural communities.

The fund is open to applications twice a year and there is more information on their website.

[www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk](http://www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk)

## **Rural Community Buildings Loan Fund**

The Rural Community Buildings Loan Fund plays a crucial role in helping community groups renovate, refurbish and construct buildings such as village halls, church halls and community centres. The £700,000 Defra fund, managed by ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England), encourages communities to raise funds, knowing a loan could be available to help them meet their target and win funding from other sources.

The average loan taken out by hall committees is around £15,000 – but larger loans are considered. The interest charged on the loan is returned to the Government, but capital is put back into the fund to support other community buildings. [www.acre.org.uk/our-work/rural-community-buildings-loan-fund](http://www.acre.org.uk/our-work/rural-community-buildings-loan-fund)

## **Screwfix Foundation**

The Screwfix Foundation currently offers local registered charities and not for profit organisations funding of up to £5,000. Applications are assessed in February, May, August and November.

Projects need to meet the following criteria:

- Applicants are registered charities or not for profit organisations.
- Projects help those in need by reason of financial hardship, sickness, disability, distress or other disadvantage in the UK.
- Projects relate to the repair, maintenance, improvement or construction of homes, community buildings and other buildings.

There is an application form on their website. [www.screwfix.com/help/screwfixfoundation/](http://www.screwfix.com/help/screwfixfoundation/)

## **Sir John Fisher Foundation**

The Foundation supports charitable causes and projects in six main categories. These are: Maritime; Medical and Disability; Arts; Education; Music; Community. The Foundation gives priority to projects and causes based in Barrow-in-Furness and the Furness Peninsula. Exceptionally, occasional community projects from the remainder of Cumbria and North Lancashire will be considered. [www.sirjohnfisherfoundation.org.uk](http://www.sirjohnfisherfoundation.org.uk)

## **Suez Communities Trust**

Suez Communities Trust provides funds to not-for-profit organisations to undertake work that is eligible under the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF). They support projects that make physical improvements at sites located in funding zones around qualifying sites owned by, SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK. In Cumbria, this is the area around Kendal Fell quarry but eligibility can be checked via their website [www.suezcommunitiestrust.org.uk](http://www.suezcommunitiestrust.org.uk)

## **Tudor Trust**

The Trust makes grants, and provides other types of support, to voluntary and community groups working in any part of the UK. They particularly want to help smaller, community-led organisations which work directly with people who are at the margins of society: organisations which support positive changes in people's lives and in their communities. The Trust has a two stage application process. All applicants must complete a brief first stage proposal (details of what to include are given on the website). Around 1 in 10 applications are successful. [www.tudortrust.org.uk](http://www.tudortrust.org.uk)

## ACT Community Buildings Service

ACT's Community Buildings Service offers the following throughout Cumbria:

- Telephone/Email support from an ACT Officer
- Free ACT guidance sheets, case studies and other resources
- Free specialist national support (on request only)
- Free Community Buildings Events and Workshops
- Free entry on the Cumbria Community Buildings Directory
- Free ACT Gazette newsletter with community buildings news
- A voice for issues affecting community buildings and village halls at a national level, via Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)
- Bespoke support for individual groups at £50 per hour - additional free support may also be available for some community buildings and village halls if ACT has funding to work in your area, contact us for details.

## ACTion with communities in cumbria

champions community and rural issues



For more information please contact ACTion with Communities in Cumbria on Tel: 01768 425666 or visit our website: [www.cumbriaaction.org.uk](http://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk)

### ACT champions community and rural issues

ACTion with Communities in Cumbria, Office Q Skirsgill Business Park, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 0FA

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