

## **Parish and Town Councils Opening Up Safely and Reconnecting Communities Fund (Stage 3)**

As part of its commitment to empowering local communities, Somerset County Council allocated funding support for town and parish councils to help support the safe reopening of parish/community facilities and ensure good prevention control measures are in place. SALC is delighted to be working with the County Council on this project and are managing the fund on their behalf, with support from SCC officers.

The first two stages of funding have already seen over £230,000 awarded to town and parish councils and we are now releasing a further £100,000 for a third round of grant funding.

### **What can the funding be used for?**

The underlying aims for the fund are to support:

#### **1) Opening Up Safely – to make community facilities COVID-19 secure**

To date, we have supported the following kinds of projects:

- Provision of increased cleaning, cleaning equipment and hand sanitiser
- COVID-19 signage/posters, or other resources needed to support infection control measures in parish and town facilities
- Equipment to provide better heating or ventilation in indoor venues
- Or providing a grant to a community group to do any of the above.

#### **2) Reconnecting Communities – some people will have been very isolated during lockdown and may be concerned about mixing again, so we are looking for projects that will support them to get out safely and re-engaged in community activities**

To date, we have supported the following:

- Projects to support and promote **safe** social interaction at community level (e.g. coffee mornings, outdoor activities and small-scale community events)
- Provision of equipment to enable social interaction to resume (e.g. awnings and gazebos, benches or the creation of new outdoor meeting spaces at community venues)
- Projects which help to address health inequalities and improve lives of vulnerable or less advantaged groups (e.g. lunch clubs for the elderly, community transport schemes, projects aimed at helping disadvantaged children or young families)
- Projects that improve communication within the community (e.g. community volunteer surveys, website improvements, promotion of safe venues)
- Projects which promote the [Five Ways to Wellbeing](#) (click on link for details)

This is very much an opportunity for parishes to get creative but please recognise that we are looking for projects that reconnect people in a safe and responsible way.

**For this third round of funding, community events for the Platinum Jubilee will also be in scope.**

We are keen to receive further applications that demonstrate at least one of the following:

- Parish and town councils working together,
- Providing support to those disproportionately impacted (e.g. vulnerable groups, BAME, older people or those with pre-existing health conditions who were previously isolating)
- Promoting equality and inclusion and fostering good relations
- Considering sustainability where it is an ongoing initiative including how the project will be funded in the future.

Evidence of benefit, addressing local need and partner support will all be considered as part of the assessment process.

### **How much can we apply for?**

The maximum amount that can be applied for is £2500.

Priority will be given to those councils who did not submit a Stage 2 application, but we may be able to consider further applications from those who have already received Stage 2 funding should we have resources to spare.

### **How do we apply?**

Email your proposal and application to the Parish Clerk – Kelly de Silva – [ssgparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ssgparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk) by Tuesday 25th January 2022. Please make sure you include the following information;

- **Amount of funding applied for**
- **Purpose (including how your proposal meets the criteria outlined above)**
- **If this bid is in partnership with any other Parish or Town Council or partner organisation, please state partners and include details of any other funding contributions**
- **How will you report and monitor the outcome / success of the initiative?**
- **Summary of costings (Amount & Item / activity)**
- **Payment details of the local organisation**

### **How long do we have to spend the money?**

Projects must be completed by the end of August 2022.

At the end of September 2022, we will ask you to confirm that you have spent the grant in line with your application and seek feedback on the success of your project. We will also be looking to share best practice from innovative schemes.