

SCF NEWS

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FUND

JANUARY 2025

EAST HAMPSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL



ABOUT SCF

The Supporting Communities Fund (SCF) is a £1million grant supporting community groups and organisations in East Hampshire.

Making a positive difference to peoples' lives by improving the welfare and wellbeing of those who may be struggling.

We have three main objectives for the grant that support our welfare and wellbeing strategy:

- Supporting positive mental health in residents, in particular, young people
- Reducing social isolation in residents, in particular, older people
- Supporting our communities to thrive, building resilient community groups and organisations

Loving life!

Fitzroy

Love4Life were awarded revenue funding towards reducing isolation and supporting mental health of people with learning disabilities. Over the last year, the funding has helped them transform inclusion and empower members to push boundaries, explore new interests and grow as individuals.

Love4Life helps its members to make friends, increases their self-belief and independence through social activities, skills workshops and one-to-one support.

Since receiving the award it has run 24 workshops on topics including: confidence, coping with new situations, personal care, boundaries, safe travel and mental health support. They have also hosted 94 events and activities from walking, bowling, meals-out, and karaoke, to a regular quiz night in Petersfield.



Awarded 2023



£15,000 over three years



Supporting positive mental health in residents, focusing on young people

Throughout the year they've reached 19 more people with learning disabilities and autism and feedback shows that 91% of members have broadened their networks and made friends through Love4Life.

Hayley Ostler, General Manager of Love4Life said, 'We are incredibly grateful to East Hampshire District Council for supporting us and enabling more autistic adults and adults with learning disabilities to meet, socialise, and grow their skills in a supportive and nurturing space.'



To find out more about becoming a member visit Love4Life - FitzRoy, or check out Love4Life on Facebook www.facebook.com/fitzroylove4life

Easy listening

I'm All Ears

In 2022, I'm All Ears were awarded three years revenue funding towards providing free and low-cost counselling to East Hampshire communities, supporting those at risk of worsening mental health.

Their service began in Bordon in August 2019, and they now offer face-to-face and virtual sessions in Bordon, Liphook, and Petersfield. Support for children and young people, as well as adults, each client is offered six sessions followed by a review to decide on continuation, referral, or a planned exit. They are dedicated to early intervention, ensuring that

individuals receive support before their problems worsen, helping them better understand and manage their challenges. They have recently appointed an 'intake assessor' to ensure clients are matched with the right counsellor, within two weeks.

Supporting our communities mental health is vital, between March 24 and August 24 they held a total of 449 sessions with clients, with 355 being face-to-face.

They also offer supervised placements for final-year students to gain clinical experience. In 2024/25 they were able to offer seven placements.



Awarded in 2022



£30,000 funding over three years



Supporting positive mental health in residents, in particular young people

For more information www.imallears.community/home
www.facebook.com/imallears.community

Living well in later life

MHA (Methodist Homes Association)

MHA Communities East Hampshire were awarded three years revenue funding to support their work to reduce social isolation and loneliness in East Hampshire, and enabling recovery for older people after the coronavirus pandemic.

They are currently supporting 120 people across East Hampshire to **Live Later Life Well** with a wide variety of groups and activities across Alton and Bordon. These include Tai Chi classes, 'Singing For Wellbeing' sessions and local trips. Helping older people remain part of their community whilst also keeping active. A new favourite with MHA members has been Laughter Yoga, which can improve mind, body and spirit in a fun and friendly atmosphere.

They also offer one-to-one befriending calls which offer support and to help build confidence, as well as a quarterly newsletters with important information about benefits, cost of living tips and other relevant beneficial information.

Members of the scheme have said: "Absolutely love our singing group - been going for 5 years - and it's the highlight of my week!"

"Doing Tai Chi has given me a purpose and I can cope with other things because I've got this. I recently had a very stressful weekend and I couldn't wait to get back to Tai Chi on Monday - I rely on it!"



Awarded in 2021



£30,000 funding over three years



Reducing social isolation in older residents.

Supporting communities to recover from the coronavirus pandemic

Find out more at www.mha.org.uk/care-support

Green fingers at ancient farm

Butser Ancient Farm

A new community gardener is now well established at East Hampshire's top visitor attraction **Butser Ancient Farm** thanks to our Supporting Communities Fund.

Immie has made an incredible contribution to the farm's vibrant gardens since being appointed in February 2024 and has been passionately involved with many projects.

Butser has planted 1,000 UK native trees with the help of around 100 volunteers gathered together from the community to plant trees like Crab Apple, Hawthorn, Hazel, and more.

Planting authentic historical vegetables. Hard-working volunteers cultivate the soil for planting, before having some fun with botanical printing to create art using natural materials.

Immie spends time with garden volunteers every Wednesday, building relationships and providing direction, advice and support, working side-by-side on clearing and maintaining the site and gardens.

They also work with volunteers who have suffered a Stroke who work sitting down, which helps with their rehabilitation.



Awarded in 2023



£28,000 over three years



Supporting positive mental health in residents, in particular young people.

Reducing social isolation in residents, in particular, older people.

For more details, or to book tickets, visit www.butserancientfarm.co.uk

Everyone for tennis!

Four Marks Parish Council

In 2023, **Four Marks Parish Council** were awarded £15,000 capital funding to resurface the tennis courts.

The refurbishment was completed in March 2024 and a children's summer camp, ran by an approved tennis coach, was set-up, which proved very popular. It was so successful they hope to continue it in the future to benefit the local community.

There is also a tennis club which is held every Tuesday evening.

Sport has a great impact on people's wellbeing and mental health, the new look courts encourage people to use them.



The Parish Council has teamed up with ClubSpark and the Lawn Tennis Association to create a membership package and website for booking courts. They currently have 97 members, and there's a household membership package on offer at £45.

The newly resurfaced courts have received great reviews from the community who have also been very happy with the affordability of the membership.



Awarded in 2023



£15,000 capital funding



Supporting positive mental health in residents, in particular young people.

Supporting communities to thrive, building resilient community groups and organisations.

Find out more, or sign-up to become a member at <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/fourmarkstennisclub>

PROJECTS AWARDED IN 2024

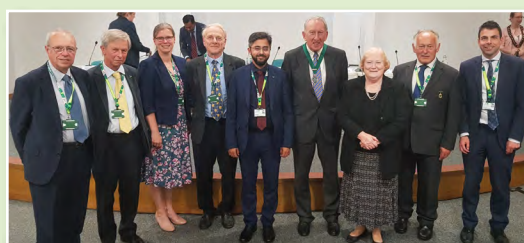
Many of the projects funded go beyond the locations marked on the map and serve the wider community.



	ORGANISATION	TYPE OF AWARD	AMOUNT
1	Petersfield Men's Shed	Capital	£2,053
2	Grayshott Parish Council	Capital	£4,000
3	Hampshire Cultural Trust	Revenue	£20,000
4	Herne Association of Families and Staff	Capital	£2,010
5	Friends of Steep School (FOSS)	Capital	£12,000
6	Clanfield Football Club	Capital	£20,000
7	Bentley Archers	Capital	£14,475
8	Grayshott Concerts	Revenue	£15,000
9	Petersfield Town Football Club	Capital	£20,000
10	Embracing Age (District-wide)	Revenue	£30,000
11	Choices For Youth - the youth arm of 'Choices for You'	Revenue	£14,840
12	Worldham Parish Council	Capital	£10,500
13	Treloar Trust	Capital	£7,272
14	The Peertalk Charitable Foundation (District-wide)	Revenue	£30,000
15	Alton Stroke Support Group	Revenue	£14,850
16	Andrews' Endowed CE Primary School	Capital	£5,000
17	Autism Hampshire	Revenue	£28,635
18	Friends of Greatham School	Capital	£14,378.04
19	Miniland Therapeutic CIC (Miniland Farm)	Capital	£25,000
20	St John Trust	Revenue	£23,400
21	Whitehill & Bordon Community Trust	Revenue	£30,000
22	Y+ Youth Services CIC	Capital	£12,400

HOW ARE GRANTS AWARDED?

SCF applications are assessed and scored by EHDC officers and then presented to EHDC's Grants & Awards Liaison Panel, chaired by portfolio holder Cllr Adeel Shah. The panel discuss and decide how the funding should be awarded to ensure the best social value is obtained.



The Supporting Communities Fund is now closed for its final round of funding, however if you would like to talk to us about other funding opportunities you can contact us through communitygrants@easthants.gov.uk
For more information visit www.easthants.gov.uk/community-and-living/community-grants