

List of COVID Recovery Grants awarded summer 2021

Introduction

This form provides a written record of decisions relating to the allocation of extra funding received from the Hertfordshire Health Protection Board. Decisions to award were taken on 1/9/2021. The authorising officer was Nick Phipps, Community Wellbeing and Partnerships Service Manager, in consultation with Cllr Jonathan Kaye, portfolio holder responsible for grant giving. These applications were recommended for funding because it was demonstrated that the organisation was and is part of containing Coronavirus and preventing the disease from impacting our residents and communities and also helps to take forward the council's priorities for grant giving.

Applications have been through our due diligence checks, assessed in terms of benefit and have been discussed and agreed by the Grants Panel.

Name of Applicant	Description	Amount awarded	Reason for decision and proposed conditions
East Herts Citizens Advice Service	Community engagement to promote our free advice service - To cover costs of a part time community engagement officer, room hire and free phones, enabling us to expand the timeframe for our outreach work beyond March 2022	£7,500	Fully fund deprivation focussed and will enable a research project to collect useful data in these areas - enabling them to lever money in to East Herts area. On the condition they further promote and raise income via the East Herts Lottery.

Name of Applicant	Description	Amount awarded	Reason for decision and proposed conditions
Herts Disability Sports Foundation	Bikes without barriers - to run a Learn to Ride intervention training programme at 5 primary schools in deprived areas of East Herts (St Andrew, St Joseph's and Hollybush in Sele Farm Hertford, Tower in Ware and Windhill in Bishops Stortford) for disadvantaged children in Year 6 - not only teaching them how to ride, but providing reconditioned bikes and helmets. Grant to cover staff Costs (Instructors & Bike Mechanics), Helmets, Spare Parts, Volunteer Costs, and Publicity	£7,395	Fully fund deprivation focussed and takes forward grant priorities, enabling communities and helping children with SEND gain new skills. On the condition they register on the East Herts Lottery.
Hertfood	Delivery of fresh food to 20 families with school age children at Hollybush school and Hertford St Andrews in Sele Ward plus Bengoe Primary until Christmas	£3,000	Fully fund; grass roots initiative contributing to grant priority of health for all and meeting a basic need.
Network Homes – Sele Community Hub	Repurposing of former betting shop to cover rental costs for next 12 months - which will enable community groups and service providers to use the hub free of charge. Providing a range of services locally Citizens Advice services; Job Smart appointments; Community Learning Courses; Wellbeing activities; Community consultations. Activities will help to reduce isolation and loneliness as well as providing residents with the skills to address wellbeing, employability and advice.	£7,500	Fully fund as deprivation focussed and takes forward grant priorities. Key services for vulnerable residents will be delivered close to home. The hub links to aspirations in the newly adopted Sele Neighbourhood Plan

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Bishops Stortford Breathe Easy Group	Support for help with new rental costs at the Charis Centre, paying guest speakers and materials purchase for group sessions, as well as promotional leaflets and refreshments and occasional outings to hire minibuses. With moving to a new venue there is an increase in direct and associated costs and the funding will continue to sustain and grow the group.	£2,600	Fully fund as participants are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable and group contributes to grant priority of health for all and community issues. Robust business case demonstrates that grant will help group capacity build. On the condition they sell more tickets on the East Herts Lottery.
Ash Valley Community Hub	Building a sustainable and integrated community hub service and Little Hadham village hall to build social connections and develop resilience and support amongst and across our rural populations, particularly those who are vulnerable, isolated or living with a debilitating long term condition	£7,500	Fully fund as comprehensive grass roots capacity building project - strong on sustainability and partnerships. Takes forward grant priorities, serving vulnerable people in a rural setting. The model is best practice and has potential to inspire other village hall management committees. On the condition they promote the Little Hadham Village Hall Lottery page.
Tewin Stores Association	Tewin Stores and Cafe: bouncing back - to encourage a wider range of people to volunteer and raise awareness about village events; to train volunteers in Food Safety; to replace the defunct chiller, purchase high chair extensions and pay a cleaning company to deep clean the premises once a month for the next 6 months; enabling us to attract more customers of all ages and serve the community more effectively and safely	£2,537	Fully fund, clearly demonstrates how they contribute to several grant outcomes and are embedded in the community. This project is great value for money. On the condition, they register on the East Herts Lottery. The panel noted the applicant had been awarded the Hertfordshire CPRE Award for keeping services going throughout the pandemic.

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Always Bee You CIC	<p>Always Bee Social - enables adults with learning disabilities to enhance their health and wellbeing by offering social and sports activities, including a Friday night healthy eating Supper club at Southern Maltings and educating them to eat balanced meals.</p> <p>This grant will enable us to pay the rent for our Wednesday social club and Friday supper club for 6 months The grant will enable us to run our services while we promote our services to increase numbers.</p> <p>The grant will also pay for tutor fees for 6 months on Wednesday evenings.</p>	£7,500	Fully fund, as comprehensive bid with strong evidence base from clients and parents demonstrating that the project clearly addresses grant priorities. Service makes a genuine difference to individuals. On the condition they sell more tickets on the East Herts Lottery
All Sorts Dementia CIC	<p>Providing inclusive and accessible spaces for people with dementia to socialise in an understanding environment at High Cross Village Hall, Ware and Sawbridgeworth Cricket Club. Our groups promote short term memory function via Cognitive Stimulation Therapy and physical activity however they also tackle ill health and feelings of low mood.</p>	£7,500	Fully fund as project supports very vulnerable clients who have been most affected by COVID. Bid was strong in terms of sustainability and contributes to grant outcomes and provides new experiences for participants. On the condition they sell more tickets on the East Herts Lottery.
Future Living CIO	<p>Community Together - To cover costs of one quarter rent in order to continue to deliver non-medical community-based digital, telephone and face to face services and activities for people experiencing domestic abuse and addictions and struggling with mental health as a result of the effects of lockdown/COVID19.</p>	£7,500	Fully fund as comprehensive application that clearly demonstrates it addresses grant priorities. Panel noted organisation was very well governed. On the condition they sell more tickets on the East Herts Lottery

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Bishop's Stortford Youth Project	Mental Wellbeing support for young people at Thirst Youth Cafe - delivery of mental wellbeing programmes, working in partnership with our local PCT adolescent mental health team, for young people aged 11- 18 in Bishops Stortford who have been significantly impacted by COVID-19.	£7,500	Fully fund comprehensive bid based on evidence and linked to partners. Panel noted applicant had provided amazing COVID lockdown activities which supported vulnerable young people. Project will address priority of enabling good mental health for all. On the condition they sell more tickets on the East Herts Lottery
The Welbeloved Club CIO	Reopening after COVID project - To purchase and maintain/replace our supply of PPE, therefore ensuring all of our members are safe and FEEL safe. The Welbeloved Club is a monthly Sunday lunch club providing a hot, two-course people to anyone aged 65 over experiencing loneliness and social isolation at Sawbridgeworth memorial Hall	£1,000	Fully fund as project takes forward grant priorities on isolation and loneliness and is linked to East Herts Social Prescribing Project. Grant will enable group to expand. Good value for money. On the condition they sell more tickets on the East Herts Lottery
Ware University of the Third Age	Still Learning Laughing and Living - - Publicise and run 2 showcases (Autumn 2021 and Spring 2022) to highlight what we have to offer to our local community and for members individually and provide digital training to our harder to reach members who have been left behind in the digital revolution we have seen in the past 2 years; Update our website and social media presence to better provide access to our organisation. Provide a celebration of the "survival" of Ware u3a for members to safely reconnect (2 or 3 social events)	£5,000	Fully fund as service addresses grant priorities. Proposed project is evidence based and linked to national good practice. On the condition, they register on the East Herts Lottery

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Acehounds CIC	<p>Friendship Dogs - to expand and visit more people - West toward Hertford (Sele ward) and Ware (Trinity ward). With the extra funding we will be able to increase the amount of people we see from 70 per year to 300+ per year. Due to the demand for the Friendship Dogs service I will need to take on additional staff. Our service harnesses the human-animal bond (a form of communication and connection which does not rely upon spoken human words), and provide the opportunity for isolated people to reconnect with their lives and their community through the use of animal assisted activities and to encourage individual well-being and positivity for all those we work with.</p>	£7,500	<p>Fully fund as project is evidence based and addresses grant priority of helping vulnerable people achieve good mental and physical health. Proposal is about expanding reach and there a clear opportunities for volunteering. On the condition, they register on the East Herts Lottery</p>
Ware Arts Centre Southern Maltings	<p>Putting Volunteering into the heart of our restart - to embed volunteering into the operational management of the organisation and the grant will pay for a Volunteer co-ordinator to help deliver our Volunteer Vision. Following the guidelines of Excellence in Volunteering, we will recruit new volunteers and this will aid our recovery and help us to resume growth of our audience and expand our activities and reach.</p>	£7,500	<p>Fully fund, good bid that takes forward council grant priorities; taking a national best practice approach. The project will provide new volunteering opportunities.</p>

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Mudlarks	The Mudlarks Allotment Open for Business - enabling Hertford's most marginalised people living with learning disabilities and mental health concerns to fulfil their potential by creating work experience which can lead to employment and college opportunities. Grant will cover costs to employ another member of staff to support our strict staff/participant ratios and COVID-19 safety issues.	£7,500	Fully fund. This was a strong, high quality bid that clearly takes forward outcomes for vulnerable people. The grant panel noted that the group had adapted well in terms of lockdown. On the condition they sell more tickets on the East Herts Lottery
Herts FASD (Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) Support Network	Rebuilding FASD Support in East Herts - in response to upcoming NICE Quality Standard to adopt greater professionalism and capacity to cope with the wave of new cases expected as diagnosis becomes much more common, and the need for post-diagnostic care and support pathways grows exponentially. The grant will cover costs of rent, insurance, and 6 parental support networks/FASD social clubs at Southern Maltings. The network provides a place for mutual assistance by people who understand the struggles of raising children with FASD and want to help each other be strong.	£2,220	Part fund as delivery is county wide; however, 60% of clients are in EH and are vulnerable. This grant would be to enable group to address future demand. On the condition, they register on the East Herts Lottery

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Bishop's Wellbeing	Community Alliance development and research proposal - to ensure the development of a cohesive cross-community partnership community engagement; to develop the pathways of support required to help reconnect individuals into community and tackle barriers which they face as a direct result of the COVID pandemic. This will enable us to more efficiently and effectively deliver person-led services - putting our service users in charge of their own growth, capabilities to work, to learn, to live independently and fully realise their potential. Grant to be spent on part time researcher for 6 months, training, website development, and Front Line.	£5,200	Part fund. Grant to pay for part time staff to coordinate research project to trial Front Line referrals platform. The panel noted that not all the information requested had been received. On the condition they sell more tickets on the East Herts Lottery. (Only 1 supporter to date. Suggest increase to at least 10)
Grove Cottage (Bishop's Stortford Mencap)	Adapting Grove Cottage's service delivery due to the COVID-19 pandemic (joined "Operation CommUNITY") - using grant to pay for rent, PPE, IT and extra cleaning in order to provide the right support, so that people with learning disabilities can live independent and fulfilled lives.	£6,000	Part fund as applicant had received a COVID Small Business Grant. But contributes to grant priorities for vulnerable residents.
GATE (Gypsy and Traveller Engagement) Hert s	COVID recovery and long-term sustainability - the pandemic has left GATE with a limited amount of core funding and a shortage in our unrestricted funds, this means we are unable rent sufficiently big enough premises for our new hub. A grant would enable us to pay our rent for our office in Ware, thus paving the way for us to provide tutoring lessons on basic literacy, digital skills and safety.	£2,000	Part fund as delivery is county wide and lower numbers of clients in East Herts. However, organisation supports people with protected characteristics; providing genuine life changing practical support improving life chances and addressing health equalities. Ask them to consider registering on the EH Lottery

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Herts Mediation	Continuing Community Cohesion - to cover costs to continue to provide a virtual listening ear to those in need and resolve disagreements in the family, at work or in the wider community. Our mediators will encourage the parties to get together and listen to the other party's side of the dispute. The Grant will enable us to continue to offer a seamless service to residents of East Hertfordshire in order to tackle and de-escalate disputes at an early stage. Grant to cover expenses for becoming COVID secure and support for 2 cases in EH.	£1,118	Fully fund as project supports vulnerable people and intervening at an early stage. Bid provided excellent feedback and the impact of the service was high. Grant to be used to deliver mediation support for two cases in East Herts plus COVID protective equipment. On the condition they sell more tickets on the East Herts Lottery
Cruse Bereavement Care Herts	Cruse Hertfordshire COVID Recovery - to continue to support bereaved people either on a one-to-one basis for 6 sessions with a named volunteer or through an online group with other bereaved people. By providing trained volunteers who can listen and support the bereaved Cruse helps to speed up the grieving process. Last year 71 out of 716 clients were from East Herts.	£1,500	Part funded as delivery is county wide. However, organisation supports vulnerable people and takes forward grant priority of health for all - good feedback from clients. Grant to be spent on staff costs and delivery of activities in East Herts such as walk and talk only. On the condition, they register on the East Herts Lottery
Herts Community Development Action	Reconnecting Communities in Rural East Herts - to help minimize further isolation and reverse the detrimental effects the Coronavirus pandemic has had on rural life and communities. Delivering a 1 year project of engagement initiatives and supportive learning & development opportunities	£7,500	Fully fund as project is about providing support to Rural Support Networks that were set up during the pandemic and helping them address isolation and loneliness at the grass roots level. Enabling access and reducing detrimental effects of COVID on some of the most vulnerable.

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Stocking Pelham Cricket Club	Funding for the continued operation of Stocking Pelham Cricket Club - To cover insurance costs for 2 years	£3,011	Fully fund as grass roots sports club that is proactive. Panel concluded that while the bid was not perfectly articulated it was agreed that the club has a key role in the community and takes forward grant priority of bringing the community together. On the condition, they provide a bank statement and register on the East Herts Lottery
PowWER	Trauma Training Herts Help Advisors - to offer much needed trauma training to our 16 first responders in our Herts Help telephone support line. The proposed training will act as a protective factor for our staff and organization as we recognize the impact that the pandemic has had on front line staff. In 2021, we have so far supported 3,520 marginalized, vulnerable and socially excluded East Herts residents - speaking for them when they can't and supporting them to speak for themselves when they can.	£1,000	Part fund as delivery is county wide. However panel agreed that the applicant supported very vulnerable residents with practical support - addressing grant priorities - and that trauma training of volunteers would have overall benefit to service in East Herts. Grant amount matches their contribution.
B Green Store CIC	A local store and community hub - to reduce rural/social isolation in the village and nearby areas by activating local spaces and organising weekly activities that will target vulnerable adults which start and finish in at B.Green and will include refreshments after the activity to strengthen social connections.	£6,717	Part fund as applicant had received Small Business Grant and bid was weak on sustainability and consultation /feedback. However Panel noted that the shop volunteers had provided a fantastic COVID response effort and was clearly a grass roots group that was embedded in community. On the condition, they register on the East Herts Lottery

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Broxbourne and East Herts CVS – Hertford Skills Hub	Hertford Community Skills Hub - to cover rental costs to allow us to continue to provide courses <u>free of charge</u> , ensuring that cost is not a barrier to participation. This grant will enable us to keep the hub open, providing a venue for face-to-face support.	£4,702	Part fund as lower scoring bid which was considered weak across the board (lacking in substance and clarity). Panel was concerned that there was no evidence of demand. It recommended that the applicant consider a nominal fee to learners - which is considered best practice - and would make up project shortfall for rental costs. On the condition, they register on the East Herts Lottery to raise income for the Skills Hub and become more sustainable
Furneux Pelham School Association	FPSA Outdoor Development Plan - fun outside maximise its potential for offering a wide variety of outdoor activities with the addition of a Zig Zag Free Standing Traversing Wall. To purchase equipment for our new status as a Forest School.	£4,500	Part fund as lower scoring bid with gaps in consultation, sustainability, delivery and little evidence of COVID response. However, panel agreed the project had merit due to funds raised through Just Giving and agreed to match what had been raised via the crowd. On the condition that group explains how the wider community will gain access to the equipment after school hours and during the holidays.