



**HPC
Community
Fund**



**Hinkley Point C
Community Fund
Annual Report
2020/21**



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Justin Sargent OBE
Chief Executive,
Somerset Community
Foundation

In just three-and-a-half years, almost £4.6 million has been committed from the HPC Community Fund to support a diverse range of projects and initiatives. This report demonstrates how this very important fund continues to benefit our local communities, covering the period May 2020 to April 2021. Across the next few pages you'll read about how the fund supports a wide diversity of groups and projects, from some of our larger and better known charities to small, grassroots community groups. The fund was created to help mitigate the impact of the construction of Hinkley Point C in local communities by improving local quality of life and wellbeing, whilst also ensuring opportunities created can be of direct benefit to people living in the area.

Somerset Community Foundation, an independent local charity (no 1094446), has overall responsibility for the delivery of the fund, chairing the Awards Panel which includes representatives from local councils and EDF, alongside SCF trustees and independent members appointed by the Foundation. I would like to thank my colleagues and Awards Panel members for all their hard work in the delivery of this fund.

The last year has been a very difficult time for everyone. A lot of groups supported by the fund were forced to temporarily pause their projects last year. However, many resourceful organisations swiftly found new and innovative ways of working, adapting and modifying to ensure they could continue to deliver their work safely in the community during the pandemic. We worked closely with all of them to make sure we could be as flexible as possible, in many cases extending the time they had to deliver their projects. As I write this, we are seeing real hope on the horizon. As the rollout of the coronavirus vaccine programme continues to be delivered at pace, we are already seeing promising signs of our communities starting to bounce back.

We are passionate about doing everything we can to support local communities, and will continue to do so through this fund, with the aim of improving the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of communities and their quality of life.

I hope you enjoy our third HPC Community Fund Annual Report.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin'.

Financial Summary

HPC Community Fund in 2020/21

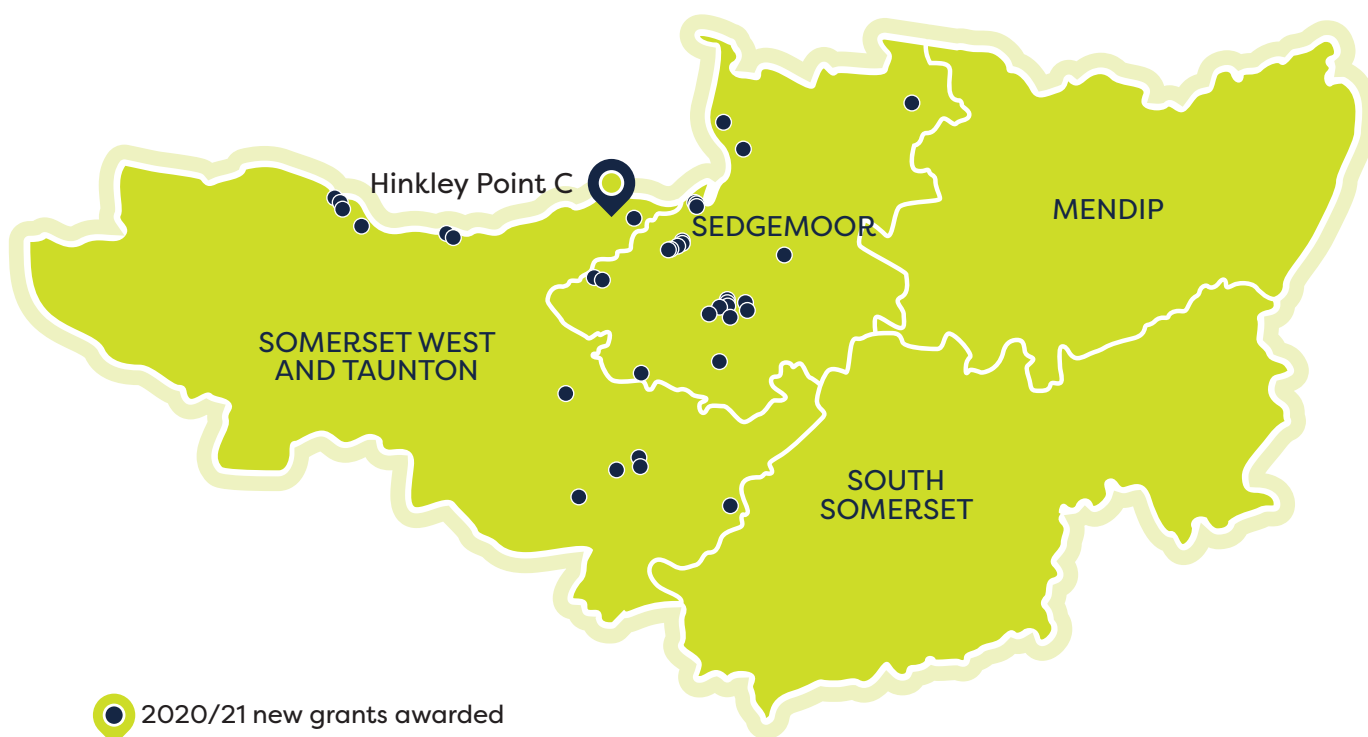


* Including funding committed in multi-year projects that will be paid in future years

** Correct as at 30 April, 2021

Grants Programmes	Open	Small	Otterhampton	Strategic	Totals
Value of grants awarded	£1,087,883	£44,711	£225,450	–	£1,358,044
Number of grants awarded	14	15	3	–	32
Awarded since Nov 2017	£2,389,224	£329,851.50	£303,271	£1,523,636	£4,555,983***

*** Total also includes £10,000 awarded as Community Development grants in 2018/19



Somerset Community Foundation's support costs were 7.6% of the grants awarded

Open Grants Programme

Available for Somerset organisations that support local communities to apply for funding in response to the impacts or opportunities being felt in their communities as a result of the Hinkley Point C development.

The Open Grants programme was launched in late 2018. Fourteen grant awards were made by the end of April 2021. As a result of the coronavirus outbreak, some of the grantees from this and previous years have had their project deadline extended meaning that some multi-year grant payments have been delayed.

Open Grants awarded in 2020/21

Organisation	Summary of Project	Grant	Project Length
ATWEST	A new minibus for ATWEST Community Transport	£36,000	1 year
Bishops Hull Hub Ltd	Construction of the new Bishops Hull Hub	£10,000	1 year
Bridgwater Baptist Church	Funding towards the cost of the Energise project, and providing community facilities in the Bridgwater Baptist Church	£200,000	2 years
Education Business Partnership (Somerset County Council)	Support to develop relationships and partnerships between schools, colleges and businesses in Somerset	£40,000	1 year
Haygrove School	Contribution to a new multi-use sports pitch for community use	£50,000	1 year
Inspired to Achieve	A co-ordinator to recruit and co-ordinate job coaches to support young people with SEND to access job opportunities	£79,388	1 year
LifeCycle UK	A project to promote and strengthen cycling in Taunton, Bridgwater and the surrounds through training, support and providing cycle racks	£99,790	3 years
Navigate CIO	To provide financial education to the community through delivery of innovative and engaging workshops, with the intention of eliminating financial hardship for future generations	£150,891	3 years
North Petherton Playing Fields Charitable Trust	Development of the memorial park to create an integrated leisure space for people of all ages in the community	£80,000	1 year
Onion Collective	Funding towards the development of an art gallery and community facilities in Watchet	£80,000	1 year
Quantock AONB	Funding towards staff, training and equipment to support the Nature Connections project	£90,000	3 years
Somerset Sight	Contribution towards the costs of a Mobile Advisory Service, including salary costs for the volunteer co-ordinator	£85,000	3 years
State of Trust	A creative arts project exploring economic migration and changing communities	£49,421	1 year
Stogursey Parochial Church Council	Contribution towards the completion of the Stolford and Wick Community Hub	£37,393	1 year

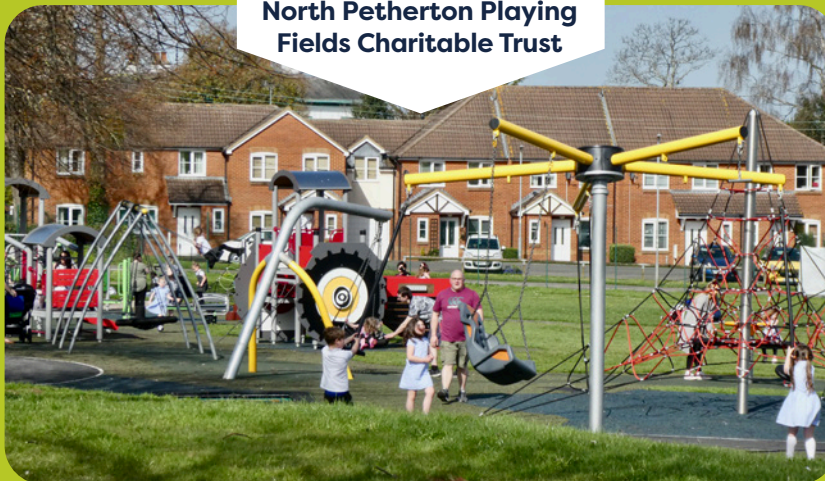
Notes on grants awarded in previous years:

During the year Bridgwater & Taunton College, I CAN, PROMISEworks and Ups and Downs Southwest received funding for multi-year grants awarded in a previous year

Following the coronavirus outbreak, Halsway Manor's grant was increased by £2,600 and Wembdon PACT's grant was increased by £5,995 to ensure the groups were able to deliver their projects effectively.

Open Grants Programme continued

Funded Project Case Study North Petherton Playing Fields Charitable Trust



The North Petherton Playing Fields Charitable Trust administers two playing fields for use as recreation grounds for the benefit of the civil parish of North Petherton. In 2020 they were awarded a grant of £80,000 from the HPC Community Fund to help turn the community's ideas for a multi-purpose park and green space at North Petherton Memorial Park into a reality.

"We were delighted to open the new park in beautiful weather in March 2021, just as soon as the government restrictions allowed. It instantly proved to be an invaluable resource, especially during such difficult times. It's extremely popular with all age groups, thanks to the input from our community at the design and planning stage. It's great to see our vision realised: families and children coming together to play, exercise or just socialise with friends, old and new, in this attractive and accessible place. We are so grateful to Somerset Community Foundation for the funding from the HPC Community Fund, which has allowed us to provide this lasting legacy for the community."

Peter Farnell, Volunteer Fundraiser and Project Manager,
North Petherton Memorial Park Project

Funded Project Case Study Minehead EYE



Minehead EYE CIC is a youth and community organisation that supports both young people and communities. In 2020 they were awarded a grant of £148,840 over three years from the HPC Community Fund to employ two qualified youth workers, supporting some of the most vulnerable and isolated young people in west Somerset with the aim of building resilience, and improving health and wellbeing.

"Shortly after we were awarded the grant the pandemic hit. The project end date was extended while we swiftly adapted the delivery of our work and continued supporting young people. The crucial thing for us in the early days was to make sure we didn't lose contact with the young people. We've worked closely with other organisations, in particular the PCSOs and the Opportunity Area, checking that young people were safe, healthy and supported, and working with key pupils once schools reopened to help their reintegration into education. The grant from the HPC Community Fund has enabled us to continue delivery throughout 2020-21, despite the obvious barriers and restrictions. It's strengthened our relationships with partner services, and demonstrated to young people that regardless of circumstances we will always support them - something we believe will be invaluable as our project moves forward."

Paul Matcham, Community Development Manager, Minehead EYE

Small Grants Programme

Offering grants of up to £5,000 for smaller local organisations with an annual income of less than £100,000. The fund will also consider applications for up to £10,000, awarded over a three-year period, if the projects can demonstrate that they are addressing ‘exceptional circumstances’.

In this financial year, 15 groups received funding through the Small Grants programme, and the total amount awarded through this programme was £44,711 in grants. Projects include supporting young people, improving employment opportunities, enhancing the local environment and developing local amenities. This year, as many small groups suddenly found themselves unable to operate as a result of the pandemic, we awarded fewer grants than we would normally have expected.

Funded Project Case Study Fortitude Wellbeing



Fortitude Wellbeing focuses on providing opportunities based in the natural world to help people rediscover a sense of purpose and enjoyment in their lives. They received a grant of £4,989 in 2020 towards a project involving practical crafts and woodworking to promote wellbeing for young people struggling with their mental health and family connections in Bridgwater and Minehead. Due to the pandemic, which happened shortly after we awarded the grant, the planned face-to-face workshops could no longer take place and the project model was adapted so that it was compliant with the coronavirus guidance.

“Since May of 2020 we’ve developed DIY kits that have been posted to families across Sedgemoor and Somerset West & Taunton. We’ve posted desk tidies, bird boxes, tool caddies and flower press kits to more than 85 families in Somerset. Families and young people have told us that spending time assembling the kits and taking part in a practical task together, especially one that reminds parents of their own childhood, has opened up communication and helped them to reconnect, especially during the pandemic and lockdown, which has had a negative impact on the mental health of so many.”

Olly Clabburn, Director,
Fortitude Wellbeing CIC

Small Grants Programme continued

Small Grants awarded in 2020/21

Organisation	Project Summary	Grant	Project Length
Bluebird Theatre CIC	Funding towards community theatre performances in West Somerset	£4,600	1 year
Burnham on Sea Junior Rugby Football Club	New rugby shirts for the junior team	£1,700	1 year
Dunster Marsh Junior Playing Field Association	Funding to replace damaged fences and gates at the playing field	£1,500	1 year
Minehead Amateur Boxing Club	Contribution towards the repair of the club floor	£1,000	1 year
Minehead Museum	Funding to develop the museum website and digitisation of items	£5,000	1 year
Nether Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground CIO	Funding towards the costs of a new website for the community hub	£1,250	1 year
Somerset Child Contact Centres	Funding for a new Child Contact Centre in Bridgwater	£5,000	1 year
St Francis of Assisi PCC	Replacement of community hall doors and windows	£4,479	1 year
St Mary's Church: Mission Innovation Team	Establishing a community hub in Berrow and Brean	£2,000	1 year
Stogursey Parish Council	Installation of defibrillators in the parishes of Holford and Shurton	£1,860	1 year
Stowey Bears Pre-School	Development of the pre-school garden	£5,000	1 year
The Duke FC	Equipment for a new football club	£2,000	1 year
The Space	Funding towards the Cheddar Youth Club	£3,000	1 year
Wombat Cricket Club	Funding towards installing accessible toilets and changing rooms in the community cricket club	£5,000	1 year
Woolavington Village Hall	Upgrading and relocating the fire alarm control panel	£1,322	1 year

Notes on grants awarded in previous years: During the year Friends of Minehead First School, Minehead Cycling Club, Nourish Bumps, Babies and Breastfeeding and Samaritans of Taunton and Somerset received funding from grants awarded in previous years.

Funded Project Case Study Minehead Museum



Minehead Museum aims to enrich the experience of visitors to the town by engaging people of all ages in the heritage of their local community. The museum received a grant of £5,000 from the HPC Community Fund in 2021 to digitise, catalogue and preserve local historic items, and support the renewal of the museum website.

“Minehead Museum reached over 11,500 visitors in 2019, but sadly we weren’t open in 2020 as our limited space prevented safe access for volunteers and visitors during the pandemic. The grant from the HPC Community Fund has enabled the development of a new, professionally designed website which will allow for greater access to the museum’s collection, and will help us to recruit new volunteers to ensure continued growth. This work will mean our unique collection of images, which reflect the culture and heritage of the area, are still here for future generations to enjoy and are accessible to researchers. The grant helps strengthen the resilience of the museum, which is a wet weather facility for visitors, and provides educational, cultural and heritage value to the town.”

Julian Luke, Curator,
Minehead Museum

Small Grants Programme continued

Funded Project Case Study Burnham-on-Sea Junior Rugby Club



Burnham-on-Sea Junior Rugby Club, the Junior Stags, is for young people in Sedgemoor, aged 7-16. The club provides opportunities for many to take part in sport who might not otherwise be able to. They provide an inclusive environment where young people can make friends and enjoy physical exercise. The club received a grant for £1,700 from the HPC Community Fund in 2021 towards replacing the Juniors' old rugby kit.

"Burnham-on-Sea Junior Rugby Club are truly grateful for this grant. It's helped to give our players a feeling of belonging and unity - one of the many health benefits of team sport. Grassroots rugby was badly affected by the coronavirus pandemic, but the resilience of our club has meant that a fantastic and safe environment has been created for our players. In fact, we've even seen some new players join recently! The return to rugby was greeted with much excitement at the club, with some comparing the night before to Christmas Eve. Playing rugby has benefits for so many: not only the players, but also the parents and guardians, the coaches, and the many other members of the community all of whom are involved in running the club."

Steve Hall, Treasurer,
Burnham-on-Sea RFC Junior Section

Funded Project Case Study Stowey Bears Pre-School



Stowey Bears is a small, rural pre-school in Nether Stowey, led by a committee of dedicated parent-volunteers. The group is committed to providing a safe, welcoming and nurturing environment that enables children to learn and develop in a fun and challenging way. They received a grant for £5,000 in 2020 to repair the outdoor play area, helping to further enrich the children's lives through play and practical learning experiences.

"The grant from the HPC Community Fund enabled us to replace the old artificial grass area that had started to flood, and some other new resources, facilitating more outdoor learning. This has meant the children can now use the outdoor area all year round. The grant has enabled us to further develop our outdoor learning programme, which has helped parents to feel safe and reassured during the coronavirus outbreak."

Rosie Aubrey, Deputy
Chair of Stowey Bears
Management Committee

Otterhampton Ring Fenced Fund

Allocated funding of £500,000 within the Hinkley Point C site planning agreement.

A team comprising members of the Parish Council and community representatives identify projects and schemes to mitigate impacts being felt within the parish. This year, three grants have been awarded.

Otterhampton Grants awarded to organisations

Organisation	Project Summary	Grant	Project Length
Combwich Motor Boat & Sailing Club	Funding to purchase oars for the junior section to support younger members	£2,160	1 year
Otterhampton Parish Council	Funding for two defibrillators in Combwich	£3,290	1 year
Otterhampton Village Hall	Funding towards the refurbishment of the Otterhampton Village Hall	£220,000	1 year

Funded Project Case Study Otterhampton Village Hall



Otterhampton Village Hall was awarded a grant of £220,000 in 2021 to upgrade the popular community hub for continued use by the community. The huge range of regular activities held at the hall include arts and crafts, choir and band practice, a monthly village market, and the Harbour View Bar where locals can enjoy a fully stocked and operational licensed bar, a game of skittles or darts and other community events across the year.

“Our aim was to make sure our village hall is a safe, warm and friendly environment which is fit for the purpose for the parish and surrounding community. It’s the biggest refurb the village hall has seen for decades and is much needed. Local volunteers pitched in to help clear the hall ready for the professional tradespeople, and finds included 40 year-old till rolls, a vanity case and a picture of the Queen circa 1960! When it’s completed, our newly refurbished village hall will provide a modern, comfortable and energy efficient space which will be at the heart of the community, and used and enjoyed for years to come.”

Sue Barton, Chair,
Otterhampton Village Hall Committee CIO

Strategic Grants Programme

Targeting specific impacts felt within Somerset communities, identified through consultation with communities and their representatives.

In 2017-18 Community Cohesion was the first theme to be identified. This broad 'umbrella' term can be used to describe many aspects of community development and because of this, three focus areas were identified within the overarching theme. The first was strengthening Somerset communities, the second was supporting services (particularly for those community members in housing need) and the third was strengthening minority ethnic communities. Seven grants were awarded under this theme.

The second theme was Out of Hours Social Activities. This focus was identified to strengthen VCSE (voluntary, community and social enterprise) and public support in areas to where workers and their families have moved and therefore social and leisure activities are increasing. Four grants were awarded under this theme.

These grants were in their final year of three this year, however many have had their project deadline extended due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Funded Project Case Study Youth Unlimited



Youth Unlimited are providers of inclusive youth projects. In 2018 they were awarded a grant of £149,930 from the HPC Community Fund to deliver a three-year street-based project working with vulnerable young people in Bridgwater, Taunton and the surrounding areas.

"Our HPC Community Fund project is now well established and we are known by communities, parents, agencies and those involved in County Lines activities. We're able to target communities that we know need our help, and tailor our support to meet those needs. Strong relationships have now been made as the young people are used to seeing us out and about in their communities. The recent increase in County Lines activity coupled with the coronavirus outbreak has made our work increasingly challenging but we've still been able to continue to offer support. We've had to think outside the box, with garden gate visits to those who are anxious and isolated, and one-to-one support for the more vulnerable young people. For a small team we continue to make a big impact."

Craig Lloyd, Director and Youth Worker, Youth Unlimited

Strategic Grants Programme continued

Organisations who received funds in 2020/21 from grants awarded in 2018/19

Organisation	Project Summary	Project Length
Community Council for Somerset	Providing support, events and training to existing and incoming ethnic minority group workers and their families	3 years
Diversity Voice	Providing legal and welfare advice, English language support, and events and training for incoming workers and their families	3 years
Home-Start West Somerset	Volunteer-led project, supporting vulnerable families in Stogursey, Williton and Watchet, and activities and events for the wider community	3 years
St George's Parish Centre, Wembdon	Community outreach, events and support, organised by a new Centre Worker for the benefit of a growing community	3 years
Taunton Street Pastors	Supporting Street Pastors to grow and provide support to vulnerable people in Bridgwater	3 years
The Nelson Trust	An education programme in partnership with SARSAS and LiveWest and targeted interventions supporting vulnerable women and girls	3 years
Westfield United Reform Church	Providing community worker support and updating facilities for community and outreach work in Bridgwater	3 years
Citizens Advice West Somerset	Housing support services and additional training for volunteers to provide extra support to growing communities	3 years
Youth Unlimited CIC	A street-based project working with vulnerable young people	3 years

Responding to coronavirus

Following the government's national lockdown announcement in March 2020, many groups suddenly found themselves unable to operate as they had done previously. Almost overnight, our nimble, innovative charities transformed the way they delivered their services. The pandemic only served to exacerbate the existing impacts of the Hinkley Point C project on the surrounding area, and we were proud to continue supporting the groups we had funded, as they quickly adapted their projects to respond to the urgent need in our communities.

Funded Project Case Study

St George's Parish Centre in Wembdon



In 2018, St George's Parish Centre in Wembdon, near Bridgwater, was awarded a grant of £35,000 from the HPC Community Fund to fund a new Centre Development Worker for three years. The project's aim was to reduce isolation and provide emotional and practical support through various activities to bring the community closer. No one could have predicted that in the middle of the project, the country would go into lockdown.

"Towards the end of March 2020, our centre was forced to close due to the nationwide lockdown. All our buildings closed: there was no coffee shop, no cooking classes, no community events. So, I took the opportunity to creatively adapt our work in new ways to keep the community connected and support our vulnerable neighbours through the coronavirus crisis. I set up a Digital Café via Zoom for an hour every day, Monday to Friday, for anyone to come and have a chat – a great way of connecting the community. For those not online, we set up a regular telephone conference call, which is a great way for older people to chat to others regularly and for us to check they're doing OK. We also provided food boxes throughout the school holidays to help the local families who struggled during this time. Many of the groups who use our centre fall into the vulnerable category, so we've been making sure as many people as possible have been looked after – in whatever capacity that means – throughout the village."

Liz Birch, Centre Development Worker,
St George's Parish Centre

Awards Panel Members

Somerset Community Foundation

Chris Bishop
Martin Kitchen
John Lyon (Chair)

Local Authorities

Cllr Chris Booth (Somerset West and Taunton District Council)
Cllr Ann Bown (Somerset County Council)
Cllr Gill Slocombe (Sedgemoor District Council)

EDF

Andrew Cockcroft (from August 2020)
David Eccles (up to July 2020)
Sarah Taylor
Nick Wall

Independent Members

Linda Bennett (from October 2020)
Hilary Cockcroft (up to October 2020)
Claire Mahoney (from April 2021)
Steve Mewes (up to October 2020)
Robin White

Executive Team:

Chief Executive Justin Sargent
Programmes Director Val Bishop
Programmes Manager Peter Stolze

Communications Manager Sue Wheeler
Administrative Support
Carolyn Phimister & Laurence Stevens

Get in touch:

If your community is affected by Hinkley Point C and you would like to discuss your project idea, email: info@somersetcf.org.uk or call us on: **01749 344949**

To apply for funding, please visit the Hinkley Point C Community Fund website: www.hpcfunds.co.uk

Address: Yeoman House, The Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 6QN

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