



**HPC  
Community  
Fund**

## **Hinkley Point C Community Fund Annual Report 2022/23**





# Welcome to our fifth Hinkley Point C (HPC) Community Fund Annual Report. Covering the period May 2022 to April 2023, we look at the recent impact this important fund has made.

► Hinkley Point C is the biggest development that Somerset has ever seen. Building work started in 2017 and will continue for a number of years more. It's making a big difference to the lives of many people, particularly those living in the nearby villages, Bridgwater, and along the Somerset coast.

The differences that people are experiencing have changed over the years. There have been new opportunities for people living in the area, but the build has also impacted on some people's quality of life. The last year has been no different – with new developments including the creation of the Brean Sands Campus.

The HPC Community Fund, backed by EDF, is for communities that are experiencing these changes. Somerset Community Foundation, an independent charity (no. 1094446), runs the fund. Since 2017, we have awarded over £8 million pounds in the local area. As you'll see later in this report, this year included our largest single grant of £1.25 million. This will help to support one of our county's most important cultural institutions which has incredible community reach across the whole of Somerset, but has especially strong connections in Bridgwater and the surrounding villages.

At the same time, the majority of our grants are for less than £5,000, helping dozens of very small community groups across the area. Overall, the fund awarded 57 grants to organisations in the year, with the majority of our funding supporting small groups.



The rapid growth in inflation has affected us all, but it has had a substantial impact on voluntary sector organisations. In the year, the Small Grants Programme ran a special one-off round for groups affected by the crisis, awarding an additional £13,000 in grants. A cost-of-living uplift was also awarded to a number of organisations that had received grants from the Open Grants Programme in the year.

I would like to thank my colleagues and the Awards Panel members – which includes representatives from the local council and EDF, SCF trustees and independent members from local communities – for all their hard work and dedication. And I would especially like to thank Val Bishop for her time as Programmes Director here at SCF. As many of you will know, Val led on the delivery of the HPC Community Fund, and was key in the successful launch and management of this very important fund. I am delighted that Andy Ridgewell has been promoted to become our new Programmes Director, and we also welcomed Amelia Thompson to the team in a new role as Senior Programmes Manager in the year.

Best wishes

**Justin Sargent OBE**  
Chief Executive,  
Somerset Community Foundation

## Financial Summary

### HPC Community Fund in 2022/2023

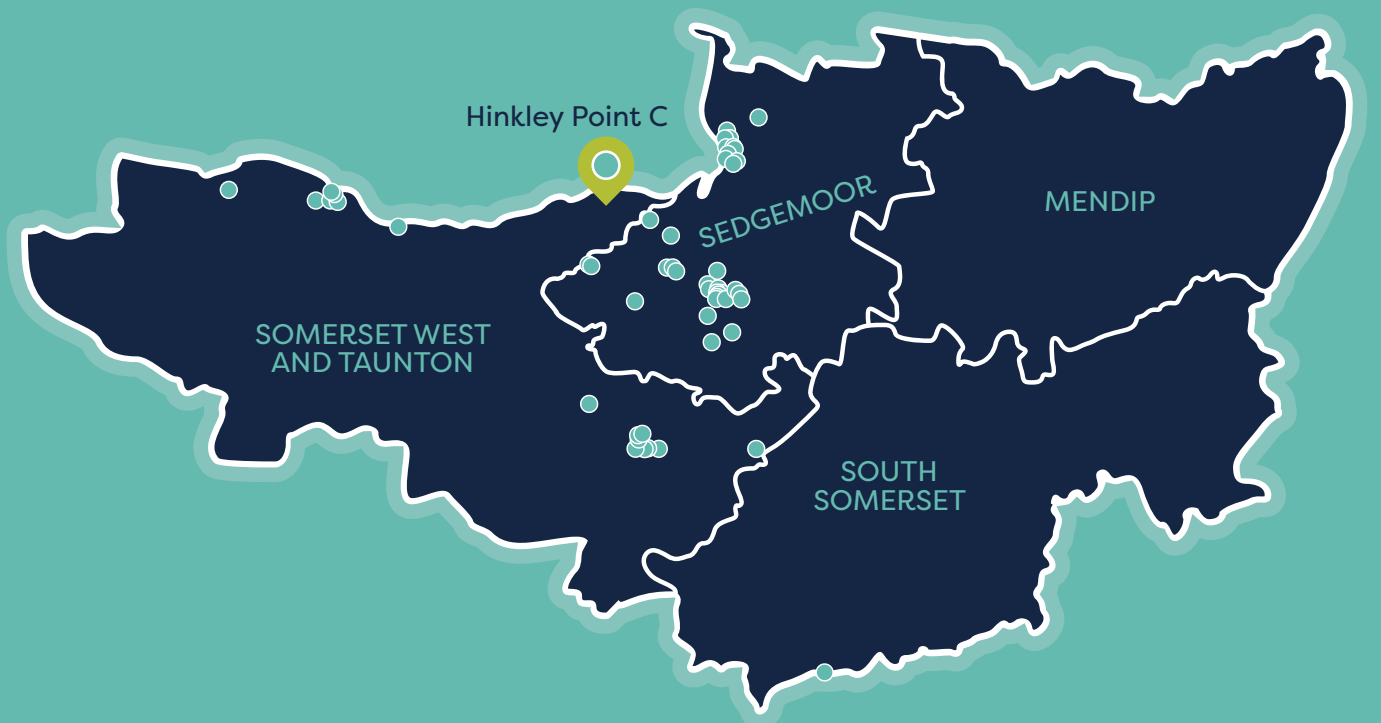
New grants worth  
**£2,641,965** were  
awarded to  
organisations

**57** grants awarded  
to organisations across  
all HPC Community  
Fund programmes

Since the fund was  
launched in November  
2017, **£8,090,555\*** has  
been awarded to  
**251 organisations**

\* This total includes £10,000 awarded as Community Development grants in 2018/19

Grants Programmes	Open	Small	Otterhampton	Strategic
Value of grants awarded	£2,467,801	£156,677	£17,487	–
Number of new grants awarded	19	37	1	–
Awarded since November 2017	£5,549,317	£625,235	£363,180	£1,542,823





# Open Grants Programme

**For groups working in local communities to address changes to people's quality of life or to make the most of the opportunities created by Hinkley Point C.**

► **Nineteen new grant awards were made by the end of this financial year.**

## Open Grants awarded in 2022/23

Organisation	Summary of project	Grant	Project Length
Actiontrack	Contribution towards salary costs to enhance community cohesion through music	£96,000	3 years
Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival	Creating a carnival park to house one of Somerset's largest cultural events	£1,250,000	1 year
Bridgwater Tennis Club	Contribution towards refurbishment costs of a Bridgwater-based tennis club	£15,000	1 year
Burnham Boat Owners Sea Angling Association	Purchasing a beach-boat launching tractor to improve access to the water	£28,000	1 year
Conquest Centre	Providing equine-assisted counselling to parents of children with additional needs in Sedgemoor	£67,300	3 years
Live Naturally	Salary costs to improve wellbeing for families in Sedgemoor through nutrition	£158,000	3 years
Magdalen Environmental Trust	Delivering forest school and outdoor activities to schools in Bridgwater	£48,630	3 years
Minehead Eye CIC	Contribution toward the salary costs of youth support work in west Somerset	£172,840	3 years
Minehead Museum	Contribution towards a new building for Minehead Museum in order to tell the history of Minehead and Alcombe	£25,000	1 year
On Your Bike	Running bike maintenance courses for adults with complex needs in Bridgwater and Taunton	£106,150	3 years
Parochial Church Council for Stockland & Steart Peninsula	Contribution towards the development costs of a community hub in Stockland Bristol	£8,048	1 year
Sheba Soul Ensemble	Running arts workshops to increase wellbeing, confidence and help young people use their voice	£41,500	1 year
Somerset Sight	Contribution towards salary costs to support visually impaired people in Sedgemoor and west Somerset	£85,000	3 years
Somewhere House Somerset	Subsidising the cost of counselling services for low-income communities in Burnham-on-Sea and other areas	£120,000	3 years
St George's Wembdon, Parish Centre	Main hall upgrade and installation of counselling rooms in the Wembdon Parish Centre	£15,000	1 year
The Avenue Tennis Club	Improving sports facilities and energy efficiency at a community club	£45,000	1 year
The Nelson Trust	Delivering support services for vulnerable women in Bridgwater	£149,913	3 years
Thomas Poole Library	Contribution towards the salary costs of a centre manager in Nether Stowey Library	£20,000	1 year
Wembdon Village Hall & Playing Fields Trust	Completion of a youth club venue in Wembdon	£24,468	1 year

**Notes on grants awarded in previous years:** Quantock AONB, Life Cycle UK, Crimestoppers in the West Country, Taunton Street Pastors, Somerset Wildlife Trust and Diversity Voice continued to receive funding during this period from grants that were awarded in previous years.

## Open Grants Programme

### Funded Project Case Study

### On Your Bike

► **On Your Bike** supports vulnerable adults by providing them with a place to learn and train in bike maintenance. This provides pathways to employment for people who have faced challenges in their lives, reduces the number of bikes that end up in landfill, and promotes the health benefits of cycling to the wider community. In 2022 they were awarded a grant of £106,150 over three years from the HPC Community Fund to support the delivery of bike maintenance courses for adults with complex needs in Bridgwater and Taunton.

“Our grant is helping us support more individuals to develop new skills, to allow them to feel more confident in their abilities, and to integrate within their communities again.

Using green methods of transport, such as bicycles, has a significant and positive impact on our local environment. Our work not only supports people in our local community, we're also helping to reduce pollution and emissions.”

**Tracey Mock, General Manager,**  
**On Your Bike**

► Duncan and David  
from On Your Bike



## Open Grants Programme

### Funded Project Case Study

#### Burnham Boat Owners Sea Angling Association



Club President John May and Simon Stroud, Club Secretary, at the official unveiling of the beach-boat launching tractor on Burnham seafront

► **Burnham Boat Owners Sea Angling Association** are a sea angling club for local small boat anglers in Burnham-on-Sea. In 2022 they were awarded a £28,000 grant to purchase a beach-boat launching tractor to improve access to the water.

“Historically we’d been able to use road vehicles on the sand, but that is no longer possible due to the mud that is now a permanent feature on the beach. Our greatest achievement this year was successfully securing our grant from the HPC Community Fund for the launching tractor.

This has already led to enquiries from both old and new members. Previously, many members had dropped out of the club because of the launching problems we had been experiencing. With improved launching and recovery facilities we are now able to boost our membership once again.”

**John May, Club President,**  
Burnham Boat Owners Sea Angling Association



# Small Grants Programme

**Grants of up to £5,000 for smaller local organisations, or £10,000 awarded over a three year period.**

**From May 2023, organisations can apply for up to £10,000, or up to £20,000 for a three-year grant.**

▶ **In this financial year, 37 groups received funding through the Small Grants Programme.**

## Small Grants awarded in 2022/23

Organisation	Summary of project	Grant	Project Length
@2K Theatre	Contribution towards community theatre tours in rurally isolated communities in west Somerset	£9,550	3 years
1st Bridgwater Rangers	Support for the running costs of a small rangers group in Bridgwater	£1,828	1 year
Autism Somerset – Autism Community Network CIC	Supporting young people to overcome anxiety in Sedgemoor	£5,000	1 year
BAY Centre	Painting the exterior of a community centre in Burnham-on-Sea	£850	1 year
Blue Anchor Toilets CIC	Water-saving taps installation for a community-run facility in Blue Anchor, west Somerset	£742	1 year
BOS Events	Contribution towards the setup costs of an annual bloom festival in Burnham-on-Sea	£5,000	1 year
Bridgwater & Taunton Deaf Club	Drop-in advocacy session support for Deaf people in Bridgwater and Taunton	£10,000	3 years
Bridgwater Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club	Running costs of a veterans' breakfast club in Bridgwater	£2,965	1 year
Bridgwater Pubwatch	Improving safety of vulnerable people in the Bridgwater night-time economy	£5,000	1 year
Burnham Book Festival	Contribution towards the Burnham Book Festival 2023	£3,000	1 year
Burnham Heritage Centre	Printing local heritage leaflets to improve social cohesion in Burnham-on-Sea	£650	1 year
Cannington United Reformed Church	Staff costs to improve social cohesion for families in Cannington	£10,000	3 years
Chilton Trinity Village Hall	A contribution towards upgrading village hall audio facilities to improve community event accessibility.	£2,288	1 year
Dunster Festival	Music workshops in rurally isolated community schools and care homes in west Somerset	£2,000	1 year
Escape Support Group	Activities for families with children with special educational needs and disabilities in Sedgemoor	£9,000	3 years

▶ continued

## Small Grants Programme continued

### Small Grants awarded in 2022/23

Organisation	Summary of project	Grant	Project Length
Friends of North Petherton Library	Replacement mobile bookshelves for North Petherton Library to create a modular community space	£3,000	1 year
MC Inspired Together	Running costs for a support group for migrants in Bridgwater	£3,000	1 year
Minehead Dementia Action Alliance	Part-time admin salary to help raise awareness of dementia in west Somerset	£5,000	1 year
Sedgemoor Playday	Contribution towards the costs of the Sedgemoor Playday	£2,000	1 year
Seed of Hope CIC	Increasing mental health recovery through nature-based support in Sedgemoor	£5,000	1 year
Social Circles	Garden maintenance support to improve wellbeing of older people and people with disabilities in Bridgwater	£4,024	1 year
Somerset Bat Group	Equipment costs for the Somerset Big Bat Count in Sedgemoor and west Somerset	£2,480	1 year
Spaxton Cricket Club	Improving the safety of a sports club	£5,000	1 year
St Francis of Assisi Parochial Church Council	Contribution towards St Francis Holiday Club for families on lower incomes in Bridgwater	£5,000	1 year
Stacked Wonky	Contribution towards social wellbeing and skills development for young people in rurally isolated west Somerset	£10,000	3 years
Start Running Stay Running	Running event in Bridgwater to encourage healthier lifestyles	£3,000	1 year
Stowey Bears Preschool	Enrichment day for children in a Nether Stowey Preschool	£5,000	1 year
The Bluebirds Theatre Company	Contribution towards production costs of a west Somerset community theatre group	£5,000	1 year
The Hub at Bridgwater	Contribution to costs of The Hub at Bridgwater supporting people affected by the cost-of-living crisis	£5,000	1 year
The Minehead Shed	Installation of windows for the Minehead Community Men's Shed	£3,000	1 year
The Nornen Project CIC	An accessible community theatre performance in Berrow commemorating local history	£5,000	1 year
The North Sedgemoor Local History Group	A local history publication for Sedgemoor communities to improve community cohesion	£800	1 year
The Women's Community Forum	A poetry project for young women and girls in Sedgemoor schools	£5,000	1 year
Wembdon Village Hall & Playing Fields Trust	Cost-of-living support and energy bills support for a Sedgemoor community venue	£5,000	1 year
Young Musical Theatre Company (YMTC)	Scaffold and set equipment for a Bridgwater-based community theatre group	£5,000	1 year
Taunton Welcomes Refugees	English Conversation & Coffee supporting refugees in Taunton and surrounding area	£2,500	1 year

**Notes on grants awarded in previous years:** Somerset Child Contact Centres received funding from a multi-year award in the year.



## Small Grants Programme

### Funded Project Case Study

## Bridgwater & Taunton Deaf Club

► **Bridgwater & Taunton Deaf Club** gives Deaf people and those with significant hearing loss the opportunity to meet socially and enjoy activities alongside receiving advice and support. They received a £10,000 grant over three years from the HPC Community Fund to run monthly drop-in sessions.

“People who rely on British Sign Language to communicate are often left without support when trying to access services. This particularly leaves older Deaf people, who often struggle with written English, in a position where they need to rely on a ‘hearing’ person, stripping them of their dignity – especially when dealing with personal issues. Our monthly drop-in sessions with a BSL Advisor and Advocate will support people by offering signposting, alongside help with letters, bills, legal and financial support, benefits, housing and more.”

**Debbie Elliott-Chorley, Administrator,**  
Bridgwater & Taunton Deaf Club

► Members of Bridgwater & Taunton Deaf Club proudly display their new branded T-shirts at one of their monthly social meets at St Marks, Bridgwater College.



## Small Grants Programme

### Funded Project Case Study

#### Stacked Wonky

► **Stacked Wonky** is a site-specific dance theatre company based in Porlock. The organisation is an important provider of dance training for young people in Somerset, while also opening up access to training and apprenticeships. They have received two grants from the HPC Community Fund totalling £15,000 this financial year.

“Stacked Wonky puts on professional dance performances ‘anywhere but the stage’ across Somerset – in unexpected locations such as the Somerset West and Taunton District Council offices at Deane House in Taunton. We also run highly popular academies for young people in the area. We aim to enhance community cohesion as well as building the confidence of young people with limited access to arts provision.”

**Sarah Shorten**, Artistic Director,  
Stacked Wonky

► **We Come Before You**, devised and toured by the young people from Porlock-based theatre company Stacked Wonky

Photo: Marcus Way



## Small Grants Programme Funded Project Case Study Burnham Book Festival



Shortlisted writers from last year's Burnham Book Festival writing competition

► **Burnham Book Festival** was awarded a grant for £3,000 from the HPC Small Grants Programme in March 2023. Run by local volunteers and held in rooms at the Princess Theatre & Arts Centre and Burnham Library, the team works with local schools and other groups to deliver a diverse programme, appealing to all ages and levels of reading.

“Burnham Book Festival connects local people with reading and writing, building literacy and creative skills across all ages. We continue to build on the success of last year's festival by bringing people together, providing opportunities for emerging writers, and enabling local people to develop their creative skills in the Burnham & Highbridge community. The programme includes workshops, talks and panel discussions, featuring many writers from Somerset and beyond.”

Rebecca Strickland, Chair,  
Burnham Book Festival



# 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, one grant has been awarded.

## Otterhampton Grants awarded in 2022/23

Organisation	Summary of project	Grant	Project Length
Otterhampton Primary School	A contribution towards an accessible path for Otterhampton Primary School	£17,487	1 year

## Funded Project Case Study Otterhampton Primary School

► **Otterhampton Primary School** received a grant of £17,487 in March of this year towards an accessible path around the edge of the school field.

“During the winter months, the weather makes the school field and Forest School area at the bottom of the field inaccessible. With student numbers increasing we want to make sure all pupils can access the field so they can maintain healthy levels of exercise. The path will enable us to have more space for exercise in all seasons and will be used by the children during playtimes and lesson times.”

Claire Luce, Head Teacher,  
Otterhampton Primary School



► The children at Otterhampton Primary School are delighted with their new accessible school path

## Spotlight on Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival

► The fund awarded a £1.25 million grant, our largest to date, to the Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival, to support the charity's efforts to create a modern 'home of Carnival' in Bridgwater in April 2023.

The groundbreaking award helped unlock a further £3 million of match funding from the Bridgwater Town Deal funding programme to enable the charity to improve access to their main site and build four large sheds. It is part of a long-term project to renovate the entire site.

The HPC Community Fund Awards Panel recognised the incredible role that the Carnival plays in Bridgwater and the surrounding area, with thousands of people actively involved throughout the year. This important cultural event provides opportunities for people of all ages to learn new skills, feel connected with their community, and have a lot of fun.

“

This is, by some distance, the largest grant we have ever awarded, but in many ways the Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival is also the largest community organisation we have encountered in Somerset.”

Justin Sargent,  
Chief Executive

► The 2022 Carnival winners, the Ramblers Carnival Club with their entry, 'I Wanna Rock'



# Supporting our communities in 2022/23



“

We are very grateful for the support of the Hinkley Point C Community Fund, and Somerset Community Foundation. We were blown away by the enthusiasm from the local community and the creative buzz around the event. It wouldn't have been possible without your faith in the project. Thank you!”



“

The whole application process was easy and the amount of encouragement and support given by your staff was tremendous. Thank you!”

“

The support from the team has been second to none; from putting the application in to supporting me whenever I have needed it.”

“

Without doubt the club has continued to operate for some years thanks to the generosity of the HPC Community Fund grant. This year, especially with the rising cost of living, families in the Parish will be so grateful for this generous support.”

“

You don't just advise us on the funds, you really plug into our organisation and help us move forward!”





# Awards Panel Members (May 2022 – April 2023)

## Somerset Community Foundation

- ▶ **Chris Bishop**
- ▶ **Helen Gulvin**
- ▶ **John Lyon** (Chair)

## EDF

- ▶ **Andrew Cockcroft**
- ▶ **Sarah Taylor**
- ▶ **Nick Wall**

## Local Authorities

- ▶ **Cllr Chris Booth** (Somerset West and Taunton District Council, up to March 2023)
- ▶ **Cllr Mike Murphy** (Somerset County Council / Somerset Council, up to May 2023)
- ▶ **Cllr Gill Slocombe** (Sedgemoor District Council / Somerset Council)

## Independent Members

- ▶ **Linda Bennett**
- ▶ **Kate Kravis**
- ▶ **Claire Mahoney**

#### Executive Team:

**Chief Executive** Justin Sargent

**Programmes Director** Val Bishop (up to December 2022)

**Programmes Director** Andy Ridgewell (from December 2022)

**Senior Programmes Manager** Amelia Thompson (from October 2022)

**Programmes Manager** Peter Stolze

**Communications Manager** Sue Wheeler

**Administrative Support** 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](mailto:info@somersetcf.org.uk) or call us on: **01749 344949**

To apply for funding, please visit: [www.somersetcf.org.uk](http://www.somersetcf.org.uk)

Address:

Somerset Community Foundation,  
Yeoman House, The Royal Bath & West Showground,  
Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 6QN

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