HPC Community Fund

Hinkley Point C Community Fund Annual Report 2019/20

EDF ENERGY HPC CGN

somerset COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Justin Sargent
Chief Executive, Somerset Community Foundation

Welcome to our second HPC Community Fund annual report. I hope you enjoy reading it and that it helps clarify how this very important Fund is benefitting local communities.

The HPC Community Fund is part of a broader £20m community funding programme created through the planning agreement for Hinkley Point C and funded by EDF. It is helping to mitigate the impact of the construction of Hinkley Point C in local communities by improving local quality of life and well-being, whilst also ensuring opportunities created can be of direct benefit to people living in the area.

This report shows how the HPC Community Fund has continued to support a diverse range of projects and initiatives, largely set up and run by local charities, community organisations and social enterprises, working at the heart of our local communities. Over £3m has now been committed to these projects in just two-and-a-half years, reaching a range of smaller 'grassroots' groups as well as larger organisations.

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 of their hard work in the delivery of this Fund.

As I write this, our communities are slowly emerging from the coronavirus 'lockdown'. It has been a very difficult time for everyone. Some of the work we funded had to be paused, but some organisations were able to find safe ways to adapt their ways of working to continue their projects.

The crisis has demonstrated the importance of community in our lives, and the role that the types of organisations funded by the HPC Community Fund have in supporting us. Our aim is to fund activities that not only create stronger communities today but create a lasting legacy for future generations.

And while there may be a lot of uncertainty about what life will be like in the coming weeks and months, we will continue to do everything we can to support local communities through this Fund.

Best wishes

Financial Summary

HPC Community Fund in 2019/20

- New grants worth **£1,332,351** were awarded to **43 organisations*** across all HPC Community Fund programmes
- An estimated **£1,233,661** of match funding will be secured against these new grants
- Funding worth **£1,016,368** was paid to **57 local organisations**, including grants awarded in previous years for multi-year projects
- **£120,088** spent on support costs to deliver the Fund

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

	Open	Small	Otterhampton	Strategic
Amount awarded in the year	£1,225,054	£93,870	£13,428	–
Number of grants awarded	13	27	4	–
Amount paid during the year	£491,461	£102,282	£13,428	£409,197
Amount awarded since start of the programme	£1,332,091	£299,390	£77,821	£1,595,392

Overall financial commitment (since the HPC Community Fund was launched in November 2017*)

- **£3,304,694** to **112** organisations between November 2017 and April 2020

* correct as at 1 May, 2020

Open Grants Programme

Available for any Somerset VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise) organisation 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 autumn 2018.
Thirteen grant awards were made by the end of the financial year 2020.**

Open Grants awarded in 2019/20

Organisation	Summary of Project	Grant	Project Length
Bridgwater & Taunton College	Employment, skills and education project working with young people from four local schools to take advantage of opportunities presented by Hinkley Point C through apprenticeships	£60,000	3 years
Bridgwater Unit 517 of the Sea Cadet Corps	Renovation of the Sea Cadets' building widely used by the community	£84,850	1 year
Cheddar Catholic Church Community Hall	Contribution to the construction of a new community hall	£25,000	1 year
Halsway Manor, National Centre for Folk Arts	A creative arts project in four primary schools celebrating stories past and present, leading to increased community cohesion	£39,000	1 year
I CAN	A project of speech, language and communication interventions for children and young people in Sydenham and Hamp including support for parents and training for professionals	£69,748	2 years
Mind in Somerset	Funding a support worker to lead a team of volunteers offering mental health support in Bridgwater and coordinating community events	£94,359	3 years
Minehead Eye CIC	Funding of two youth workers to work in schools, youth groups and a college to deliver a resilience and wellbeing project for young people	£148,840	3 years
PROMISEworks	Funding for a full-time post in Sedgemoor, mentoring vulnerable disadvantaged children and young people	£109,952	3 years
The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey	Employment of a Centre Manager to develop outreach and community use of the library	£75,000	3 years
Under Construction (Sedgemoor District Council)	A support project for disadvantaged women in Sedgemoor, involving mentoring, training and qualifications enabling them to move closer to employment	£126,000	3 years
Wembdon Parkland and Community Together	A project to re-develop parklands and make them more accessible and inclusive to the wider community	£52,960	1 year
Wilstockhub	Contribution towards costs of constructing a new community centre (conditional on match funding being raised by 2021/22)	£300,000	1 year
Work-Wise	Funding for a 'job-club' service in Bridgwater, encouraging and guiding those furthest from the job market back into work	£39,345	3 years

Note: During the year Ups and Downs Southwest also received funding from their 2018/19 grant.

Open Grants Programme continued

Funded Project Case Study
PROMISEworks

PROMISEworks supports a team of trained volunteers who provide a Somerset-wide mentoring service for some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged young people in the county. In 2019 they were awarded a grant of £109,952 over three years from the HPC Community Fund to employ a full-time Volunteer Coordinator across Sedgemoor.

"HPC funding is enabling PROMISEworks to expand and embed mentoring for vulnerable children and young people in the Bridgwater and wider Sedgemoor area. The recruitment of a dedicated member of staff to forge links with both sources of volunteer mentors and other organisations working within the community will ensure we are able to allocate long term mentoring support to those most in need."

Ali Hart, Caseholder, PROMISEworks

Funded Project Case Study
Wembdon PACT

Wembdon Parklands and Community Together was formed to make the village parklands more accessible for all, enhancing the health and wellbeing of people in the community, and encouraging the return of wildlife. In 2019 a grant for £52,960 was awarded from the Fund to help redevelop the green space by putting in paths, planting trees and sensory borders, creating a prairie orchard, a nature trail and a picnic area.

"People frequently tell us how much they appreciate the development. We spoke to a lady who lives nearby who was advised by her doctor to take regular walks to improve her strength. Now, because of the tarmac pathways, she can access the park and is finding she is able to walk a little further with each visit. Without funding from the HPC Community Fund this would never have happened. It has made a huge difference to people and we can't wait to see it in all its glory this summer!"

Lorna Edwards, Chairperson, Wembdon PACT

Small Grants Programme

This programme offers grants of up to £5,000 for charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises 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, 27 groups received funding through the Small Grants programme, and the total amount awarded through this programme was £93,870 in grants*. Projects include supporting young people, improving employment opportunities, enhancing the local environment and developing local amenities.

* including multi-year grants

Funded Project Case Study
Friends of Somerset Bridge PTA

Friends of Somerset Bridge PTA works closely with the pastoral team at the school by raising much-needed funds to support pupils' families, and assisting the pastoral team who provide extra services such as 'Magic Breakfast' and issuing vouchers for the foodbank. Somerset Bridge Primary School was awarded £1,652 in 2019 to fund a summer activity programme involving sports, healthy eating and crafts. The programme included a trip to Paignton Zoo and provided activities and experiences the children would not otherwise have been able to access.

"The HPC Community Fund grant allowed the school to put on activities that helped the children develop strong relationships with members of staff. These have supported them with their transition to their new classes and positive relationships were formed between the school and the families. We are very grateful for all your support and the value it adds to children's lives."

Shane Stevens, Chair and Trustee, Friends of Somerset Bridge PTA

Small Grants Programme continued

Small Grants awarded in 2019/20

Organisation	Project Summary	Grant	Project Length
Ashcott Village Hall	Replacement chairs for community group use	£5,000	1 year
Axbridge Cheddar Cycle Walkway	Repair of the Axbridge-Cheddar cycle walkway offering a safe route between the communities	£5,000	1 year
Bridgwater Parent Support Group	A volunteer-led group offering support, advice and advocacy for families of children with additional needs	£2,845	1 year
Bridgwater Talking News	A volunteer-led project to deliver the news in audio format to isolated visually impaired people in Bridgwater	£1,050	1 year
Burnham & Highbridge Sea Cadet Unit	Installation of energy-efficient lighting for classroom and outdoor facilities to strengthen a valued community resource	£1,500	1 year
Chedzoy Preschool	Educating the next generation by expanding curriculum topics and resources at Chedzoy Preschool	£3,227	1 year
Chilton Trinity Village Hall	New equipment for the village hall to help support existing groups and open the hall to new users from the wider community	£3,861	1 year
Crafty Teacup Creative Centre	Refurbishment of workshop space to provide activities and events to the community in Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge	£4,199	1 year
Escape Support Group	Summer activities and excursions for families with children with disabilities in Sedgemoor and West Somerset	£5,000	1 year
Fortitude Wellbeing CIC	A practical craft-based project promoting wellbeing for young people in Bridgwater and Minehead	£4,989	1 year
Friends of Somerset Bridge PTA	Summer holiday activities and experiences for disadvantaged young people involving crafts, healthy eating and sport	£1,652	1 year
Grace Advocacy	Funding for a senior advocate to train new team members	£5,000	1 year
Magna Housing	Activities for isolated elderly residents in Stogursey, to create bird, bat and hedgehog boxes	£3,595	1 year
Parochial Church Council for Stockland & Steart Peninsula	Planning and preparation activities for refurbishing the church to become the local community space	£4,911	1 year
Quantock Orienteers	Support for a project encouraging orienteering in Sedgemoor and West Somerset and creating a new permanent orienteering course in Ramscombe	£3,460	1 year

Funded Project Case Study
Samaritans of Taunton and Somerset

The Samaritans of Taunton and Somerset were awarded £10,000 over 3 years to fund outreach work in Sedgemoor, Taunton and West Somerset, supporting vulnerable people accessing food banks, job centres and other community services. The Samaritans offer support to those in distress or despair over the phone and by email every day of the year.

"There are many instances where callers tell us that without support from the Samaritans they would not be here. We are grateful for the HPC Community Fund grant. It has enabled the branch to make a real contribution to the local community."

Bob Cornes, Director,
Samaritans of Taunton and Somerset

Small Grants Programme continued

Small Grants awarded in 2019/20 continued

Organisation	Project Summary	Grant	Project Length
Sedgemoor Playday	Support for the Sedgemoor Playday on the national day for play offering activities for local families	£1,500	1 year
Somewhere House Somerset	Workshops in schools concerning positive life choices, maintaining mental health and the dangers of drug-taking	£1,350	1 year
Spaxton C of E Primary School PTFA	Development of a new outdoor play area at Spaxton School	£5,000	1 year
St Francis Social Club for Visually Impaired People	Providing support for transport and entertainment costs	£1,500	1 year
State Of Trust	A series of events for schools to promote cultural diversity and social cohesion	£4,750	1 year
Sydenham Rangers JFC	New equipment for a community junior football club	£1,777	1 year
Sydenham Table Tennis Club	New equipment for a table tennis club	£2,387	1 year
The Gift of Giving – Shoebox Appeal	Expanding the storage area, supporting running costs and developing sustainability in a volunteer-led community project	£3,217	1 year
The Minehead Hope Centre	Extending the services available to homeless people in Minehead, including costs for part-time workers as well as kitchen supplies, insurance and volunteer expenses	£5,000	1 year
The Nurture Shed CIC	Development of the team of tutors who provide wellbeing and mental health support to the local community	£4,900	1 year
The West Somerset Inter Cultural Friendship Group	Events for care homes, pre-schools and schools to highlight cultural diversity and foster understanding through music and stories from around the world	£2,200	1 year
Willowdown School PFTA	Development of an outdoor natural classroom and woodland area with access for the wider community	£5,000	1 year

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

Funded Project Case Study

The West Somerset Inter Cultural Friendship Group

The West Somerset Inter Cultural Friendship Group received £2,200 in 2020 to provide workshops promoting respect, inclusion and cultural diversity through music and dance to the changing demographics of Bridgwater and Minehead.

"The grant from the HPC Community Fund allowed us to continue the story-telling and poetry workshops promoting the values of cultural diversity and building a true sense of community cohesion with newer members of our community, who moved here recently from overseas."

Peter Stevenson, Chair,
The West Somerset Inter Cultural Friendship Group

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 and benefit the local community. This year, four grants have been awarded.

Otterhampton Grants awarded to organisations

Organisation	Project Summary	Grant	Project Length
Otterhampton Parish Council	Funding to purchase branded polo shirts for the Combwich Community Choir performances	£295	1 year
Harbour View Bar	A new glasswashing machine for the social club, to serve the wider community	£1,272	1 year
Otterhampton Parish Council	Community safety works	£3,276	1 year
Otterhampton Primary School	New IT equipment for the school and pre-school to deliver a broader curriculum and enable extra curricular activity	£8,585	1 year

Funded Project Case Study
Otterhampton Primary School

Otterhampton Primary School and Pre-School benefited from a grant of £8,585 from the Fund, enabling them to purchase additional IT equipment including laptops and tablets. The extra resources are used in classes and also at breakfast and after school clubs, during lunch breaks and by teachers for planning lessons. Although IT has become vital for all areas of life, not every family has digital access, so these resources are important to ensuring children know how to use technology safely.

"Adding to our IT provision has meant we can enable whole classes to use technology skilfully and competently. This has had a positive impact on teaching and learning across the curriculum and is also an important part of the additional provision we offer our children."

Claire Luce, Head Teacher, Otterhampton Primary School

Strategic Grants Programme

Targeting specific impacts felt within Somerset communities, identified through consultation with communities and their representatives in 2017/18.

The Strategic Grants were awarded in 2018/19 and 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 BAME 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 enterprises) and public support in areas to where workers and their families are moving and therefore social and leisure activities are increasing. Four grants were awarded under this theme.

These grants are now in their second year of three and we are reporting on their continued impact.

Funded Project Case Study
Home-Start West Somerset

Home-Start West Somerset supports families that have complex and long-term needs in the Stogursey, Williton and Watchet areas. In 2018 they were awarded a grant of £142,000 from the HPC Community Fund to deliver a three-year programme of activities and support for young families.

"The Hinkley Point C development has brought employment and new families to the area, stimulating change, generating finance and strengthening family units and local communities. There have been two successful parts of our HPC Community Fund project. These are Story-Start, which provides the opportunity for parents and children from rural villages to come together and enjoy stories and other activities, and Bump-Start which supports families right through from pregnancy, the birth experience and the first year of the baby's life."

Clare Pound, Manager,
Home-Start West Somerset

Strategic Grants Programme continued

Organisations who received funds in 2019/20 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 activties 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
West Somerset Railway Association	Funding a Community Engagement Manager to develop outreach work and create a volunteer programme to use the railway for community development	2 years
Westfield United Reform Church	Providing community worker support and updating facilities for community and outreach work in Bridgwater	3 years
West Somerset Advice Bureau	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

Funded Project Case Study
Community Council for Somerset

The *Somerset Diverse Communities Team* from Community Council for Somerset organise Bridgwater Together, an annual event which celebrates the town's vibrant cultural diversity through music, food, storytelling, dance, film and information sharing. In light of the coronavirus outbreak, the organisers used part of their £170,747 HPC Community Fund grant to put on a digital event during lockdown, bringing people together in new and innovative ways, and ensuring communities were still able to connect – even when they couldn't be together.

"Our aim was to minimise the impact of coronavirus on people's mental health by reducing the feelings of isolation that many were struggling with. The grant enabled us to adapt our work to fit the current situation.

In these unprecedented times we need to find different ways of coming together and this event really achieved that."

Michal Puzynski, BAME Community Engagement Officer, Community Council for Somerset

Awards Panel Members

Somerset Community Foundation

Chris Bishop
Martin Kitchen
John Lyon (Chair)

Local Authorities

Cllr Chris Booth (Somerset West & Taunton, from May 2019)
Cllr Ann Bown (Somerset County Council)
Cllr Martin Dewdney (West Somerset Council, up to May 2019)
Cllr Peter Downing (Sedgemoor, up to May 2019)
Cllr Gill Slocombe (Sedgemoor, from May 2019)

EDF

David Eccles
Sarah Taylor
Nick Wall

Independent Members

Steve Mewes
Hilary Cockcroft
Robin White

Executive Team:

Chief Executive Justin Sargent
Programmes Director Val Bishop
Programmes Manager Luke Mitchell (up to October 2019)
Programmes Manager Peter Stolze (from January 2020)
Communications Manager Sue Wheeler
Administrative Support Lorraine Dunbar-Wright & Carolyn Phimister

Get in touch:

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

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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