HPC Community Fund

Hinkley Point C Community Fund Annual Report 2021/22

Image: Len Copland

HPC EDF ENERGY CGN

somerset COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Justin Sargent OBE
Chief Executive,
Somerset Community
Foundation

Welcome to our fourth Hinkley Point C Community Fund annual report. Covering the period May 2021 to April 2022, we look at the recent impact this important fund has made.

The HPC Community Fund helps to mitigate the impact of the construction of the Hinkley Point C power station on local communities. Since it was launched, just four-and-a-half years ago, over £5 million has been committed to support a highly diverse range of charities, voluntary groups and organisations and I hope you'll enjoy reading a small selection of their stories here.

What they have in common is that they all improve the local quality of life, enhance community wellbeing and create new opportunities for people. Unsurprisingly, the Covid pandemic had a significant impact on these organisations, but it has been particularly pleasing to see them start to bounce back, not least through a record value of small grants to grassroots groups at the heart of local communities.

Somerset Community Foundation (SCF), an independent local charity (no 1094446), has overall responsibility for the delivery of this fund. I am very grateful to my colleagues and the Awards Panel members - which includes representatives from local councils and EDF, SCF trustees and independent members from local communities - for all their hard work and dedication, ensuring the fund continues to be run effectively and efficiently.

We're proud to be delivering this fund and supporting so many fantastic local organisations, all of whom are working at the very heart of our local communities. The past two years have reminded us of how important community life is, and this fund is making a crucial contribution to ensure the communities around Hinkley Point C continue to thrive.

Best wishes

Financial Summary

HPC Community Fund in 2021/2022

New grants worth **£674,785** were awarded to **50 organisations*** across all HPC Community Fund programmes

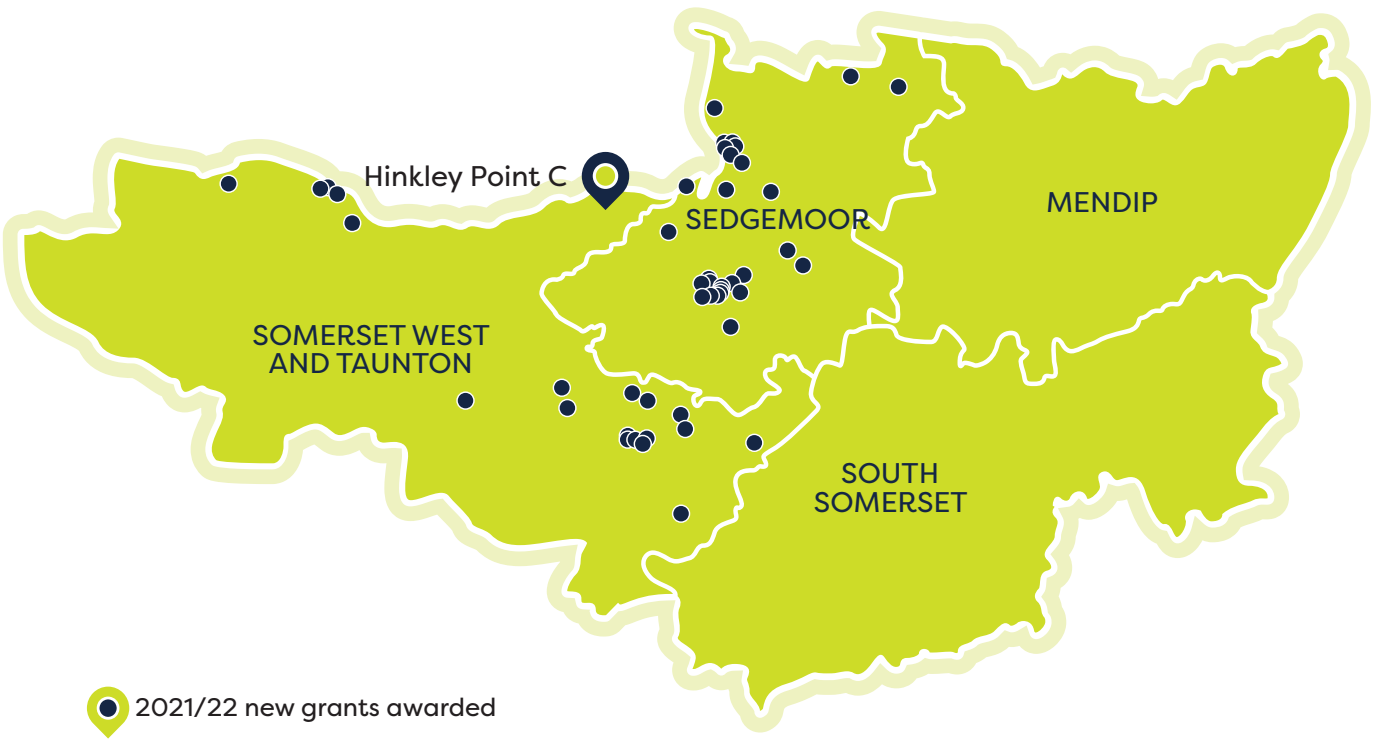
Since the fund was launched in November 2017 **£5,387,426** has been awarded to **194 organisations****

We estimate up to **£18.5m** of match funding has been secured against the grants awarded to date

* Including funding committed in multi-year projects that will be paid in future years
** Correct as at 30 April, 2022

Grants Programmes	Open	Small	Otterhampton	Strategic	Totals
Value of grants awarded	£493,657	£138,706	£42,422	–	£674,785
Number of grants awarded	10	38	2	–	50
Awarded since Nov 2017	£3,049,374	£449,536	£345,693	£1,542,823	£5,387,426 ***

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



Somerset Community Foundation's support costs are 8.4% of the fund to date

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. Ten grant awards were made by the end of this financial year. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, changes were made which resulted in some projects continuing beyond the timescale originally agreed.

Open Grants awarded in 2021/22

Organisation	Summary of Project	Grant	Project Length
Bridgwater Town Football Club	Significant development of the Fairfax Park football grounds including spaces for community benefit	£100,000	1 year
Community Council for Somerset	A project providing support for ethnically diverse communities in Somerset through two dedicated members of staff	£100,000	3 years
Crimestoppers in the West Country	A drama project in schools to explore different challenging situations and build confidence and resilience	£49,520	2 years
Diversity Voice	Salary costs for two community link workers to provide information, advice and translation services	£60,000	1 year
Polden Bower School	The refurbishment of a classroom into a Cafe and Life Skills area in the new Post-16 Centre	£25,000	1 year
Ride Mendips	Bikes and safety equipment for the community pump track	£10,000	1 year
Somerset Wildlife Trust	Staff salary and training costs including re-wilding projects	£90,830	3 years
St Peter & All Hallows Church, West Huntspill	Installing toilet and kitchen facilities in the church, to become a community hub	£20,000	1 year
Taunton Street Pastors	To support volunteer pastors to deliver patrols in Bridgwater every weekend for 3 years	£24,800	3 years
Wembdon Parish Council	Installation of wheelchair accessible play equipment	£13,507	1 year

Notes on grants awarded in previous years:

In addition to the awards listed on this page, 11 organisations received £344,637 in grants awarded in previous years.

Open Grants Programme continued

FUNDED PROJECT CASE STUDY

Crimestoppers in the West Country

Crimestoppers is an independent charity that gives people the power to speak up to stop crime anonymously. In 2021 they were awarded a grant of £49,520 from the HPC Community Fund to support the 'What Would You Do?' drama-based workshops over a two-year period.

"The HPC Community Fund grant was awarded to support our 'What Would You Do?' programme, which includes working with 9-10 year-olds through drama-based workshops and performance across Somerset West and Taunton, and Sedgemoor. We know that many children, parents and carers are aware of crimes being committed – and by whom – in their communities, but they're reluctant to go to the police with the information. This project is an early intervention to grooming for gang crime, including county lines, online safety, healthy relationships, mob mentality and child exploitation. Through weekly sessions the children learn about these themes through participatory-led work. This culminates in stage and theatre performances and community films, where the key messages that are woven throughout the performances are then shared with their family members and audiences made up of the wider community."

Karen MacDonald, Regional Manager, Crimestoppers in the West Country

FUNDED PROJECT CASE STUDY

Somerset Sight

Somerset Sight provides a unique and consistent point of support for anyone in the county experiencing sight loss. In 2020 they were awarded a grant of £85,000 from the HPC Community Fund to both deliver and expand their befriending and mobile advisory service in Sedgemoor, over a three-year period.

"We used our grant to grow our Volunteer Visiting Befriending Service in the Sedgemoor district of the county. Each of our volunteers visits one or two service users who they befriend, going on walks or taking them on trips to local garden centres or cafés. They assist with correspondence, check the fridge for out-of-date items and generally offer bespoke support, helping in any way that's needed. Each volunteer is an absolute lifeline and provides contact with the outside world. They ensure service users can keep in touch with Somerset Sight and receive additional help when they need it. Service users learn about new initiatives, improvements in technology and free apps, activities, groups and social events in which they can join. Volunteers go the extra mile and many matches last for decades. We're so grateful for the funding from the HPC Community Fund, which enables us to provide this life changing service for people with sight loss living in the area."

Jackie Sopwith, Chief Executive Officer Somerset Sight

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, 38 groups received funding through the Small Grants programme. Projects include supporting refugees, improving employment opportunities, enhancing the local environment and developing local amenities in addition to supporting groups with their core costs to help them better serve their communities.

Small Grants awarded in 2021/22

Organisation	Project Summary	Grant	Project Length
Berrow and Brean Good Neighbours	Venue costs for a community hub	£1,000	1 year
Bridgwater Amateur Swimming Club	Contribution towards diving starting blocks and backstroke ledges	£5,000	1 year
Bridgwater Area Cycling Campaign (BACC)	Salary costs for a part time administrator for the campaign	£5,000	1 year
Bridgwater Tennis Club	Replacing/upgrading floodlights on three all-weather astro tennis courts	£5,000	1 year
Burnham & Highbridge Choral Society	Running costs for venue hire and insurance as a result of lost fundraising opportunities	£1,125	1 year
Burnham & Highbridge Sea Cadet Unit	Core costs to cover loss of income from hall bookings during the pandemic	£2,500	1 year
Burnham Book Festival	Event costs for the inaugural Burnham Book Festival	£3,000	1 year
Burnham Heritage Centre	Leaflets to promote the Burnham-on-Sea Heritage Trail	£1,000	1 year
Carry Me Kate Parenting Services CIC	Costs to support parent support group in Taunton and Bridgwater	£5,000	1 year
Centre for Outdoor Activity & Community Hub (COACH)	Installation of a community defibrillator unit in a secure cabinet	£1,000	1 year
Church of St Mary, Bridgwater	Play equipment for a new toddler/carer group	£5,000	1 year
Church of The Blessed Virgin Mary, Cossington	Contribution towards new chairs for community events	£5,000	1 year
Compton Bishop Parish Council	Funding for a community film club in Cross Memorial Hall	£1,000	1 year
Escape Support Group	Core costs to support rent expenses	£5,000	1 year
Escapeline	Funding for County Lines Awareness Assemblies and Resource Packs for Secondary Schools	£5,000	1 year
Friends of Cheddon School Association (FCSA)	Contribution towards a physical development course with community access	£2,500	1 year
IN:CH (Incubation Chamber)	A contribution towards a community arts event in Bishops Lydeard	£660	1 year
Kingston St Mary Playing Field Committee	Contribution to new play and exercise equipment in the Kingston St Mary playing fields	£3,000	1 year
MASA Men Against Sexual Abuse	Counselling support for men who have experienced sexual abuse	£5,000	1 year
Packhorse Playing Field	Resurfacing of a community play area	£1,500	1 year
RAF Air Cadets 290 Squadron and 290 Squadron Detached Flight	Recovery of lost subscription income	£3,600	1 year
Restore Hope West Somerset	Art exhibitions with Modern Day Slavery Awareness	£1,621	1 year
Sedgemoor Community Partnership	Core costs to replace lost income from room hire and rental fees	£2,500	1 year
Sedgemoor Dementia Action Alliance	Establishing a weekly 'Memory Cafe' for people of Bridgwater and Sedgemoor	£5,000	1 year
Somerset Child Contact Centres	Support for running costs of the Bridgwater Child Contact Centre	£10,000	3 year

Small Grants Programme continued

Small Grants awarded in 2021/22

Organisation	Project Summary	Grant	Project Length
Somerset Youth & Community Sailing Association	A contribution towards a new safety boat for a community sailing association	£5,000	1 year
St Francis of Assisi Parochial Church Council	Funding for the costs of a holiday activity club in 2021	£5,000	1 year
St Francis of Assisi Parochial Church Council	Funding for the costs of a holiday activity club in 2022	£5,000	1 year
Stacked Wonky	Contribution towards a dance performance academy in Old Cleeve	£5,000	1 year
Taunton Welcomes Refugees	Supporting refugees arriving in the UK with ESOL lessons and integration into the community	£3,000	1 year
The Bluebirds Theatre Company (Bluebird Theatre CIC)	Running costs and contribution to solar panels for future sustainability	£5,000	1 year
The Hub at Bridgwater	Establishing weekend craft community groups with links to support services	£5,000	1 year
The Minehead Hope Centre	Salary costs for part-time support workers	£5,000	1 year
The Minehead Shed	Contribution to the costs of setting up a 'Men's Shed' in Minehead	£5,000	1 year
The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Heathfield with Cotford St Luke	Installation of security cameras for the youth club	£300	1 year
The Women's Community Forum	Poetry walks for young women in Sedgemoor schools	£4,400	1 year
Wembdon Art Group	Running costs for a community art group	£850	1 year
Wembdon Community Association	Core costs to recover from lost fundraising opportunities	£4,150	1 year

FUNDED PROJECT CASE STUDY

Berrow and Brean Good Neighbours

Berrow and Brean Good Neighbours have community hubs and cafes in both villages, supporting and bringing together those who are new to the area and existing members of the two communities.
They received a grant for £1,000 in December 2021 from a special round of grants towards day-to-day running costs (also known as 'core costs') for small groups in the area who were particularly hard hit by the lockdowns.

"It was a difficult time for everyone during the first year or so of the pandemic. People became very isolated due to the lockdowns. Several of our members lost loved ones and were feeling extremely alone and vulnerable. The grant from the HPC Community Fund took the pressure off and allowed us to continue at a time when we were unable to fundraise as we would normally, at tabletop sales or selling teas, coffees and cake. We're here to support everyone, but especially families and individuals who have moved into the area - both locals and newcomers - who may be finding it difficult to become established in the community."

Sherry Cannon-Jones,
Fundraising Coordinator
Berrow and Brean Good Neighbours

Small Grants Programme continued

FUNDED PROJECT CASE STUDY

The Minehead Shed

Shed activities include woodworking, joinery, metalwork, and crafts. The Minehead Shed, one of an estimated 1,800 Sheds globally, received an HPC Community Fund grant for £5,000 in 2021 to continue working on creating a permanent space in which isolated people can come together. Works include laying a new floor, and installing lighting, windows, toilet access, and equipment.

"Sheds are known for being popular with retirees who, once finishing work, often feel the loss of work friends, and an absence of purpose. However, following a number of open meetings, it was clear that many people, young and old, men and women, wished to get together to take part in Shed activities. We know that having a permanent base will help to tackle loneliness and isolation, and will bring many benefits to the community in and around Minehead. The percentage of males aged 65 and over in west Somerset is not far short of double that of the whole of the UK, and significantly greater than that for Somerset as a whole. Workers and their families could integrate into the community by The Minehead Shed, promoting a sense of wellbeing and avoiding any potential feelings of isolation. This integration, needless to say, will enrich the experience of the whole community."

Andrew Hazlewood, Chair of the Trustees
The Minehead Shed

FUNDED PROJECT CASE STUDY

St Mary's Church, Bridgwater

St Mary's Church has recently grown as a community hub for Bridgwater and the surrounding area. They received a grant of £5,000 in 2022 for good quality, safe toddler equipment for their new baby and toddler group.

"We're passionate about community at St Mary's, and helping to create positive and supportive networks that enable people to flourish. In our work with families we became aware of the fact that many young families can feel isolated – and that accessible, welcoming places to meet others are not always easy to find. In response to this we decided to set up Babychinos. It's a welcoming environment for people to bring their babies and toddlers, meet others, and feel valued and supported. The equipment allows children to enjoy new experiences and interact, which aids their social development, while parents and carers have a positive space in which to flourish and find friendship. We're really excited that the grant has helped enable us to make a positive impact on the lives of local families."

Revd Suse Osmond, Vicar
St Mary's Church, Bridgwater

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, two grants have been awarded.

Otterhampton Grants awarded to organisations

Organisation	Project Summary	Grant	Project Length
Otterhampton Parish Council	Resurfacing of the childrens' play area	£31,242	1 year
Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association	Funding for a ride-on lawnmower to maintain the green	£11,180	1 year

FUNDED PROJECT CASE STUDY

Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association

Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association (OPRA) are a registered charity who hold events such as firework displays, fetes, Easter egg hunts, walks and talks, and Christmas dinners in the parish. They received a grant of £11,180 in 2021 towards a new ride-on lawn mower for the upkeep of the village common.

"Alongside putting on various community activities and get-togethers across the year, OPRA took on responsibility for keeping the village common in Combwich mown. It's really popular and lots of people use it all year round. The common is a key outside space for our communities – it not only helps to keep local people from the parish connected with each other through the activities that are held there, it's also important in helping newcomers to integrate, including workers from the Hinkley Point C power station."

Tina Gardener, Chair of Trustees
Otterhampton Parish Recreation Association

Strategic Grants Programme

Community Cohesion was the first theme to be identified in 2017–18. This broad 'umbrella' term can be used to describe many aspects of community development and because of this, three focus areas were prioritised 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 where workers and their families had moved and therefore social and leisure activities were increasing. Nine grants were awarded under this theme. Changes were agreed to many projects due to complications as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Some projects were awarded continuation funding from the Strategic Grants Programme in order to mitigate the ongoing impacts felt in their communities.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, changes were made which resulted in some projects continuing beyond the timescale originally agreed.

FUNDED PROJECT CASE STUDY

Diversity Voice

Diversity Voice, based in Bridgwater, champions intercultural integration through initiatives and events, providing support and services that help the inclusion of migrants and incoming workers, in and around Somerset. In 2018 the group were awarded a grant for £180,000 over three years from the HPC Community Fund, to work with those directly connected with Hinkley Point C and the wider community in Sedgemoor and the west of Somerset.

"The key aim was to facilitate integration of migrant workers and their families into the local community by providing advice and English language support to help people access services, by providing English lessons to help them become more independent, and by delivering events and training to bolster intercultural understanding. The grant funding from the HPC Community Fund has been invaluable, because it has meant that we have not only been able to deliver all of this, but have also been able to help the communities we serve to face the additional and disproportionate challenges they faced from the pandemic and the UK's exit from the European Union."

Louise Russ, Treasurer and Trustee
Diversity Voice

Strategic Grants Programme continued

Organisations who received funds in 2021/22 from grants awarded in 2018/19

Organisation	Project Summary	Project Length
Taunton Street Pastors	Supporting Street Pastors to grow and provide support to vulnerable people in Bridgwater	3 years
The Nelson Trust	A street-based youth project working with vulnerable young people in Sedgemoor and Taunton Deane	3 years
Youth Unlimited CIC	An education and targeted intervention programme supporting vulnerable women and girls	3 years

Notes on grants awarded in previous years:

In addition to the three awards listed above, the following organisations' funded projects continued into this year: Westfield United Reformed Church, Community Council for Somerset, Diversity Voice, Home-Start West Somerset, St George's Parish Centre Wembdon, and Citizens Advice West Somerset (formerly known as West Somerset Advice Bureau).

FUNDED PROJECT CASE STUDY

Street Pastors

Street Pastors are trained volunteers from local churches. They are usually on patrol from 10pm up until 4am on a Saturday night to care for, listen to and help people who are out on the streets. A £30,000 grant meant they could increase the level of support provided on Saturday nights in the town centres of Bridgwater and Taunton.

"We now have Street Pastors on patrol virtually every Saturday night in Bridgwater (compared with one or two Saturdays per month before the funding) and have maintained every Saturday night in Taunton. Thanks to the HPC Community Fund grant, the Taunton and Bridgwater schemes have formally merged which has greatly strengthened the service we provide.

We work closely with organisations such as the police, night-time venues, and local homeless and mental health charities. In the last year alone, we estimate that around 3,000 potential weapons have been removed from the streets; 2,500 people have been directly supported; and 400 challenging situations have been resolved.

Street Pastors witness anti-social behaviour, violence, and the impact of drinking or drug taking on the streets, typically experiencing a dozen anti-social incidents each night in the town centres. The presence of the Street Pastors helps to resolve these situations. Most importantly, however, Street Pastors are hugely appreciated by the people they serve. People have come to respect that Street Pastors will deal with anyone and everyone without casting judgement, and they work through the night for the benefit of the community. So many people thank us for keeping them safe and for being a listening ear."

Dave Knight, Chairman
Taunton Street Pastors

Awards Panel Members

Somerset Community Foundation

Chris Bishop
Helen Gulvin (from November 2021)
Martin Kitchen (up to September 2021)
John Lyon (Chair)

Local Authorities

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

EDF

Andrew Cockcroft
Sarah Taylor
Nick Wall

Independent Members

Linda Bennett
Kate Kravis (from November 2021)
Claire Mahoney
Robin White (up to July 2021)

Executive Team:

Chief Executive Justin Sargent
Programmes Director Val Bishop
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** 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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