



**HPC
Community
Fund**



**Hinkley Point C
Community Fund
Annual Report
2023/24**



**Somerset
Community
Foundation**





Welcome to our sixth Hinkley Point C (HPC) Community Fund Annual Report. Covering the period May 2023 to April 2024, we look at the recent impact this important Fund has made.

► The HPC Community Fund, which is funded by EDF, continues to award grants to communities that are experiencing the changes brought about by the construction of Hinkley Point C, to improve their quality of life and wellbeing. Our team here at Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) runs the Fund, which has now awarded over £9 million in grants since it opened 7 years ago. As in previous years, this has included significant support for a number of essential services run by local charities and capital projects, as well as many smaller grants for grassroots activities developed and run by local community groups.

This year's awards have included some large grants that support young people, including PROMISEworks, which provides mentors for vulnerable young people, and Home-Start, which supports families with young children. These awards are helping to safeguard the futures of some of Somerset's more vulnerable young people.

Elsewhere, many smaller grants have been awarded to village halls, community centres, sports clubs and arts venues. High energy prices over the last few years have been a major threat to the survival of some of our village halls and community centres,

and I'm pleased that in several cases we've been able to contribute to energy efficiency improvements in these venues. These community spaces can sometimes be taken for granted, but these are the places and spaces that enrich our lives and bring us together as a community.



Now that we're just past the halfway point of managing the Fund, we're starting to look at how we can build a lasting legacy for local communities. We'll be talking to local communities and key stakeholders during the coming year to define what this could look like while continuing to deliver more funding into the heart of local communities.

I would like to thank my team and the members of our Awards Panel, which includes representatives from EDF, Somerset Council, alongside SCF Trustees and independent members, for all their hard work and dedication across the year.

Justin Sargent OBE DL
Chief Executive,
Somerset Community Foundation

Financial Summary

HPC Community Fund in 2023/2024

New grants worth **£1,435,789** were awarded to organisations

▶ **Open Grants worth £1,276,052 awarded**

▶ **Small Grants worth £159,737 awarded**

49 grants awarded to organisations across all HPC Community Fund programmes

▶ **17 new Open Grants**

▶ **32 new Small Grants**



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.

▶ **17 new grant awards were made by the end of this financial year.**

Open Grants awarded in 2023/24

Organisation	Summary of project	Grant	Project Length
2BU Somerset	Contribution towards costs of support network for LGBTQ+ young people	£75,000	3 years
Berrow Community Association Limited	Berrow Hall improvements	£31,513	1 year
Brainwave	Contribution to salary costs to support children with neurodevelopmental challenges	£85,000	3 years
Bridgwater and Albion Rugby Football Club	Renovating a community sports facility in Bridgwater	£80,000	3 years
Bridgwater United Community Sports Trust	Community engagement sport sessions in Bridgwater	£29,523	3 years
Burnham and Highbridge Community Association	Upgrading the energy efficiency of a Burnham-on-Sea community hall	£20,000	1 year
Burnham-on-Sea Motor Boat and Sailing Club	Creating accessible toilet and washing facilities in a Burnham-on-Sea sailing club	£45,000	1 year
Crimestoppers in the West Country	Training for professionals working with young people to reduce crime in Sedgemoor	£22,677	1 year
Diversity Voice	Contribution to salary costs of community link workers to provide information, advice and translation services	£25,910	1 year
Escapeline	Educate, prevent and protect young people and their families who are being exploited by county line gangs in/around Bridgwater.	£189,650	3 years
Home-Start West Somerset	Support to parents and carers of young children	£150,000	3 years
In Charley's Memory	Contribution towards a project providing counselling in schools in Sedgemoor	£112,750	3 years
National Coastwatch Institution	Creating two new volunteer-run coastwatch stations at Burnham-on-Sea and Minehead	£49,999	1 year
PROMISEworks	Mentoring programme for young people	£185,466	3 years
SBA CIC	Contribution to the Gain Advantage Project, supporting people into employment in Bridgwater	£120,000	3 years
Sevenside Community Rail Partnership	Contribution to developing a community room in Bridgwater station	£10,000	1 year
SPTS – Specialist & Personalised Training Services	Supported employment, creating better life outcomes and fulfilling potential	£43,564	1 year

Open Grants Programme Funded Project Case Study

2BU

► **2BU Somerset** supports young LGBTQ+ people in Somerset, working with those most affected by discrimination and isolation to build their confidence and aspirations. In 2023 we awarded a grant of £75,000 over 3 years to help the charity employ outreach workers and expand their work into the Bridgwater area, helping more of the young people they work with make the most of the opportunities created by Hinkley Point C.

“By engaging with wider networks, such as education providers, health professionals, other youth organisations, families and friends, 2BU Somerset helps promote positive attitudes towards equality, diversity and inclusion, helping to mitigate the impact and increase the opportunities of HPC.”

Lisa Snowdon-Carr,
Chief Executive, 2BU

► It's OK 2BU at Kilve Beach, during a recent camping adventure.



Open Grants Programme Funded Project Case Study Avenue Tennis Club

► **Avenue Tennis Club** provides tennis facilities for club members and the local community. In 2023 we awarded a £45,000 grant to help them install energy saving LED lights, improving facilities through the shorter evenings. The new lighting has provided greater access to sport for all ages, particularly young people in the Burnham area, and created a positive and welcoming space to help HPC workers become part of the community through sport.

“The physical and mental wellbeing of the surrounding communities has been positively enhanced through increased access to the Tennis Club and its facilities in these times of greater stress and anxiety, benefiting the entire community including other local groups that use our facilities.”

Tim Seymour,
Head Coach at Avenue Tennis Club

► David Lloyd Jenkins the Club Chairman, Richard Belfield the Club Treasurer, Tim Seymour and Amelia Thompson at the formal unveiling of the new energy-saving floodlights



Small Grants Programme

Organisations can apply for up to £10,000, or up to £20,000 for a 3-year grant.

▶ In this financial year, 32 groups received funding through this programme.

Small Grants awarded in 2023/24

Organisation	Summary of project	Grant	Project Length
Berrow Church of England Primary School	Developing an allotment and forest school with community access in Berrow	£10,000	1 year
BOSfest	Contribution to the costs of a community event in Burnham-on-Sea	£5,000	1 year
Bridgwater Cricket Club	Installation of accessible toilets to support disabled cricketers in Bridgwater	£5,000	1 year
Bridgwater Foodbank	Contribution towards energy efficiency upgrades for a Bridgwater Food Bank	£10,000	1 year
Bridgwater ParkRun	Setting up a community ParkRun in Bridgwater	£2,800	1 year
Burnham BMX Club	Facility and spotlight upgrade to Burnham BMX Club	£9,552	1 year
The Princess Theatre, Burnham-on-Sea	Combatting isolation and loneliness for those over 65 to promote wellbeing in Burnham-on-Sea	£3,000	1 year
Burnham-on-Sea Swimming Club	Venue support costs for a swimming club in Burnham-on-Sea	£2,000	1 year
Burnham's Excellent Entertaining Society (BEES)	Contribution towards performance costs of a community theatre group in Burnham	£3,000	1 year
Chilton Trinity Village Hall	Contribution towards AV equipment in a community hall in Sedgemoor	£3,478	1 year
East Huntspill Parochial Church Council	Contribution towards audio equipment for community events	£1,897	1 year
Fiddington Village Hall	Installation of playground equipment in Fiddington	£4,500	1 year
Forge Rhyne Allotment Association Limited	Improvements to a community allotment in Highbridge	£2,200	1 year
Highbridge Festival of the Arts	Venue costs for an arts festival for young people in Highbridge	£3,500	1 year
Holford Cricket Club	Facility and grounds upgrades to a community sports club in Sedgemoor	£8,820	1 year

Small Grants Programme continued

Small Grants awarded in 2023/24

Organisation	Summary of project	Grant	Project Length
Minehead and Coast Development Trust	Staff costs to help deliver the Minehead plan for people and place	£10,000	1 year
Nature's Bond Sling Library CIC	Running costs for a post-natal sling library and support group in Bridgwater	£3,500	1 year
North Newton Village Hall	Upgrading a heating system in a Sedgemoor community hall	£10,000	1 year
Parish Council Of Kilve	Installation of signposts for a new community path in Kilve	£1,400	1 year
Phoenix (Bridgwater) Scout Group	Equipment for a Bridgwater based Scout Group	£5,000	1 year
Pride-on-Sea	Contribution to an LGBTQ+ pride event in Burnham-on-Sea	£3,500	1 year
Seed Sedgemoor	Spirit Of Bridgwater (High Street Takeover)	£6,670	1 year
SLaMs Somerset Levels and Moors Shed	Recycling bin storage for social housing	£4,920	1 year
Somerset Youth Theatre CIC	Contribution towards an Arts Hub for young people of Highbridge	£10,000	3 years
St John the Baptist Church, Pawlett	Toilet and servery upgrades to a church-based community hub in Pawlett	£5,000	1 year
Stogursey Parish Council	Installation of a Defibrillator for Burton	£2,000	1 year
Stogursey Youth Club	Running costs for a Stogursey Youth Club	£5,000	1 year
Stowey Gardeners	Running costs for a community gardening club in Nether Stowey	£1,500	1 year
The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist Highbridge	Purchasing equipment for hosting art exhibitions in a church-based community hub	£2,000	1 year
Tiddlygigs	To tour a storytelling and music show for pre-school children in 10 areas of high social need across Somerset	£500	1 year
Woolavington Village Hall	Contribution towards energy efficiency upgrades in a Sedgemoor village hall	£10,000	1 year
Westfield United Reformed Church	Contribution towards increased overheads of street cafe for homeless people in Bridgwater	£4,000	1 year



▶ Sedgemoor Playday in Apex Park, Highbridge is a free-of-charge day of fun for all the family

Small Grants Programme

Funded Project Case Study

The Parish Council of Kilve

► In 2024 we awarded **The Parish Council of Kilve** a grant for £1,400 to pay for 3 finger posts to help visitors navigate their way by foot. As well as supporting Somerset Council's Active Travel policy they also help drive footfall to local businesses in the area.

“Currently anyone from Moorhouse Campsite wishing to visit Kilve shop, pub, village hall or beach generally does so by car. The new Hilltop Jubilee Path project provides a direct bridleway from the campsite to the facilities in Kilve. And new finger posts will help direct visiting walkers, cyclists and horse riders there. This will help keep our local businesses going – for the benefit of everyone.”

Bruce Eyley,
Vice Chair,
The Parish Council of Kilve

► Pat and Steve from The Parish Council of Kilve preparing to install the new fingerposts for the new community path



Small Grants Programme Funded Project Case Study

Energy saving support for Bridgwater Foodbank

► **Bridgwater Foodbank** provides emergency food and support to local people in crisis. We awarded a £10,000 grant towards the cost of solar panels and batteries to reduce energy spend while making the project sustainable for the future.

“This funding from the HPC Community Fund will allow us to run our fridges, freezers and lighting in a greener and less costly way. That will help us reduce costs and we can use the savings to provide more help to those in crisis.”

Phil Jarman,
Bridgwater Foodbank Manager



► Dave, the Warehouse Manager at Bridgwater Foodbank



Small Grants Programme Funded Project Case Study Stowey Gardeners

► Stowey Gardeners
visit Elworthy Cottage



► **Stowey Gardeners** are a local grassroots group based in Nether Stowey, a rural community close to the Hinkley site. We awarded them a £1,500 grant to help them beat rural isolation by bringing people together from across generations through a shared love of gardening.

“Transport links are difficult for a village with an elderly population – people are feeling isolated and this is affecting their mental health. These trips help bring people together around their shared interest of gardening.”

Caroline Norris,
Stowey Gardeners Committee Member

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.

Otterhampton Grants awarded to date (2017 – 2024)

Organisation	Summary of project	Grant	Project Length
Otterhampton Primary School	A contribution towards an accessible path for Otterhampton Primary School	£17,487	1 year
Combwich Motor Boat & Sailing Club	A Cornish racing gig and equipment to support ongoing development of new sporting opportunities in parish	£22,200	1 year
Otterhampton Village Hall	Planning phase costs of a village hall refurbishment project	£15,032	1 year
Otterhampton Parish Council	Installation of local noticeboards	£3,077	1 year
Otterhampton Parish Council	Road safety project involving the expansion of a local layby	£5,000	1 year
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
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
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
Otterhampton Parish Council	Stear Defibrillator	£1,119	1 year
Combwich Motor Boat & Sailing Club	A Cornish racing gig and equipment to support ongoing development of new sporting opportunities in parish	£17,965	1 year

Looking on Spotlight on current funded projects

► Cannington United Reformed Church

In 2023 Cannington URC were awarded £10,000 over 3 years from our Small Grants Programme to contribute towards a Children and Families Worker, to organise activities such as weekly after school clubs, monthly film nights, family picnics and craft days, and stargazing.

“Through participating in the various activities, the confidence and wellbeing of the members has grown. They have made new friends and built new relationships.”

Marie Trubic,
Community Minister,
Cannington URC



► Somerset Sight

Somerset Sight support visually impaired people, enabling them to lead fuller and more independent lives. They've been delivering a project funded by the HPC Community Fund since 2020 to both deliver and expand their befriending service. In 2023 we awarded a further £85,000 from our Open Grants Programme for them to continue delivering their service over the next 3 years. This additional funding has allowed them to deliver support into the Burnham-on-Sea and Minehead areas.

“Our volunteer visitors provide vital support with personal admin, alongside essential company at home and out and about, helping to reducing loneliness and isolation.”

Jackie Sopwith,
Chief Executive Officer,
Somerset Sight



► Somerset Diverse Communities

Somerset Diverse Communities, part of the Community Council for Somerset, were awarded £100,000 in 2021 to support ethnically diverse communities in areas impacted by Hinkley Point C. Since the award was made, the dedicated team have supported a large number of people and communities.

Part of the funding was used to host community events for HPC employees.

They host an annual Bridgwater Together event which attracts close to 300 attendees. In 2023/2024 they supported over 7,000 people, including more than 1,500 Hinkley employees.

“From the moment I arrived, I was struck by the sense of community and togetherness. Everyone was so welcoming and friendly. The event was a true celebration of diversity, with food, music, dance, and performances from all over the world. It was an amazing opportunity to broaden my horizons and gain a deeper appreciation for the richness and diversity of Somerset.”

Bridgwater Together attendee



Supporting our communities in 2023/24

You said...



“

“The overall process was fairly straight forward and the support received from Amelia Thompson and SCF was excellent throughout.”

**AVENUE TENNIS CLUB,
MINEHEAD**



“

“The application process was very easy, thank you for the support.”

**BURNHAM
HERITAGE CENTRE**

“

“We are only a small group, but the impact for us is major. We want to say many thanks for continuing to support us.”

**BRIDGWATER
DEAF CLUB**



“

“I am extremely proud of what we have accomplished at our site and the help we have received from Somerset Community Foundation.”

**FORGE RHYNE
ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**

“

“We’ve received lots of good feedback and it is clear that the exhibitions had a positive impact on our community wellbeing. Thank you for your support.”

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH
COUNCIL OF ST JOHN THE
EVANGELIST HIGHBRIDGE**



Awards Panel Members (May 2023 – April 2024)

Somerset Community Foundation

- ▶ **Chris Bishop** (up to October 2023)
- ▶ **Helen Gulvin**
- ▶ **John Lyon** (Chair)
- ▶ **Louisa Raybould** (from October 2023)

EDF

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

Somerset Council

- ▶ **Cllr Mike Murphy** (up to May 2023)
- ▶ **Cllr Gill Slocombe**
- ▶ **Cllr Fran Smith**
- ▶ **Cllr Sarah Wakefield** (from May 2023)

Independent Members

- ▶ **Linda Bennett**
- ▶ **Kate Kravis** (up to January 2024)
- ▶ **Claire Mahoney**

Executive Team:

Chief Executive Justin Sargent
Programmes Director Andy Ridgewell
Senior Programmes Manager Amelia Thompson

Programmes Manager Peter Stolze
Senior Marketing Manager Sue Wheeler
Administrative Support Carolyn Phimister and Nina Pearson

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: www.somersetcf.org.uk/HPC

Address:

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

Follow us:

 @SomersetCommunityFoundation  @SomersetCF
 @company/somerset-community-foundation

