

Staffordshire Local Community Fund 2017



Introduction – John Tradewell

County Councillors play a vital role in their communities - being local leaders, as advocates of the County Council and in making sure that the views of constituents influence priorities and services.

The Staffordshire Local Community Fund is one of the most direct and flexible ways that County Councillors can respond to local needs.

The Fund provided each Staffordshire County Councillor **£7,500** in 2017 - to spend on supporting community projects in their area.

For maximum community benefit, County Councillors are encouraged to support projects which contribute to one or more of the County Council's three priority outcomes which are:

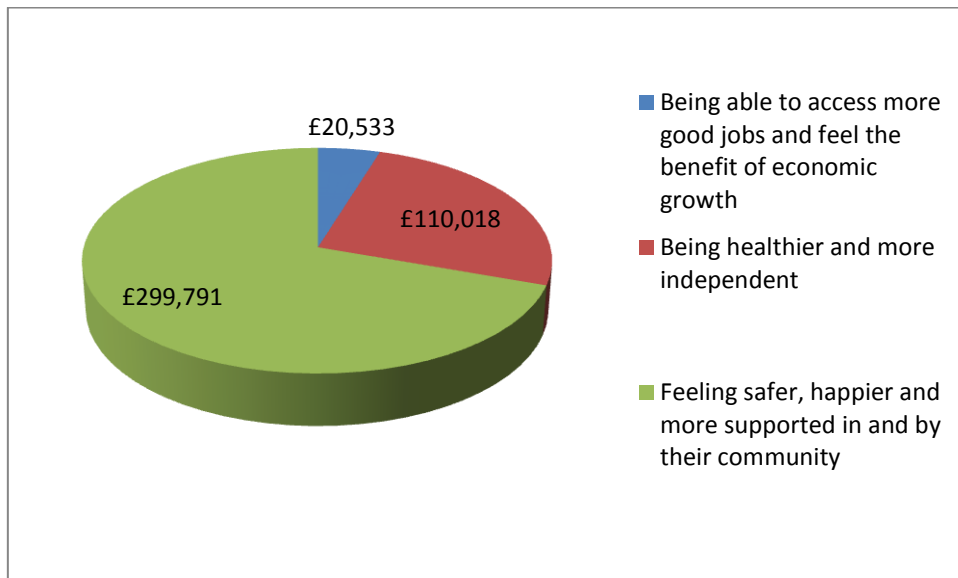
- Be able to access more good jobs and feel the benefit of economic growth
- Be healthier and more independent
- Feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community

This report gives the Council the opportunity to reflect on how the Fund is making a difference to Staffordshire communities.

Whilst the selection of projects can only give a small snapshot of what has been supported, it highlights the breadth of activities supported through the Fund.

Projects support in 2017/18

- The number of projects supported is 522
- The funding committed to projects £430,342
- Approximately £897,052 of match funding has been generated in 2017/18, against total project costs of £1,327,394
- The following pie chart shows how the funding is distributed across the County Council's three priority outcomes.



Pie chart within the actual values as 2017 report

- Being able to access more good jobs and feel the benefit of economic growth £20,533
- Being healthier and more independent £110,018
- Feeling safer, happier and more supported in and by their community £299,791

A selection of projects supported by members

Being able to access more good jobs and feel the benefit of economic growth

Help a Squaddie

Cannock Chase members supported the Help a Squaddie initiative with a grant of £1,526.99. The grant will be used to buy three laptops to enable veterans and serving armed force personnel to use at breakfast club and drop in sessions to enable them to apply for jobs and improve their CV writing skills.

Stafford Welcome Refugees

Members from Stafford and Newcastle joined together to provide funding of £900 to put towards venue hire, interpreter's fees for trips, social events, mini bus hire and twice weekly English for Speakers of other Languages classes for refugees in Stafford and Newcastle.

The Rudyard Lake Trust

A Staffordshire Moorlands member provided £750 for an outdoor seating area with access to the café area which will upgrade the visitors experience providing further meeting space for local groups/organisations when the lake and activities has closed for the day and will enable the café to open for a longer season with an opportunity for winter opening.

Baswich Community Group

Two Stafford members provided funding of £700 to enable the group to buy two mowers for a group of volunteers who have adopted a section of the Worcester Canal at Baswich for towpath enhancement increasing footfall along this section of the canal and increasing visits to the local shops.

Chase Terrace Technology College

A Lichfield member provided funding of £500 for marketing of the mini business expo event aimed at the business community and local educators including primary and secondary schools to look at impacts and outcomes for them working together to mutually benefit both in terms of skills gap, local economy, qualification framework and motivational speakers

Dig It

Five Tamworth members provided £800 for workshops for illustration, spoken word, animation and performance, room hire, promotion banner and materials. The event is open to all ages to encourage participation among those who struggle with the written word amongst individuals with dyslexia and other learning differences.

Being healthier and more independent

The Friends of Hednesford Park

A joint member grant of £500 from Cannock members was used to fund braille training workshops and RNIB fingerprint braille course books for the weekly support group provided in Hednesford Park Pavilion Community Room to support people with sight issues who are isolated in the community.

Winhill Football Club

An East Staffordshire member supported a grant of £1,000 for club jackets for new teams and players, footballs, first aid kits, cones, poles, pop up training goals, balls bags, hand pumps, training bibs and kit bags across all 180 members and 14 junior football teams

St Mary's PTA

Four Newcastle members joined together to provide funding of £2,149 towards playground markings, shuttle run, skipping circles, golden mile, long jump, exercise wheel and trail a smart multi game playground barriers to encourage children and their parents' involvement in sport and exercise

Stone Petanque Club

A Stafford member provided funding of £400 to put towards a Petanque terrain of six lanes which would be suitable for wheelchair users and people with a wide range of physical conditions, providing exercise, social interaction and attracting a wide range of ages and abilities

Tamworth Wellbeing and Cancer Centre

Two Tamworth members provided funding of £850 to be used by the centre to put on singing, yoga, Tai Chi, meditation instructors and advertising to promote health and wellbeing for clients.

Cheslyn Hay Community Allotments

Two South Staffordshire members supported a grant of £600 for a rotator and motor mower to allow the plot holders and members to easily maintain their plots and enable them to continue gardening activities as part of a healthy outdoor hobby.

Feeling safer, happier and more supported in and by their community

Biddulph Youth and Community Zone

Joint member funding of £1,988 from two Staffordshire Moorlands members was used to buy 200 cotton bags, fruit and promotional material for family cooking workshops to expand the successful community food project in Biddulph. The scheme will provide access to low cost, nutritious food and family cooking workshops.

Staffordshire County Council and Barton Under Needwood Village Traffic Regs Orders

An East Staffordshire member used £4,000 of her fund to provide Branston with new traffic restrictions to improve traffic flow through the village and help road safety and parking issues.

Perton Youth Club

Funding of £579.54 from a South Staffordshire member was used to buy a 40 inch TV and Xbox for the start-up of a new Youth Club for Perton.

North Staffordshire Parent/Carer Support Group

Funding of £1,500 from a Newcastle member supported equipment, resources, training, stationery, advertising to support carers/parents who have a premature or a sick baby shortly after birth to reduce postnatal depression and traumatic stress through creative activities, peer support, volunteering opportunities sharing information and discussions.

Tamworth Boxing Club

Four Tamworth members provided funding of £6,750 to provide and install new windows throughout the former Christadelphian Hall. The boxing club will provide increased activities and sessions whilst vastly diversifying their support to the community safeguarding the future of the club better supporting the children, making them become more independent and increasing their activities.

Eccleshall Voluntary Car Scheme

Funding of £250 from a Stafford member was used for printing, insurance, DBS checks and mileage for the car scheme volunteers providing a service for people in the community without the use of car or bus transport for medical appointments and shopping trips.

Fund arrangements for 2018 -2019

- In 2018 each councillor has £7,500 allocated to them.
- The deadline for all applications is 14 December 2018. Please allow sufficient time from submitting the forms to any deadlines that may apply to the project.
- All projects must be in a position to be completed before the end of the financial year (31 March 2019).
- The Staffordshire Local Community Fund remains a positive way of encouraging social action and responding to the community engagement agenda which reinforces the role of councillors alongside the need for councils to be bold and decisive for the benefit of their communities.

Assistance for Members

- **Contact officer** Heather Collingwood, Support Officer, Member and Democratic Services 01785 276019 or heather.collingwood@staffordshire.gov.uk
- Advice on supporting community projects is also available to County Councillors from the Community Partnership Officers:

Peter Barker – 07976918741- South Staffordshire and Stafford
peter.barker@staffordshire.gov.uk

Graham Hunt – 07969726571 – Cannock and East Staffordshire
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Sarah Parry – 07814376257 – Lichfield and Tamworth
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Naomi Smith – 07964331670 – Newcastle and Staffordshire Moorlands
naomi.smith@staffordshire.gov.uk

Community Fund web page includes a list of projects supported

- <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/yourcouncil/slcf/home.aspx>