

Staffordshire Local Community Fund 2018



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 gives every Staffordshire County Councillor a sum of money - **£7,500 in 2018** - to spend on supporting community projects in their area.

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

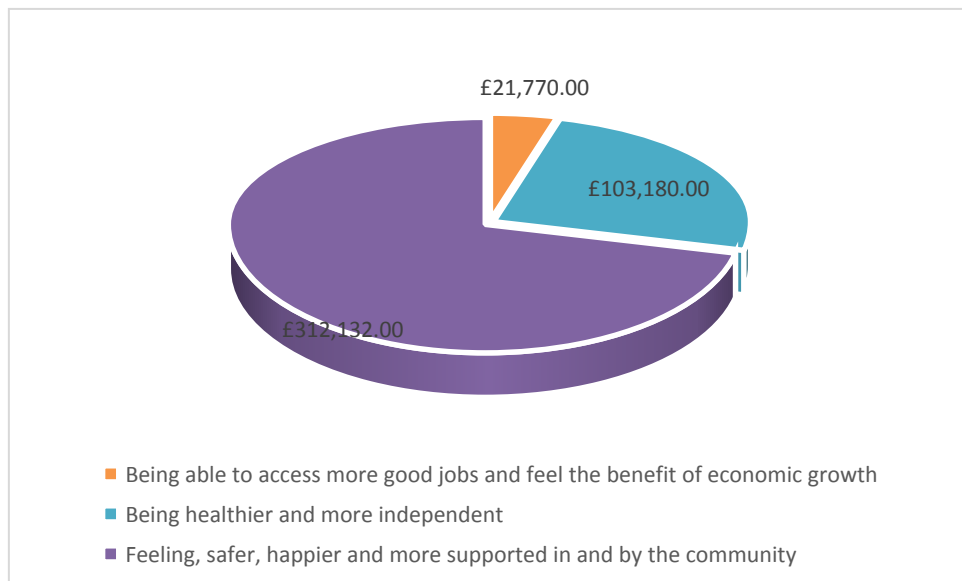
- Be able to access more good jobs and feel the benefit of economic growth
- Be healthier and more independent
- Feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community

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 from promoting healthy and active lifestyles, activities and equipment for children and young people, celebrating national and community events to projects to reduce social isolation.

Projects support in 2018/19

- The number of projects supported is 525
- The funding committed to projects £437,082.
- Approximately £937,618 of match funding has been generated in 2018/19, against total project costs of £1,374,700
- The following pie chart shows how the funding is distributed across the County Council's three priority outcomes.



- Being able to access more good jobs and feel the benefit of economic growth £21,770
- Being healthier and more independent £103,180
- Feeling safer, happier and more supported in and by their community £312,132

A selection of projects supported by members

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

Kingstone Community Society Ltd



Funding of £1,000 was put towards a Structural Survey and Plunkett Foundation Registration to secure the Shrewsbury Arms as a permanent multi-purpose community hub for the

Kingstone and neighbouring villages. This former village pub had been closed for some time and was up for sale.

On 3 April the Kingstone Community Centre successfully won the building at auction and have registered it as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). The premises will be used as a not for profit organisation incorporating a pub, café and shop with a strong emphasis on encouraging the elderly to support the venture by providing drop in facilities. There would also be the opportunity of regular employment for the village and surrounding areas.

The Globe Group CIC



Funding of £1,500 was used towards the set-up costs of a plastic recycling workshop, that will turn the plastic litter collected from the streets into reusable everyday items.

The Litterbugs Project aims to turn plastic waste into useful and reusable everyday items. The machinery required will be created from recycled materials and volunteers will be taught recycling technologies, infrastructures and knowledge on how to use moulds and consumer products and support community projects with useful items all made from litter!

Shareshill Village Shop Association



A grant of £2,000 was put towards the refurbishment of the Shareshill Community Shop.

The shop has been running for ten years and the refurbishment will revitalise it making it more user friendly and attractive to encourage more people to use the facility.

Tutbury Parish Council

Funding of £2,500 was put towards two bespoke historic signs at the entrance of the village at each end of the bypass. The signs will have pictorial representation of significant buildings in the village and are designed to attract visitors, encouraging economic growth and commemorate the historical significance of the village.

Princess Street Training Education and Enterprise Centre

Joint funding of £2,500 was used to upgrade the existing IT Hub at the centre. The Hub will have access to all IT facilities including internet so people can keep in touch with others via social media and there will be facilities for job searches, creating CV's or simply to seek information, advice and guidance. The funding was put towards the purchase of 10 chromebooks.

Be Healthier and More Independent

Newcastle Lads and Dads

Four Newcastle members joined together to provide joint funding of £2,500 to be used for a 30-year lease for the self-management of a facility at Pool Dam Playing Fields that the group have operated from for over 45 years providing football and sporting activities for children between the ages of 6 to 15 years. The site will be developed, facilities improved to benefit the whole community. Improving the venue will attract more teams and children to use the facility.



Tamworth Round Table



All six Tamworth members joined together to provide a grant of £2,950 to be put towards the rebuild of their Santa Sleigh.

The Round Table run an annual Santa Sleigh Appeal which enables them to support good causes, charities and community events within Tamworth.

The Bracken House Fundraising Society

Joint funding of £2,000 from two Lichfield members was put towards a 'Magic Table'.

The table is for use by people suffering from the mid to late stages of dementia and provides interactive games to stimulate both physical and cognitive activity and encourage social interaction. It can also create treasured moments with family members and carers.



Stonnall Playing Fields Association



A grant of £450 was put towards the provision of a cantilever basket swing within the children's play area on the playing field.

The swing is ideal for older children and for disabled children.

Stafford and Rugeley Sea Cadets



Cross district funding from a Cannock and Stafford Member provided the cadets with a grant of £482.40. As part of their learning programme all Cadets and Juniors are provided with First Aid Awareness Training. This training will now include CPR training and the money was used to buy a family pack of CPR Manikins which included an adult, a junior and a baby. The young people will be able to use these new skills in the wider community.

Watery Lane Allotments



A grant of £200 was used to buy top soil for the raised allotment area. This area will be suitable for use by disabled gardeners to help with their health and development.

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

Pye Green Christian Centre

Funding of £750 was used to provide IT equipment and volunteer training to set up and run a Crisis Support Centre based at the Pye Green Christian Centre which would be open from Monday – Friday until 7.00 pm and Saturday mornings. Over the last year the Centre has received many urgent requests for help from people without food, are homeless or are without electric. A Crisis Support Centre with extended hours manned by trained volunteers will be able to deal with these types of requests.

St John's Primary Academy

A grant of £500 was put towards the purchase of a solar PV system on the roof of the school which will provide instant savings on electricity bills, income from feed in tariff and generation tariff and educational benefits to children and school community. Improving energy efficiency and supporting renewables will help reduce the need for fossil fuels and will help tackle climate change and its impacts. This local energy scheme will help the school to be more independent financially and in terms of energy security. It will also offer numerous opportunities for children to learn through different parts of the curriculum

Mow Cop Commuters

Funding of £1,000 was awarded to the group to provide a twice weekly bus service for vulnerable adults without any means of transport to take them for medical appointments, shops and Post Office reducing social isolation.

WHYCH

WHYCH are a registered charity providing social opportunities and day activities to adults and young people with learning disabilities with social and additional needs. A grant of £260 would be put towards an enterprise project including an up-cycling project and an allotment. In developing the project, they hope to be in a position to open the centre to the benefit of the wider community including the elderly, lone parents, socially and economically deprived and those who may be vulnerable in an effort to improve the health and wellbeing of the local community.

Biddulph U3A



The group received funding of £500 as part of their Lund House project. They have taken over a building that has been empty for a number of years and will be carrying out improvements so that their 600+ members have access to Education, Health and Fitness. The grant would be put

towards IT equipment.

Blythe Bridge, Forsbrook and Dilhorne Historical Society

A grant of £500 was awarded towards printing costs, binding, stitching and publishing of presentation volumes of the History of 5th BT North Staffordshire Regiment during the Great War. A single volume would be donated to each of the local authorities with a drill hall which recruited men for the Battalion and the final volume to the William Salt Library for reference. In addition the grant paid for a CD/USB stick to accompany the volume for public use.

Two Rivers School

Five Tamworth members provided joint funding of £1,800 to be used to provide a two week play scheme for up to 15 pupils with complex learning difficulties held at the school. The play scheme would be run by trained school staff and would provide vital respite for families of vulnerable children.