

STRONG COMMUNITIES GRANT FUND

Progress Report – December 2018



Strong
Communities
Grant Fund



Cronfa
Grant
Cymunedau

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Overview: December 2018

Since the Strong Communities Grant fund was launched in August 2017 grants totaling £472,977* have been allocated to 34 projects across the Vale of Glamorgan. The Council and its partners: the Waterloo Foundation; Natural Resources Wales and representatives of the Town and Community Councils have joined forces to support projects which are making a real difference to the quality of life and range of services available to people and communities in the Vale.

It is evident that the Vale has vibrant and active communities. More than 200 enquires have been received from groups dedicated to making positive changes in the areas where they live. Through the fund, successful groups have evidenced and fulfilled the SCG eligibility criteria to deliver projects which have demonstrated engagement with their communities and meaningful sustainability. Working together, we can achieve the Council's vision for the Vale of 'Strong Communities with a bright future'.

'The Strong Communities grants approved to date will contribute towards the delivery of projects with an overall value in excess of £1.1 million, all of which offer far reaching benefits to communities across the Vale.'

The Fund supports 'standalone' projects but has also provided valuable match funding where this has been needed to achieve large scale initiatives. In many cases the grant is a key component in a package of support from multiple funders which will help organisations take on new assets or secure the future of their existing assets for generations to come. Many projects will help the most marginalised residents to access support and integrate more easily with life in their communities. Addressing isolation, whether age related, due to lack of transport, limited income, cultural barriers or lack of confidence, is a priority for many organisations we have supported.

9 projects have been completed since the Fund was launched and a further 13 are underway. The scale of completed projects ranges from purchase of a single item of musical equipment for a village of less than 100 dwellings to refurbishment of a community hall serving a population of more than 2000. A common theme is support for projects which bring people together close to where they live. Through support for training, leisure or social activities and for the many organisations and volunteers who provide these, our grants are helping more people across the Vale to access services that they have identified as much needed.

Case studies summarising the 9 projects completed to date are included in this report together with a sample of the projects underway. Infographics illustrate performance to date and another explain how we spread the word about the Strong Communities Grant Fund.

* Section 106 monies have subsequently been allocated to 3 of the approved projects, releasing approximately £45,000 back into the Strong Communities Fund. One approved project has not progressed.

APPROVED APPLICATIONS: DECEMBER 2018

Applications over £10,000					
Round	Applicant	Project	Grant offer	Status	Ward
R2	Amelia Trust	Feasibility Study	£20,000.00	Commencing 2019	Rhose
R3	Aberthin Village Hall project	Building improvements – disability access/baby changing facilities	£14,800.00	Commencing 2019	Cowbridge
R3	Colwinston play area	Children's play area	£14,000.00	Commencing 2019	Llandow/Ewenny
R2	Cowbridge Charter Trust	Old Hall Gardens restoration	£26,725.80	Commencing 2019	Cowbridge
R2	Cowbridge Tennis Club	Pay and play tennis booking system	£12,080.00	Completed	Cowbridge
R2	East Vale Community Transport	Replace minibus plus initiative to attract volunteers	£33,732.00	Ongoing	Augustines
R2	Gibby Green Fingers	Sensory garden plus educational centre on site	£16,800.00	Ongoing	Gibbonsdown
R2	GVS	Bring WVICC back into use and enhance provision of services	£53,094.00	Commencing 2019	Llantwit Major
R1	Innovate Trust	Develop forest garden at Porthkerry Park	£28,059.00	Ongoing	Illtyd
R3	Llandough Community Council	Multi use games area	£44,634.00	Commencing 2019	Llandough
R2	Murchfield Community Association	Replace toilets and replace floor in main hall	£35,000.00	Completed	Dinas Powys
R1	Restorative Wales	Co-develop school and family focused restorative multi- agency partnership hub model for the Vale.	£22,885.50	Ongoing	Gibbonsdown
R1	Rhose Community Cinema	Equipment for community cinema	£10,974.00	Completed	Rhose
R2	Vale parent/child homework support	Support/volunteer training for homework club in St Athan/Llantwit Major	£37,578.40	Ongoing	St Athan/Llantwit Major
R2	YMCA	Replace boilers at YMCA	£33,330.00	Ongoing	Court
Applications between £1,000 and £10,000					
Round	Applicant	Project	Grant offer	Status	
R1	All Saints Church	Convert wasteland in to low maintenance garden	£2,495.00	Completed	St Brides Major

R3	Cadoxton Conservation Group	Website, bug hotel and tools	£1,554.00	Commencing December 2018	Cadoc
R2	Castleland Community Centre	Flexible booking system plus hardware	£3,665.75	Ongoing	Castleland
R3	Llansannor Village Hall	Village hall lighting, sound system and projector	£7,150.00	Commencing December 2018	Cowbridge
R3	Motion Control	Pilot project	£4,799.00	Commencing 2019	Court
R3	Ogmore by Sea Village Hall	Village hall kitchen fit out	£6,000	Commencing 2019	St Brides Major
R2	Pukka Productions	Design and build new website	£3,600.00	Ongoing	Cadoc
R2	Rhose Community Hall	Replacement of windows in community hall	£5,250.00	Completed	Rhose
R1	Saron Vestry	Renovation of vestry	£3,267.00	Commencing 2019	Llandow/Ewenny
R2	Sully Community Cinema	Equipment for community cinema	£1,857.00	Completed	Sully
R2	The Exchange	Marketing /professional fees to create new market hall serving Cowbridge /wider Vale.	£10,000.00	Ongoing	Cowbridge
R1	Treoes Community Hall	Refurbishment of Treoes Community Hall	£5,839.00	Ongoing	Llandow/Ewenny
R3	Ty Cadoc Residents Assoc	Community gardens	£1,949.00	Ongoing	Cadoc
R3	Wenvoe Village Hall	Access improvements	£8,146.00	Ongoing	Wenvoe
Applications up to £1,000					
Round	Applicant	Project	Grant offer	Status	
R1	Cariad ar Waith	Sewing and craft for all	£1,000.00	Withdrawn venue issue	Court
R3	Coed Hills	Apple press	£600	Ongoing	Cowbridge
R2	Making Music in Llyswoerney	Purchase keyboard for community use.	£239.00	Completed	Llandow/Ewenny
R1	Rainbow Womens group	Mini 'GEM' exercise equipment	£1,000.00	Completed	Buttrills
R2	The Gathering Place	Provision of lunch club for older people in /around St Athan area.	£891.00	Completed	St Athan

R1 = Round 1: 25 October 2017

R2 = Round 2: 8 March 2018

R3 = Round 3: 6 September 2018

Completed projects December 2018**Sample case studies - ongoing projects**

AT A GLANCE – PERFORMANCE TO DATE

Strong Communities Grant Fund



34 successful applicants



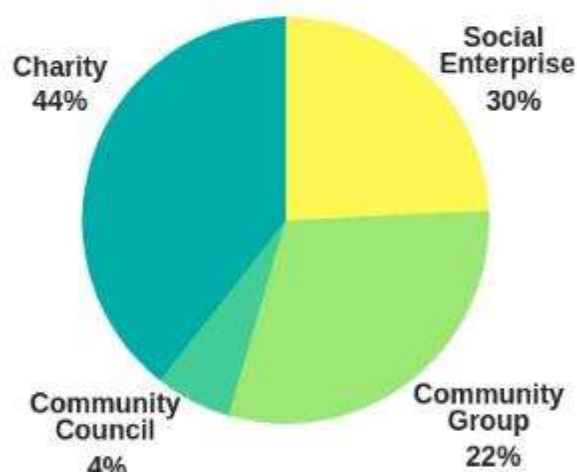
202 enquiries made since launch in August 2017



16 wards have benefitted to date



Types of organisations funded



£472,977. awarded to date



The Vale of Glamorgan Council's Community Grant Scheme open until 2020

To find out more: 01446 704636
scgfapplications@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

 
@ValeEconomy

AT A GLANCE – MARKETING





MARKETING

2 paid for, targeted adverts on Facebook reaching 7918 people in total



Facebook posts on new funding rounds on Community Hub pages



Regular Facebook/Twitter posts from @ValeEconomy and @VOGCouncil advertising key deadlines and success stories

IN THE PRESS

The Gathering Place
Vale H/W Club
Murchfield Community Centre



SCGF advertised in the local newspaper




SCGF logo sent out to successful applicants to use on their marketing

Re-sharing through social media pages

Details/pictures gathered for case studies



\$106

funding promoted in
**DINAS POWYS
PENARTH
RHOOSE**



Presentations offered to community venues and at committee meetings

Flyers and emails sent to community venues with key deadlines

Pop-up's in Civic offices reception



Promotion through stakeholders including community councils and internal service areas

Infographic and flyer sent via email with key deadline dates to 47 members



Presentation at VVACDN (Vale voluntary action & community development network) meeting

Feature in the GVS news bulletin

Direct mail to GVS staff

CASE STUDIES

Completed projects

Cowbridge Tennis Club	Pay and play tennis booking system	£12,080
Murchfield Community Association	Replace toilets /replace floor in main hall	£35,000
Rhose Community Cinema	Equipment for community cinema	£10,974
All Saints Church Southerndown	Community Garden	£2,495
Rhose Community Hall	Replacement windows in community hall	£5,250
Sully Community Cinema	Equipment for community cinema	£1,857
Making Music in Llysworney	keyboard for community use.	£239
Rainbow Women's Group	Mini 'GEM' exercise equipment	£1,000
The Gathering Place	lunch club for older people	£891

Ongoing projects sample

Castleland Community Centre	Flexible booking system /hardware	£3,665.75
East Vale Community Transport	Replace minibus /attract volunteers	£33,732
Treoes Community Hall	Refurbishment of Hall	£5,839
Innovate Trust	Forest garden at Porthkerry Park	£28,059

COWBRIDGE TENNIS CLUB

PAY AND PLAY TENNIS BOOKING SYSTEM



Project Outline

Investment in a code lock gate, a computerised management system and security fencing.

Cowbridge currently has no public tennis courts. This project makes the club facilities available to the wider community and ensures they are used to maximum capacity. The project helps the club to manage and monitor all bookings efficiently. Its aim is to promote social integration through better access to sport.

Progress Report

The project was completed in time to take full advantage of this year's long hot summer. Non club members can book and pay for a court online during the many times when the courts are not being used. The club has been delighted with the popularity of the scheme, and the Sports Centre has taken an active role in promoting the courts as a facility for anyone who wants to play, regardless of ability and without needing club membership.

'The grant has helped us to record court bookings since the gate was installed in June 2018. The gate has given an easy way for the community to book courts at a time that suits them'

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £12,080

Total project cost: £14,109

Round 2

EAST VALE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

REPLACEMENT MINIBUS AND CHAPERONE PROGRAMME



Project Outline

The replacement of the twelve year old minibus currently in use and a new initiative to attract volunteer chaperones.

Progress Report

EVCT are now proud owners of a new 16 seater minibus named Donnie after one of the group's founding members! The vehicle has a customised wheelchair lift, The new minibus is larger than the previous one meaning that more groups can be supported.

'Having a larger, newer minibus means that we have been able to provide our members with opportunities to access social activities which they may not have had otherwise'

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £33,732

Total project cost: £43,732

Round 2

INNOVATE TRUST

FOREST GARDEN AT PORKKERRY PARK



Progress Report – August 2018

Participants are gaining skills that will be useful in further volunteering and employment settings and within their lives in general, such as the ability to work well with others, behave appropriately with one's peers, follow instructions, and take the initiative. The group have so far:

- Planted a wildflower meadow
- Repaired, cleaned and hung bat and bird boxes
- Planted marsh plants
- Maintained cottage garden outside the rangers' cottage.
- Litter-picked
- Maintained public access footpaths
- Re-painted the park benches
- Cleaned the signs/railings along the entrance to park
- Removed self-seeded sycamore saplings

'We all work as a team. Some people have a learning disability and some people have a mental health problem, and some people don't have anything but it doesn't matter because we all just work together and get the job done.'

Project Outline

The Project supports adults with learning disabilities to carry out environmental conservation work alongside the ranger team at Porthkerry Park. Aside from the personal enjoyment that participants gain from taking part, the project is important for participants because it provides opportunities to take part in meaningful volunteering work that is valued by others and recognised within the community as a useful contribution. Adults with learning disabilities face a great deal of discrimination and stigma throughout their lives, and projects such as the Porthkerry Park Project go some way to fighting against negative perceptions.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £28,059

Total project cost: £37,119

Round 1

MURCHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

REFURBISHMENT



Progress Report

Completed in the summer of this year, the project has provided modern facilities which have transformed the appearance of the centre. The project is a direct result of users surveys which overwhelmingly identified the toilets, hall floor and heating facilities as in need of attention. Running costs have been reduced through new plumbing and heating solutions which, in turn, has meant that the centre has been able to maintain modest hire fees. Press coverage of the improvements and word of mouth have ensured that demand for community space is higher than ever.

“We now have new groups regularly using the hall, such as a weekly cardiac rehabilitation class and the demand for large events has also increased. People think it looks great. We couldn’t have made any of these improvements without the grant and it’s made a massive difference”

Project Outline

The 1980’s built outdated toilets have been renewed and refurbished and the main hall floor replaced. The centre is a multi use hall on the south side of Dinas Powys and is currently the only large hall/hireable space on this side of the village, serving more than 2000 households. Sport, exercise and cultural events for all ages are at the forefront of what the centre provides. The multitude of activities taking place here range from a Mother and Toddler Group, Taekwondo and street dance to a Wednesday afternoon club for senior citizens and a Memory Café.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £35,000

Total project cost: £39,222

Round 2

RHOOSE COMMUNITY CINEMA

COMMUNITY CINEMA EQUIPMENT PURCHASE



Progress Report – August 2018

The hall now holds a screening every month on a Saturday night and regularly sees between 50 to 100 attending, with a core group of followers. Costs are kept low for cinema goers with an additional income stream from refreshments served by volunteers in the interval. Positive feedback is regularly received on the group's facebook page by people who comment on the fantastic resource and the chance the cinema offers to meet up with old friends. The cinema group has been able to support other local groups, such as the PTA of the primary school, to fundraise by making the equipment available to them and contributing to their screening costs.

“We can use the equipment to engage with a wider range of local people. We currently have plans to provide dementia friendly screenings. The project has wider benefits for the village hall too since having the equipment means more and different users are attracted to the hall”.

Project Outline

The club has been able to purchase their own cinema equipment. The community cinema, based in Stewart Road community hall, had been limited for some time by using borrowed equipment. This project allowed the group to buy their own kit making a huge difference as they can now plan their programme with certainty and avoid time consuming and costly transportation of equipment

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £10,974 (\$106)

Total project cost: £10,974

Round 1

ALL SAINTS CHURCH SOUTHERNDOWN

COMMUNITY GARDEN



Project Outline

The grant has been used to develop an accessible, low maintenance garden for anyone using the hall to enjoy. The building is the only meeting place for organisations and residents in the area, and since being adapted for community use in 2008, is regularly used as a meeting place for both. The project has transformed an overgrown and unmanageable piece of surplus land into attractive useable outdoor space.

Progress Report – August 2018

The project completed within budget in June 2018 and the group reported that the garden was being used daily in the summer. The investment has enabled them to do much more and made the premises far more attractive to potential users. As the outdoor space is now wheelchair accessible all members of the community can use the space. An added bonus is a view of the regular cricket matches taking place at the neighbouring Southerndown cricket club.

“We are really pleased with the new facility, as are the members of the church and community. It is in the heart of the village and has a lovely feel to it. It’s wheelchair accessible throughout and has been adapted with this in mind. Even the stones are wheelchair friendly. The community can also enjoy cricket from the garden as it looks straight out onto the pitch. We are delighted!”

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £2,495

Total project cost: £3,495

Round 1

CASTLELAND COMMUNITY CENTRE

FLEXIBLE BOOKING SYSTEM/ HARDWARE



Progress Report – August 2018

The busy centre accommodates clubs which provide vital services to this area of Barry. The training can help community members get access to jobs and the social groups improve quality of life and inclusiveness in an area where such activities are not necessarily accessible and affordable. Since June the centre has spent time integrating the new software in their website and booking system and staff have been familiarising themselves with the software too. When fully up and running the software will be invaluable in freeing up time to concentrate on more community-based projects and spending time networking and helping other groups or potential groups in the Centre.

Project Outline

A highly flexible reservation booking system and procure the hardware needed to support the growing demands on the Centre from a variety of individuals and organisations, plus a volunteer training programme. There are now 16 regular groups every week compared to 12 in 2017. The centre provides facilities for a variety of user groups such as Toddler groups, IT Training, Employability training, Counselling services, Disability organisations as well as individual groups such as Burlesque, Taekwondo and craft clubs.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £3,665.75

Total project cost:
£4,025.75

Round 2

RHOOSE COMMUNITY HALL

REPLACEMENT WINDOWS



Progress Report

13 new windows in the community hall were installed successfully at the end of July 2018. The group are delighted with their new asset. The new windows have a dead bolt locking system as well as a ten year guarantee and will improve the hall's security. They will also improve conditions at the hall which will in turn encourage more people to attend activities such as exercise sessions. These sessions are vital in contributing towards the hall's income stream in the future.

Project Outline

Replacement of windows in the lesser hall, office and committee room.

The windows needed replacing due to their age, inefficiency and the fact that they presented a security issue. The new windows are not only aesthetically pleasing, they should help to reduce fuel bills and make the building more attractive to users.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £5,250

Total project cost: £5,250

Round 2

SULLY COMMUNITY CINEMA

CINEMA RELATED EQUIPMENT

Project Outline

To purchase two quality blu-ray/dvd players to allow locally produced material relating to community events to be shown before a seamless transition to the main film.

Ancillary equipment such as a switching device and monitoring facility have also been provided with a Free-view TV box to allow the viewing of events of community interest such as the royal wedding.



Progress Report – August 2018

The rack mountable equipment has been installed and was used for its first public performance on the 20th May. The group now look forward to expanding the range and frequency of films to be shown to the local community as well as using the equipment to showcase significant events such as the Autumn international rugby matches.

All the cinema equipment is now bedded in and is providing the quality experience we had been hoping for.'

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £1,857

Total project cost: £5,200

Round 2

TREOES COMMUNITY HALL

REFURBISHMENT OF HALL



Progress Report – August 2018

The much needed renovation and refurbishment instantly changed the look and feel of the Hall, now more modern, more inviting. Groups who had been regularly using but might have been thinking to find another venue have remained and fed back how pleased they were with the upgrading. Within one week of renovation work a musicians group asked to book the Hall for 3 hours each Saturday and an Art Group who only used the hall once a week requested two more mornings. The impact of these additional bookings is that the Hall is now being used daytime Tuesday through to Saturdays, also Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and importantly is now able to fully sustain itself with the rental income now generated. The Hall now looks good and far more attractive both inside and out.

‘Feedback from older members of the community, especially the Young at Heart Group, was their absolute delight at having at last comfortable modern theatre style chairs to sit on rather than the old plastic bucket ones!’

Project Outline

The hall was totally refurbished - completed painted inside, new entry carpet, new fire doors, replacement vertical window blinds, some new tables and total replacement of all chairs, additional kitchen equipment. e.g. large urn, cafetieres, cups and saucers etc.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £5,839

Total project cost:
£6, 646.90

Round 1

LLYSWORNEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MAKING MUSIC IN LLYSWORNEY



Project Outline

To purchase a keyboard for communal use and in support of cultural events held in the village.

Progress Report

The keyboard was purchased in the summer and is bringing the community together in new ways. Llysworney has no dedicated space for communal activities so having a transportable keyboard means there are now many more opportunities for indoor and outdoor events at different venues. There is a growing interest in choral singing and music-making in the village as a social, well-being and fund-raising activity. The keyboard will allow that interest to grow and broaden while encouraging a wider range of residents as audience and participants.

'The keyboard has made it so much easier to sing together at annual events like our 'Songs of praise' and 'Carols around the pond'

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £239

Total project cost: £572

Round 2

RAINBOW WOMEN'S GROUP

RAINBOW MINI 'GEM'



Project Outline

Provide exercise equipment and instructor to make it easier for the group to arrange their own activities at low cost. The project aims to address barriers facing many ethnic minority women who struggle to access opportunities for health and fitness and face wider problems of isolation. Links between health and ethnicity have long been established which show a great need for this type of project.

Progress Report – August 2018

Running weekly exercise sessions at the Margaret Alexander community centre for a minimal £2 charge, the Rainbow Women's Group plan to help women of all ages live a more active and healthy life. The project builds on the group's aims to help combat isolation among for vulnerable and excluded women. The project helps to improve communication, understanding, respect and interdependence between people from different age groups, genders and cultural backgrounds.

'It helps the ladies who arrived new to the Vale to mix in society, joining the classes and sharing all the laughs helps them to change their mood and to feel better'

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £1,000

Total project cost: £2,456

Round 1

THE GATHERING PLACE

LUNCH CLUB



Progress Report – August 2018

The club met for the first time on May 14th 2018 and meets on the second Monday of each month. Though there is no age restriction, it is designed to offer older residents of the village and others living further afield the chance to enjoy a meal in a social setting. Residents who attended the first lunch were very impressed. A core of volunteers are confident to take over running the club in the new year and there are plans afoot to run more activities alongside the lunch club such as a quiz or craft sessions.

“We have 15 to 20 regular attendees and the numbers are growing. Some of these now take part in other activities such as ‘music in mind’. We take the opportunity to invite representatives from other organisations to the lunch club so that people can hear about a wide range of services available to them”.

Project Outline

To provide a Lunch Club for older people who live in or around the St Athan area.

The grant has been used to buy crockery and cutlery and to fund a co-ordinator for 5 hours per month for the first year of the project.

The community centre provides the building, heat, light and facilities free of charge. The club is supported by local volunteers under the management of the co-ordinator. The cost of the food is not subsidised and the lunch club plans to be self-funding by year two.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £891.00

Total project cost: £891

Round 2

Catherine Watkins, founder of the Vale Parent and Child Homework Support Group in Rhose, Vale of Glamorgan sadly passed away on Monday 10th December. Our heartfelt thoughts are with family, friends and colleagues and the huge number of people who truly benefited from the work that Catherine undertook to make a difference to so many people's lives. Catherine's legacy will continue.



Working together, we can achieve the Council's vision for the Vale of Glamorgan of 'Strong Communities with a bright future'