

Voluntary Sector Support Annual Report: 2023-24





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Introduction

Welcome to the Support to the Voluntary Sector Annual Report 2023-24.

Hertsmeire Borough Council offers financial support to the local community, voluntary groups and organisations to help them provide a range of community services to the residents of Hertsmeire.

We recognise that some services are better delivered through the voluntary sector and we also understand the value and the importance of the range of services, projects and schemes provided by the sector at a local level.

To do this we use a range of mechanisms including:

- Commissioning services through partnership/service level agreements;
- Community Grants – small capital and revenue grants;
- Hertsmeire's Ward Improvement Initiative Scheme;
- We also host a range of local subject-specific networking and support groups e.g. Active Hertsmeire and the Health and Well-being group as well as leading on our Local Strategic Partnership.

We also support some organisations through the use of Council owned property and discretionary rate relief.

The total allocation for the voluntary sector funding in 2023/24 was £491,050 and broken down as follows:

Community Grants	£39,600
Partnerships Agreements	£363,200
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	£58,000
Ward Improvement Initiative Scheme	£29,250
Climate Action Community Grant	£1,000
Total Support to Voluntary Sector	£491,050

Partnership Agreements

We have 5 year Partnership Agreements with 10 local organisations. These aim to provide some stability to the organisations, recognising the importance of the service they provide for the wider community. We have recently entered into a new set of Agreements from 2023/24 which will run until the end of 2027/28.

Below is the breakdown of the £363,200, between the 10 local organisations we are supporting through the Partnership Agreements:

Organisation	Organisation Summary	Amount
Citizens Advice	Offer free and impartial advice and knowledge to everyone seeking help.	£257,100
Communities 1 st	Local Community Voluntary Sector aimed at supporting the local voluntary and community organisations.	£20,000
Hertsmeire Shopper Bus Scheme	A door-to-door service for people who have difficulties using public transport to go shopping.	£20,000
Sixty Plus – Potters Bar & South Mimms	Sixty Plus offers a friendly lunch for the over 60s in Potters Bar and South Mimms.	£5,000
St Albans & Hertsmeire Women's Refuge	The charity established in 1982 to meet the needs of all victims of domestic abuse with a person centred and holistic approach of services.	£7,400



Organisation	Organisation Summary	Amount
Home-Start Watford, Three Rivers and Hertsmere	A local community network of trained volunteers supporting families with young children through their challenging times.	£5,000
Bushey Museum and Art Gallery	The Museum & Art Gallery has a local history collection and an art collection spanning 200 years, with paintings, prints, drawings, sculptures, pottery amongst others.	£34,000
Elstree and Borehamwood Museum	The Museum evolved out of a community history project, which now dedicates its time and resources to collecting and preserving the local history of Elstree and Borehamwood.	£10,550
Potters Bar Historical Society	Potters Bar Historical Society and Museum tells the story of the growth of Potters Bar from a small village to the present day town.	£1,150
Radlett and District Museum	The museum is a local history resource, offering displays of local photos, documents, maps and artefacts, as well as regular themed exhibitions.	£3,000

Table 1 showing the list of organisations supported through the Partnerships Agreements

Community Grants

The Community Grant scheme for 2023/24 supported our aims that ‘Hertsmere has a Strong Identity’ and that ‘Hertsmere is Inclusive, Equitable and Just’. Applications for funding of up to £3,000 from voluntary and community groups were encouraged to apply to support initiatives which celebrate our diverse communities and promote inclusion.

In total, 25 applicants were awarded a total of £51,426, which covered a wide variety of different projects.

List of projects supported through the Community Grant Scheme

Organisation	Project Summary	Amount
64th Bushey Scouts	Fund various camping equipment to support the group to continue to run camping activities throughout the year.	£500
7th Borehamwood Scouts	Funding towards the cost of emergency access paths which are in need of repair following the hot weather in 2022.	£500
Activate	Support the purchase of a light for outside sessions over winter.	£1,000
Borehamwood 2000	Supporting female football, including a new U8 team and female coaches to achieve their FA badges. Will also fund floodlit training in the winter months.	£2,250
Borehamwood & Elstree Synagogue	To help fund 10 Meet and Munch sessions which is a tea party / social for older people in the community.	£3,000
Borehamwood Foodbank	School clothing for clients.	£3,000
Borehamwood Indian Cultural Society	Funding to support the Diwali Celebration in Borehamwood.	£1,000
Borehamwood Youth Football Club	Funding for winter training.	£2,250
Bushey Festival	Funding towards the running of the 2023/24 Festival.	£1,000
Camp Unity	30 July to 4 August, host an overnight, residential camp in the Elstree/Borehamwood area for up to 50 children.	£1,500

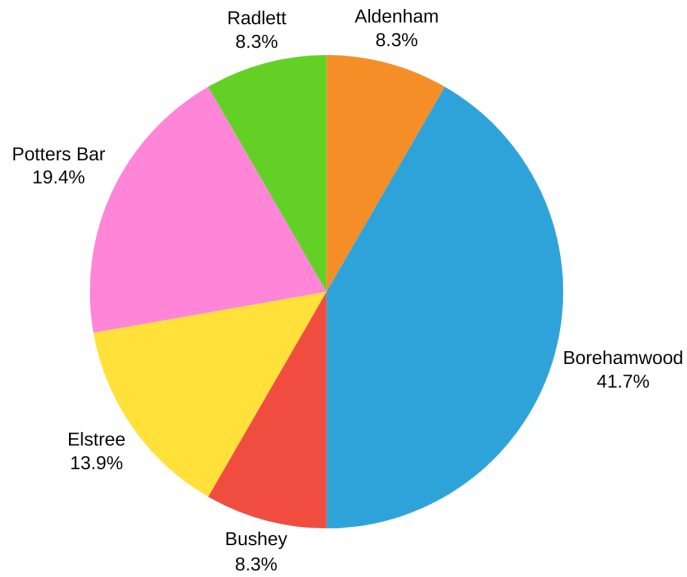


Organisation	Project Summary	Amount
Carers in Herts	Funding for our 2 peer led unpaid carer support hubs in Borehamwood and Potters Bar, covering the costs for 6 months.	*£3,000
Churches Together in Radlett & Aldenham	Funding to provide 3 fortnightly (double sized) hampers during the summer holidays, 1 week at Autumn half term and 2 weeks at Christmas.	£1,750
Citizens Advice	Funding to pay for an expert caseworker 1 morning a week for a year to assist clients to complete the disability application forms.	£3,000
Elstree & Borehamwood Unity Network	Funding the Elstree and Borehamwood Annual Diversity Festival.	£1,500
HIT	To support disabled and disadvantaged young people in Borehamwood to take part in and achieve an Arts Award qualification delivered via weekly theatre workshop.	*£3,000
Home-Start Watford, Three Rivers & Hertsmere	To support the family group at Aberford Community Centre.	*£3,000
Langdon Foundation	Funding for a year's worth of weekly after school clubs for 12 Jewish children who are Herts residents with learning disabilities and autism running at the Liberal Synagogue Elstree.	£3,000
Learning Through the Arts	Funding for 8 sessions of 'The Spirit of Africa' children and family cultural activities in Borehamwood as part of Black History month in October 2023.	*£3,000
Mayfair Lodge Fundraising Friends	Building a path for disabled access to the tea room and provide fixed bench seating outdoors suitable for people with disabilities. Additional funds put towards soft furnishing inside tea room.	£3,000
Mount Grace School	Funding for an Equality and Diversity Day at Mount Grace School.	£1,600
Potters Bar United Football Club	Funding for girls football and an expanded girls tournament in summer 24. Funding will be used to support hiring of 3g pitches and to expand the tournament and pay for better promotion.	£2,250
St Michaels & All Angels	Funding to support 1 hot meal a week.	£1,000
SRMD UK	To host a Diwali event at the London Spiritual Centre, Falconer Road, Bushey.	£2,250
Strive	Funding will support the Hub meetings to continue.	£1,250
Zenith Trampoline Club	To work with Mount Grace School to provide trampolining sessions for pupils aged 14-16.	*£2,826
Total	*£11,826 additional funding through UKSPF & Partnership Agreements	*£51,426

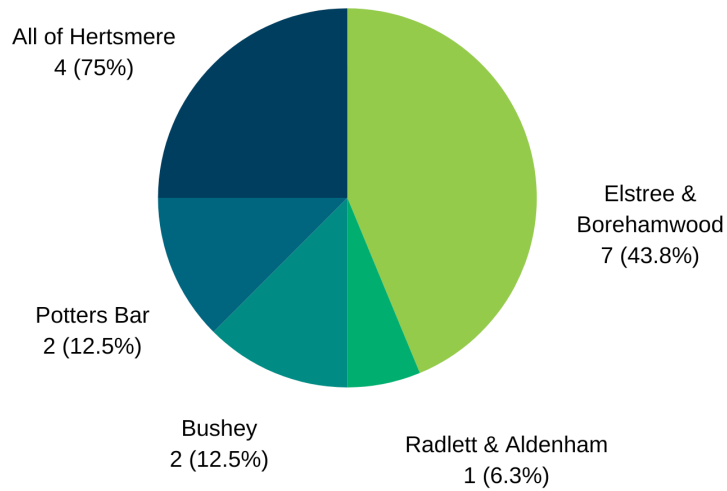
Table 2 shows the list of projects supported by the Community Grant Scheme



Below is a pie chart showing the breakdown of applications based on the area of Hertsmere it supported. Comparing this to the data from last year, it shows a more equal spread of applications, with more applications supporting Radlett, Aldenham and Bushey communities.



Pie Chart 1 - Shows the breakdown of applications based on the area of Hertsmere it supported in 2023/24

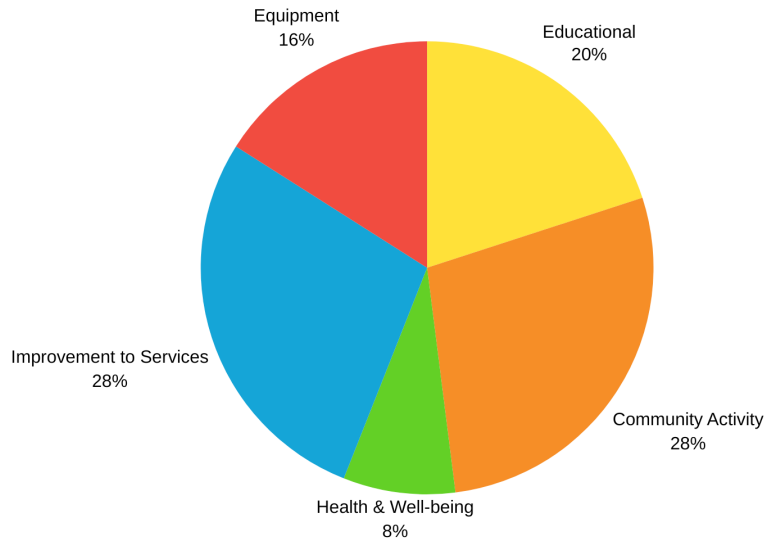


Pie Chart 2 - Shows the breakdown of applications based on the area of Hertsmere it supported in the last financial year (2022/23)

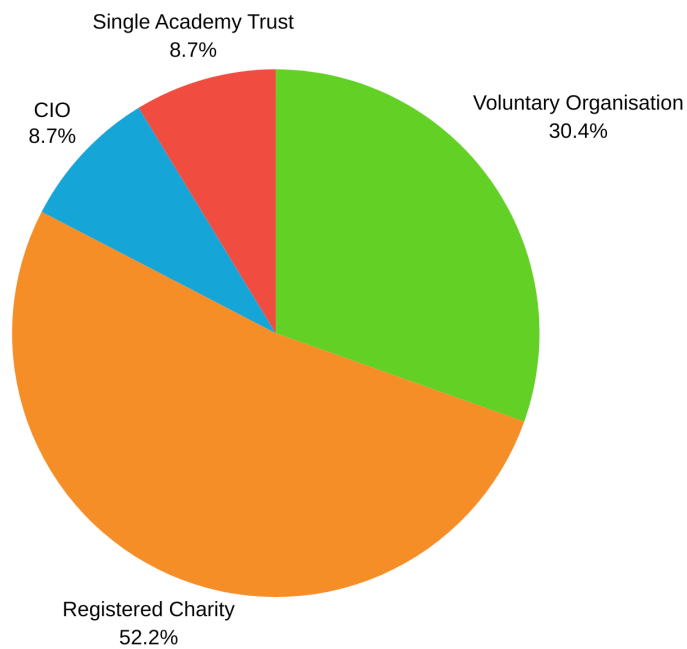


The two pie charts below show the 25 applications broken down into different themes.

Pie Chart 3 shows a relatively equal spread of applications supporting various projects within the borough.



Pie Chart 3 – Shows the breakdown of applications based on the type of the project the application supported



Pie Chart 4 – Shows the breakdown of applications based on the type of organisation that applied



Community Grants Case Studies

Below are three case studies of projects funded through the Community Grant Scheme this financial year. They each go into detail regarding the projects they supported and how they benefitted the local community

1. Borehamwood and Elstree Synagogue

Borehamwood and Elstree Synagogue received £3,000 to go towards funding their 'Meet and Munch' sessions. It is a community project that is organised for older people within their community in order to socialise. Many of their older members struggle with the cost of living, as well as loneliness, so having a warm space in which people can have a cup of tea, sandwiches and cakes, as well as the opportunity to talk to others in the community, has been beneficial for both their physical and mental well-being. From September to November, the group was able to find volunteers to provide entertainment and talks free of charge, meaning that the funds could be used to extend the sessions and activities up until July 2024.

Alongside this, another project called JOY (Joining Young and Old), restarted in January 2024. This allows the children from Gila Nursery (which is based in the same site as the Synagogue) to be paired up with a member of the 'Meet and Munch' sessions in the community hall. Together they sing songs and participate in arts and craft activities. Each month, each child is paired up with the same adult so that they can develop a connection and special relationship.

One individual who regularly attends these sessions said "Thank you so much for enabling so many of us to enjoy the most delightful afternoon. The session with the children was an absolute 'joy'. I loved it! I had no experience of engaging with such young people. It was so well organised, and the activities with the children were satisfying and productive. And of course, Meet and Munch is always a pleasant social occasion, with the bonus of delicious refreshments."



'Figures 1–4 show images taken at Elstree and Borehamwood Synagogue's JOY even

2. Bushey Festival

To help fund the annual event, Bushey Festival received £1,000 to go towards the cost of the 2023 festival. Specifically, the funding covered: website and domain fees, additional decorations for the village tree, purchasing a new card machine for events, performer's expenses for the Christmas Market and Bushey Music Crawl, printing flyer ad posters for the above events, as well as the deposit for the sound and stage company for the 2024 Festival in the Park.

The festival not only provides free music and entertainment to all that attend, but also provides a platform for the local community groups to participate in and raise their profiles, reach more individuals and encourage volunteering. A perfect example of this is from Bushey Bowling Club, who reported that they increased their membership numbers, following their participation in the festival, with many who attended commenting that they were unaware that the club existed until they had seen the festival publications.

The organisers of the event encourage all local groups, charities, faith and community organisations to get involved in either one of two ways. They can either run their own event, in which the festival can support through their promotional events and material, or they can join the festival in the park by performing, taking a community stall or providing a demonstration.



After the event took place, the Committee held a review meeting and collected feedback from stallholders, performers and community event organisers. Overall, the positive feedback showed that the Festival was a very successful event. One thing to note is that there was a greater variety of community events compared to previous years and all had high attendance also. 'My Yard', who were one of the many local charities who had a stall at the festival, reported that they had a very good response to their information stall and over 30 people expressed an interest in volunteering with them.



Figures 5-7 show images taken at Bushey Festival

3. Carers in Herts

Carers In Herts were awarded £3,000 to fund 2 peer led unpaid carer support hubs in Borehamwood and Potters Bar, covering the costs for 6 months.

During this time they have provided 6 carer support group sessions in Borehamwood and 5 in the Potters Bar Hub. The carers were treated to tea, coffee and biscuits, whilst being invited to take part in a range of activities to help support them in the caring role or to promote their well-being.

The Hub in Borehamwood provided carers with the opportunity to take part in First Aid Awareness training, have interactive sessions on how to prevent falls and how to deal with situations where others have fallen, and visited twice by Carer Support Advisors offering 1-1, face-to-face support for any concerns they have with their caring role.

The Potters Bar Hub has welcomed the Spot the Signs campaign, which is an interactive session about suicide awareness and the prevention campaign led by Herts Mind specialists. It aims to remove the stigma of talking openly about suicide and mental health and provides training and sign-posting to mental health services across Hertfordshire. The carers also enjoyed a session on 'Balancing Life and Caring', had an informative visit for Hertfordshire Independent Living Service to sample their meals and heard about the services they can provide as well as been visited twice by Carer Support Advisors offering 1-1 face-to-face support for any concerns they have with their caring role.

Heading into 2024 Carers in Herts have been able to plan in advance and book additional activities for the groups. These currently include 'Molyfit', which is an active ageing advice and exercise session, and 'PoetsIN' workshop, looking at how creative techniques can help support mental wellbeing. And lastly, a Nutrition talk about the benefits of a healthy diet, as well as discussing how things can change as we get older and how malnutrition can lead to certain health problems, including falls and depression.

As a result of this project, the relationships that have formed between attendees within the Potters Bar group have led to informal social get-togethers over lunchtimes once a month, between meetings.



Figure 8 Carers in Herts



Ward Improvement Initiative Scheme (WIIS)

The Ward Improvement Initiative Scheme (most commonly known as WIIS) gives each of our 39 Councillors £750 which they can allocate to organisations supporting communities in their wards.

In the financial year 2023-2024, a total of 41 organisations received funding through this small grant scheme. A total of £25,595 was spent on a variety of different projects and programmes in the borough.

Below is the breakdown of all of the projects funded through WIIS:

Ward	Recipient	Initiative Title	Total
Aldenham East	Friends of Newberries School	Replacement Shed	£875
Aldenham East	Tabard Rugby FC	Radlett Fireworks display	£100
Aldenham East	Aldenham Parish Council	Purchase of community defibrillator	£914
Aldenham West	Teepee Productions CIC	Solo show 'Fluff' and cost of projector and card machine	£222
Aldenham West	Aldenham Renaissance	Equipment for SEND Pavilion & playground at Aldenham Country Park	£1,685
Borehamwood Brookmeadow	Borehamwood Indian Cultural Society	Eid Celebration Dinner	£300
Borehamwood Brookmeadow	Borehamwood Indian Cultural Society	Developing a social club for amateur cricket players	£450
Borehamwood Brookmeadow	Borehamwood Youth FC	Purchasing a VEO camera	£200
Borehamwood Brookmeadow	Shizentai Judo Club	Purchasing of medals	£750
Borehamwood Cowley Hill	1372 Elstree & Borehamwood Air Cadets	Funding new computers and a projector	£300
Borehamwood Cowley Hill	Elstree and Borehamwood Unity Network	Annual Diversity Festival	£900
Borehamwood Cowley Hill	Inspire All	Back2Bowls sessions	£200
Borehamwood Cowley Hill	HBC – Street Scene	Replacement of bench in Bushey High Street	£573
Borehamwood Cowley Hill	WD6 Food Support	Purchasing a refrigerated van	£1,100
Borehamwood Hillside	Learning Through the Arts	Supporting Black History Month event at Cranborne Multipurpose Day Service	£750
Borehamwood Kenilworth	Saffron Green Primary School	School trip to Bhaktivedanta Manor	£300
Borehamwood Kenilworth	Shoshana Burns School of Dance	Dance tuition for two students in local area	£750
Bushey Heath	1st Bushey Scouts	Replacement of mess tent	£279



Ward	Recipient	Initiative Title	Total
Bushey Heath	Warren Estates Residents Association	Bushey Performing Arts Festival	£1,050
Bushey North	Bushey Bowling Club	Purchasing bowling aids for members	£345
Bushey North	WSHA Kurdish Supplementary School	Childrens play equipment and adult outdoor fitness	£200
Bushey North	79th Bushey & Oxhey Scout Group	Carry put building survey for refurbishment of meeting place	£500
Bushey Park	Ashfield Junior School	Road safety banners	£377
Bushey Park	Bushey Festival	Promotion of festival	£1,525
Bushey Park	Bushey Festival Association	Purchase of Christmas Tree & lights	£405
Bushey Park	Friends of King George	Purchase a new gazebo	£250
Bushey St James	64th Bushey Scouts	Purchasing tents for growing number of members	£250
Bushey St James	64th Bushey Scouts	Refurbishment of meeting place	£490
Bushey St James	Pandav Vidhya Shala	Holi Event held in March 2024	£231
Bushey St James	Red Trust Bushey	Develop the after school club	£510
Elstree	Camp Unity	5th Camp Unity Programme	£750
Elstree	Hertsmeire Mencap	Christmas Party	£950
Elstree	Hertsmeire Mencap	Start-up soft play sessions in Potters Bar	£1757.50
Elstree	Hertsmeire Mencap	Arrange a day trip for members in Autumn 2024	£250
Elstree	The Langdon Foundation	School workshops on social communication to Jewish Hertsmeire Primary Schools	£839
Elstree	Hertsmeire Mencap	Start-up of soft play sessions in Potters Bar	£1,758
Potters Bar	Potters Bar Choral Society	Cost of holding concerts	£400
Potters Bar Oakmere	Friends of Parkfield Medical Centre PPG	Chatter Tables at the Wyllyotts Café	£501
Potters Bar Oakmere	Friends of Parkfield Medical Centre PPG	Purchasing new parts for community defibrillator	£300
Potters Bar Oakmere	Royal British Legion	Children's Remembrance Parade	£741.50
Shenley	Shenley Village Cricket Club	Outdoor & indoor practice facilities with qualified supervision	£1,475
Shenley	Borehamwood 2000 FC	Clubhouse renovation plans	£850
TOTAL:			£25,595

Table 3 shows a summary of the WIIS applications



Ward Improvement Initiative Scheme (WIIS) Case Studies

Below are three case studies of projects funded through the Ward Improvement Initiative Scheme. They each go into detail regarding how the funding was used to support their local community.

1. Friends of Newberries School

Friends of Newberries School received funding through our Ward Improvement Initiative Scheme to replace the school shed as the previous one had been infested with rodents. The new shed has increased internal space and is more accessible due to new doors that were purchased.

The shed is used to store various items and equipment used for fundraising activities run by the school. These include things such as second hand uniform and items for both the Summer and Winter Fairs. This supports Hertsmeres' commitments to reducing waste, reusing for longer and recycling as much as we can, where possible. The shed also contains a freezer for ice creams, for the students on Frozen Fridays.



Figure 9 shows pupils of Newberries School in front of the new shed

The two fairs that take place in the year are inclusive community events, promoting Hertsmeres' commitment of supporting inclusive communities. The events are open to all and well attended by the local community in and around Radlett and Shenley.

2. Friends of Parkfield Medical Centre



Figure 10 shows the defibrillator pads purchased with the WIIS funding

Friends of Parkfield Medical Centre purchased a public access defibrillator, which is located on the wall of St Mary's Church Hall at the top of the Walk in Potters Bar. They are responsible for the management and maintenance of the equipment to keep it in working order for the community of Potters Bar, for the times it may be used in emergency situations. Due to this ongoing commitment of responsibility, through the WIIS, the costs for replacing the pads and the battery were covered to ensure that the defibrillator is still useable for the people of Potters Bar.

The defibrillator is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and accessible to all. It is registered on The Circuit, which is the national defibrillator network, and the East of England Ambulance Service will advise callers from NHS or 999 to access it in an emergency.



3. Inspire All Back 2 Bowls

One of the many applications we supported through the Ward Improvement Initiative Scheme was an application made by Inspire All, supporting the Back2Bowls sessions that takes place at Aberford Community Centre in Cowley Hill on Wednesdays between 1pm and 3pm. Alongside playing bowls, residents receive free refreshments and a chance to sit down to talk and catch-up with one and other. The sessions take place both indoors, during the colder months, and outdoors on the bowling green in the warmer months.

The project has been running since summer 2022 and now consists of a regular group of attendees. During the peak times of the year, the group can see up to 30 people attending the sessions. Residents are able to get more active and socialise with each other, forming new relationships and improving both their mental and physical well-being.

The WIIS funding allowed for a facilitator for seven weeks who helps run the sessions, sets the equipment up, packs everything away, oversees the register and provides refreshments to everyone. Not only does the facilitator arrange the weekly session, but they have also become a trusted individual to the group, checking in with the residents to see how their week has been and if they have any concerns or problems. They are able to signpost them to the relevant organisations/agencies should residents need any additional support.

With the extra funding, the residents have continued to access the bowls sessions, even during the winter sessions, making good use of the indoor bowls mats. The feedback from the residents express how positive the sessions have been on their physical and mental health highlighting the importance of the project to the local community.



Figure 11 Back2Bowls Image 1



Figure 12 Back2Bowls Image 2





The King's Coronation Celebration Grants

In May 2023, we saw the Coronation of King Charles III. To support this celebration, Hertsmeire Borough Council enabled organisations to apply for up to £500 of funding to host events on or around the weekend of 6th – 8th May.

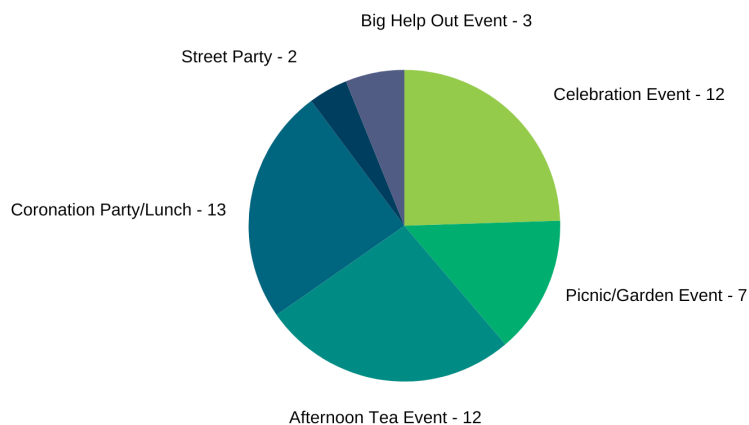
We had a total of 49 applications made, totalling £22,793 spent on supporting the local community to celebrate the King's start as our Reigning Monarch.

Organisation	Project Summary	Amount
64th Bushey & Oxhey Scouts	Big Help Out - improving Scout Hut and environment.	£500
Aldenham Parish Council	Community celebration event.	£500
BEEE Creative	Run a day of 'pop-up' dance workshops as part of the Big Help Out.	£380
BICAH	Celebration event.	£400
Borehamwood Seniors	Celebration party with entertainment and food.	£500
Borehamwood Women's Institute	Tea party for members.	£308
Borehamwood Youth FC	Celebration party for all teams and their parents.	£500
Bushey United Synagogue	Afternoon tea celebration for c.3/400 residents.	£500
Clore Shalom School	Street party for pupils, staff and parents.	£500
DR96	Celebration party for friends and the wider community.	£500
Friends of Care Homes	Celebration party and cost of extra mini-bus for event.	£500
Friends of King George Bushey	Community celebration event.	£500
Friends of Longwood	King Coronation Party.	£500
Fulton Court Senior Citizens Club	Afternoon Tea Party for 40-60 residents.	£500
Goodlinks	Street party for surrounding community.	£425
Herne Court: Home Group Ltd	Coronation celebration events.	£500
Hertsmeire Mencap	Celebration party for 40-50 members.	£500
Hertswood Academy	Picnic/afternoon tea for students.	£500
Housing 21	Celebration party for residents and their friends, family and wider community.	£350
Kenilworth Primary School	Summer Coronation Garden Party.	£500
Moat View Court Residents Association	Coronation party for residents and family members.	£400
MeadowCroft	Memorabilia keepsake for residents.	£500
Monday Club	Coronation party for friends and the wider community.	£500
Pandav Vidhya Shala	Garden party to celebrate the Coronation.	£500
Parkside Community Primary School	Garden party for pupils, staff and parents.	£500
Potters Bar Baptist Church	Coronation afternoon tea party.	£500
Red Trust Bushey	Coronation Big Lunch for community.	£500
Royal British Legion Services Club	Indoor street party with members and extended family.	£500
Royal Connaught Park RA – PHASE 1	Afternoon Tea for c.75 residents.	£500



Organisation	Project Summary	Amount
Royal Connaught Park RA – PHASE 2	Afternoon Tea for c.75 residents.	£500
Redeemed Christian Church New Life Assembly, Borehamwood	Coronation Big Lunch.	£500
Saffron Green Primary School	Afternoon Tea party for children and their families.	£500
Shenley Parish Council	Afternoon Picnic event.	£500
Sixty Plus Potters Bar and South Mimms	Celebration party with entertainment, tea and cake.	£130
South Mimms Village Hall	Village celebration held in/on the village hall/green.	£500
SRMD (Shrimad Rajchandra Mission UK)	Volunteering day creating gift packs for National Children's Day.	£500
St Andrews Methodist Church Bushey	'Coronation Breakfast Church' event.	£440
St James' Church Tower Appeal	Coronation Lunch for residents.	£500
St Johns Methodist Church	Lunch and entertainment at weekly warm spaces.	£380
St Marys Potters Bar	Tea party celebration.	£400
St Michaels & All Angels	Coronation tea party.	£180
Studios Rotary Club	Community coronation party.	£500
Tuesday Club and Borehamwood Dementia Club	Coronation party for friends and the wider community.	£500
Visually Impaired Club	Coronation party for friends and the wider community.	£500
West Herts Hospital Charity	Decoration and televisions installed in wards.	£500
Woodcock Hill Village Green	Coronation party for the community.	£500
Woodlands Primary School	Outdoor tea party.	£500
Wroxham School Friends Association	Family Coronation Picnic for family and friends.	£500
WHY	Picnic at King George Park for whole community.	£500
Total		£22,793

Table 4 shows the list of organisations supported through the Coronation grants, along with a summary of the project and how much was awarded



Pie Chart 5 - Shows the Coronation grants broken down through type of celebration event



Figure 13 - Shows a celebration cake from the Coronation weekend



Figure 14- Shows children participating in school celebration events



Figure 15 - Shows the local school children taking part in activities



Figure 16 - Shows the Mayor at the time joining in on the celebration events

Climate Action Community Grant

In 2023/24, we have had 2 successful bids for the £500 Climate Action Community Grant.

They are as follows:

1. Inspire All applied for funding to purchase reusable cups. The project was agreed and funding was given.
2. Potters Bar Town FC applied for funding to go towards the cost of their new flood lighting. It was agreed and funding given.

The Fund remains open to bids - [Climate Action Community Grant](#) - Hertsmeire Borough Council



Hertsmeremore Community Lottery

The Hertsmeremore Community Lottery is an online sustainable fundraising solution designed to help local not-for profits to diversify their fundraising streams and enable year-round fundraising in a safe, fun and effective way. It operates on the principle of raising money within the community for the community. In a time of shrinking budgets and increased community need, Hertsmeremore Community lottery enables people to support the causes they care most about, helping Good Causes to connect with their supporters.

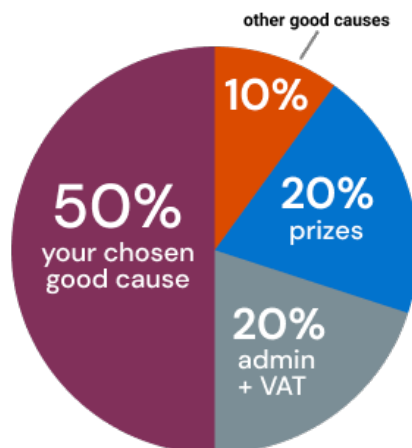
The Lottery has been running for just over 2 years (it was established in December 2021) and has raised £23,120.40 for Good Causes. Since its launch, £2,875.00 has been won by supporters in the weekly prize draws.

To celebrate its first birthday, in 2022, an additional £250 prize draw took place for any Good Causes who were signed up before December 18th 2022. The winner was Belstone Football Club.

This year, to celebrate the lottery's second birthday, we ran the same campaign again, encouraging new local organisations to sign up and register to become a Good Cause. This time round, the prize draw was £300 and was awarded to a newly registered Good Cause, Borehamwood Youth Football Club. They said that the prize money will 'help with the education of our coaches and players, provide a resource to further ensure the children's welfare whilst playing football and improve team performance'.

The lottery also holds monthly 'Super Draws' that are aimed at supporters to further incentivise ticket purchasing. On top of being in with a chance of winning £25,000 weekly, the last Saturday of each month is the 'Super Prize' draw which is another chance for supporters to 'win big'. Examples of previous Super Draw prizes include, £1,000 John Lewis gift card, £1,500 Ikea gift card and a MacBook Air.

One ticket costs £1 and below is a pie chart showing how the money is spent in each £1.



The lottery has also taken a different approach this year in utilising the social media accounts and sharing information and success stories of registered Good Causes to raise awareness of the work they do in our communities. By doing this, it allows our organisations to raise their profile in the areas and reach a wider audience that they may not have been able to access before.

The added benefit of sharing our Good Causes information on the lottery social media channels, is that the additional audience reach can lead to an increased number of supporters and Good Causes signing up to be part of the Community Lottery. This in turn supports the local community in both fundraising and awareness.



List of current Live Good Causes		
1st Elstree & Borehamwood Scout Group	Gratitude	Radlett Lawn Tennis & Squash Club
Belstone Football Club	Green Connections CIC	Rape Crisis South West Herts/TA Juno Herts
Borehamwood 2000 FC	Hertfordshire Showband	SAHWR
Borehamwood Foodbank	Herts Youth Inclusive Football	Sebby's Corner
Borehamwood Youth FC	Hertsmeres Mencap	Silverbirch Dance Company
Carers in Hertfordshire	Hertswood Academy	The Golf Trust
Cecil's Horse Sanctuary	Home-Start Watford, Three Rivers & Hertsmeres	The Monday Club
Citizens Advice Hertsmeres	HSO – Herts Schools Outreach	Tuesday (Dementia) Club
Comfort Cases UK	Mount Grace School	Up Community
DR96	Nice 2 Meet Ya	Visually Impaired Club
Friends of Monkmead Parents Association	Park Events	Watford Sheltered Workshop
Friends of St Teresa's Catholic Primary School	Potters Bar Crusaders Sports & Social Club	Woodcock Hill Village Green
Shopmobility	Potters Bar Cycling Club	Zenith Trampoline Club
	Potters Bar United Football Club	

Table 5 shows a list of the Community Lottery's current Live Good Causes

The table above shows our current list of live Good Causes we have on our lottery site. We have a range of different organisations signed up.

Hertsmeres Community Lottery Case Studies

Below are three case studies of local organisations/Good Causes funded through the Hertsmeres Community Lottery. They each go into detail regarding the projects they have run this year and how being part of the community lottery has had a positive impact on their work in the local community.

1. Citizens Advice Hertsmeres

Citizens Advice Hertsmeres, joined the lottery in October 2022 and since then have raised just under £900. When asked about what being part of the community lottery means to them and how supporters are helping making a difference, here is what they had to say:



"Being part of the Hertsmeres Lottery has meant that we have that extra funding to enable us to help people in dire situations. We can offer a food voucher, but what if the foodbank is a bus ride away and there is no money to pay for it? What if our client has a hearing for a disability benefit award and needs to get to the hearing, but is disabled and can't afford transport? What if someone has a job interview and then can't afford the suit in the charity shop to be able to look smart? We give advice to people and help give them that first step up to enable them to move forward. It's heart-warming to get responses from clients like the ones below:

- 'Citizens Advice gave me a fresh start'



- 'I can afford a few treats at Christmas when I thought my children would have nothing'
- 'I am debt-free for the first time in 5 years – thank you Citizens Advice – you are fabulous'

Thank you to all our donors who help make our work possible.”

2. Watford Sheltered Workshop

Watford Sheltered Workshop LTD has been part of the lottery since November 2021 and has raised over £2,000. When looking back on all their achievements for the past year and how supporters have helped them continue their work, here is what they had to say:



“Watford Workshop has had a terrific year – and we have our supporters to thank for that! Transition into adulthood can be incredibly challenging if you have a disability. The support network people once had throughout their education is no longer there; and many will struggle to find jobs, develop their skills and fill their days with productive and social activity as a result – and that is where we come in. For almost sixty years we have had the pleasure of providing paid employment, work



Figure 17 Watford Sheltered Workshop Image

experience, functional education training and life skills training to adults with disabilities who may otherwise lead a life of isolation, inactivity and total dependence on others. Someone once said to us “You stop people from falling through the cracks” and we seek to achieve this for as many as we can. We have been fortunate enough to welcome several new service users in 2023 who continue to make massive steps towards improved living. People choosing to back our Cause through Hertsmere Community Lottery are certainly helping us towards maintaining and growing our unique provision of employment and training opportunities for adults with disabilities and that is truly amazing. We are confident that 2024 will be another great success thanks to them!”

3. Up Community

One of our newer members of the lottery who joined back in July 2023 is called Up Community. They may have only been live for less than a year but their annualised revenue is currently at £312. Up Community are the “only local charity that hosts monthly stay and play groups for neurodiverse children” and being part of the Hertsmere Community Lottery “has been a huge part in helping make this happen”.



“Our playgroups are there for neurodiverse children to socialise and play in a safe and non-judgemental environment and that includes hiring venues, hiring bouncy castles and having sensory toys and equipment that help support sensory integration through play. The funds we receive from Hertsmere Community Lottery allow us to continue to provide these much needed playgroups in our local community that not only hugely help the children, but also the parents and carers as well”.



Figure 18 shows an Up Community playgroup session in action



Figure 19 shows a collection of images of the play equipment available at the sessions



UK Shared Prosperity Fund?

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is fundamentally about levelling up opportunity and prosperity, as well as overcoming deep-seated geographical inequalities (Gov UK, 2023). It is a £2.6 billion project for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the fund via a funding formula rather than a competition (Gov UK, 2023).

The aims of the fund are as stated below support the delivery of the primary goal, which is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK (Gov UK, 2023).

- Boost productivity, pay jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging;
- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest;
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost;
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.

The Hertsmere Local Investment Plan sets out the details for how the £1,119, 638 of Hertsmere’s UKSPF allocation will be spent across the three focus areas of Communities and Place, Local Business and People and Skills.

Amount	Organisation	Overview
£50,000	Capacity Building for the Voluntary sector	Used by C1st to deliver Council for Voluntary Service support to Hertsmere Groups. Including advocacy and representation for the wider sector and support and guidance to individual organisations looking to start, grow and establish themselves in the borough.
£4,000	Open Artbox CIC	Programme of art workshops to reduce social isolation in one of the most deprived areas in Borehamwood.
£3,000	Learning Through the Arts	Community Grant.
£1,000	Herts Inclusive Theatre	Community Grant – part funded.

Table 6 shows how the UKSPF is spent

Further information on the UKSPF and the Hertsmere Local Investment Plan can be obtained by contacting Liz.gore@hertsmere.gov.uk

Open Artbox CIC Project ‘Recollections Through Art’

Through the UKSPF, we commissioned Open Artbox CIC to run a programme of art workshops for the local community in St Michaels and All Angels Church, in Cowley Hill (one of most deprived areas in Borehamwood), in partnership with Borehamwood Museum. The project was created in order to reduce social isolation and allow members of the community to connect. Sessions were themed by different aspects of local history, linked to objects in Borehamwood Museum’s collection. For example one session was based on creating puppets due to the connection of the studios and The Muppets Show with others focusing on the railway or fashion. The aim of the sessions were to allow participants to discuss their knowledge of local history in an environment that was both safe and encouraging for creative purposes and let them experiment with new forms of art media. The creative arts have always been associated with a therapeutic approach to helping people and these workshops allowed participants to express themselves through their artwork.

The target audience for this project were members of the local community in Cowley Hill who may be struggling with social isolation (particularly after the pandemic and associated lockdowns) and people who may be unable to join the sport activities for different reasons. The sessions were tailored to allow for anyone to join, whether that be someone who has never tried art or someone who has a disability, making it inclusive and accessible to all participants. Each week was based on a different aspect of local history and tried a new form of art media so that each participant would be able to try something new.

The importance of this project for the museum was to help and support the local community by using the areas local history



to spark interest in new topics and deepen participant’s knowledge on the history of the area they live in. As the workshops were based on museum artefacts and past exhibitions, this encouraged some of the participants to visit the museum itself. This created a new network of connections for the museum and increased their reach of audience. Many of the participants had never been to the museum, or had not been in a long time so the project helped the museum with engagement and footfall.

The project overall had a positive impact of the participants who attended with feedback stating that they benefitted from it and that it was an “activity which takes your mind onto something outside reality, a good distraction”. It gave those unable to participant in sport focused activities an alternative to step back into community and build confidence in an environment that values creativity. One of the aims of the project at the start was to help reduce social isolation and feedback from participants suggested that “it was great to get back into the community” and it was a “great community activity involving lots of different people”. These quotes from participants show the benefit the project had and how much they looked forward to attending each week.

At the Hertfordshire Association of Museum Awards 2024, this project won the ‘Creative Health Award’. The award ‘recognises work aimed at improving people’s quality of life either by offering activities or opportunities within the museum or by outreach in the community’.



Figure 20 shows artwork created from the model railway session



Figure 21 shows the artwork created from the local photographic industry session



Figure 22 shows more artwork created from the local photographic industry session



Figure 23 shows the HAM Creative Health Award presented to Elstree and Borehamwood Museum



Figure 24 shows a close up of the artwork created during the model railway session



Other support/Networking groups

Hertsmere Together

Hertsmere Together is the borough's Local Strategic Partnership. It represents the public, private, voluntary and community sectors in the borough. In 2023/24, the Partnership agreed a new community strategy which sets out a vision of 'working in partnership to empower our communities' and recognises that the challenges are to:

- Keep our communities healthy and well;
- Keep our communities safe;
- Build a resilient community.

The partnership works together with communities to identify solutions and initiatives to address local issues. The Health and Wellbeing Partnership, Community Safety Partnership and Food Poverty Alliance all sit under the Local Strategic Partnership.

The Hertsmere Compact is an agreement between public bodies, voluntary and community sector organisations. The agreement aims to ensure that public bodies in Hertsmere and the voluntary sector work effectively in partnership to achieve common goals and outcomes for the benefit of communities and residents in Hertsmere.

Active Hertsmere

Active Hertsmere is a community sports network, bringing together partners and local sports club with the aim to share knowledge, experience and opportunities.

Active Hertsmere met three times this financial year and has met in three different locations across the borough, Radlett, Borehamwood and Potters Bar.

These meetings provide networking opportunities for clubs and partners as well as the time to share ideas and resources. Meetings take place during the day and in the evening and on different days of the week, to ensure that different people and organisations are able to attend, increasing accessibility to attendees.

Below are a couple of quotes from Members of Active Hertsmere and how it is a beneficial service to them:

"Active Hertsmere has made a great difference to our club, from We Move She Moves, helping with grants, Happy Holidays and more. The support we have got is unmeasurable. We have had many new members through Active Herts, nothing has ever been too much trouble, and we even got to borrow a badge machine!" – Carole Charters from Zenith Trampoline Club.

"We really value the opportunity to meet with local sports clubs via the Active Hertsmere forum. As we are the local Volunteer Centre, it gives us the chance to offer support to the clubs and help make them more sustainable, while uncovering new volunteering opportunities for local people." – Robert Varney, Communities 1st.

Healthy Hubs Hertsmere

Hertsmere's Healthy Hubs are delivered in partnership with our voluntary and community sector. Working with Communities 1st and InspireAll, Hertsmere's Healthy Hubs are a one-stop shop for health and wellbeing support to residents in the borough. Healthy Hub Advocates provide a signposting service, advice and support for residents on a wide range of health and wellbeing issues, plus much more. In addition, Healthy Hub staff are able to refer in to all public health commissioned services. Our Healthy Hubs are based in community locations, which means that they are easy to access and are open through the course of the week. Hertsmere's Healthy hubs also now have a well-established series of pop up clinics, which includes locations such as Borehamwood and Bushey Foodbanks, Libraries and Coffee mornings. The Healthy Hub team can also be found at health and wellbeing events in the borough.



Appendix

Figure 1 B&E Synagogue Case Study Image 1

Figure 2 B&E Synagogue Case Study Image 2

Figure 3 B&E Synagogue Case Study Image 3

Figure 4 B&E Synagogue Case Study Image 4

Figure 5 Bushey Festival Case Study Image 1

Figure 6 Bushey Festival Case Study Image 2

Figure 7 Bushey Festival Case Study Image 3

Figure 8 Carers in Herts Case Study Image 1

Figure 9 shows pupils of Newberries School in front of the new shed

Figure 10 shows the defibrillator pads purchased with the WIIS funding

Figure 11 Back2Bowls Image 1

Figure 12 Back2Bowls Image 2

Figure 13 shows a celebration cake from the Coronation weekend

Figure 14 shows children participating in school celebration events

Figure 15 shows the local school children taking part in activities

Figure 16 shows the Mayor at the time joining in on the celebration events

Figure 17 Watford Sheltered Workshop Image

Figure 18 shows an Up Community playgroup session in action

Figure 19 shows a collection of images of the play equipment available at the sessions

Figure 20 shows artwork created from the model railway session

Figure 21 shows the artwork created from the local photographic industry session

Figure 22 shows more artwork created from the local photographic industry session

Figure 23 shows the HAM Creative Health Award presented to Elstree and Borehamwood Museum

Figure 24 shows a close up of the artwork created during the model railway session

Pie Chart 1 shows the breakdown of applications based on the area of Hertsmere it supported in 2023/24

Pie Chart 2 shows the breakdown of applications based on the area of Hertsmere it supported in the last financial year (2022/23)

Pie Chart 3 shows the breakdown of applications based on the type of the project the application supported.

Pie Chart 4 shows the breakdown of applications based on the type of organisation that applied

Pie Chart 5 shows the Coronation grants broken down through type of celebration event

Pie Chart 6 shows how a £1 ticket from the Community Lottery is spent

Table 1 showing the list of organisations supported through the Partnerships Agreements

Table 2 shows the list of projects supported by the Community Grant Scheme

Table 3 shows a summary of the WIIS applications

Table 4 shows the list of organisations supported through the Coronation grants, along with a summary of the project and how much was awarded

Table 5 shows a list of the Community Lottery's current Live Causes

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