

Councillor Maggie Sutton,
Portfolio Holder for Communities
Report for Council 23 April 2024

Grants and community development:

Community Grants:

As part of the voluntary organisation support grant making process the council is pleased to award grants to 11 organisations to support community projects and initiatives that further the council's Corporate Plan. In addition to these grants four further organisations were supported through returned funds from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. All grants have been awarded and organisations are in the process of mobilizing projects and activities. A total of £335,190 has been allocated towards these good causes.

Funding will be open shortly to support community buildings, sports organisations and play areas.

Ward Members Initiatives Grant:

Last year over 125 grant awards were made through the Ward Members Initiatives fund. Councillors have a further £2,000 to spend within their wards. It is highly recommended that you consider funding projects within your ward which align to the Council's Corporate Plan pledge of protecting and enhancing our environment which take action on climate change and conserve and enhance the quality and diversity of the district's natural habitat and wildlife. Consider low carbon high nature in all projects you fund.

Takeley:

The team continue to support the establishment of Takeley Youth Club with the aim of it becoming long term sustainably run by volunteers. It is currently running monthly third Thursday of the month. The team also continue to support the Sports Field working group to upgrade facilities for community use [Funded by UDC grant].

The team continue to support the integration of Touchpoint Food Share with Community Café and introduction of Together in Sound Project.

Youth:

The team are working to identify and apply for match funding for youth projects working with Essex County Council and other funders. The team are working with SW County High School on 2nd visit of Student Voice pupils to Uttlesford District Council to scope a climate change and or transport project.

The team are following up Mental Health Project at Helena Romanes school and meeting with Business Development and ECC to explore possibilities to develop local apprenticeship opportunities.

Homes for Ukraine:

The Homes for Ukraine project group oversees the allocation of individual support grants and community grants. Since their launch in November 2023 the group have allocated 61 grants at a total cost of £24,391.

| Grant | number of successful applications | Total grant awarded |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Community grants | 3 | £1038 |
| Individual Support grants Household-Relocation | 25 | £15,918 |
| Individual Support Grants Emergency (all heating related) | 3 | £900 |
| Individual Support Grants Integration | 26 | £4969 |
| Individual Support Grants Transport | 4 | £1,564 |
| TOTAL | 61 | £24,391 |

Additionally, the Homes for Ukraine Project Group has developed two proposals (which are on the agenda for Cabinet) to develop competitive grants to support both those eligible under the Homes for Ukraine scheme alongside asylum seekers. The grants proposed are to deliver the following services;

- 1. Emotional wellbeing and mental health – grants up to £70,000 per annum (£50,000 Homes for Ukraine and £20,000 Asylum Dispersal Grant)**
- 2. Information, advice and guidance about a range of topics including access to housing, welfare benefits, employment, education and training with proactive in reach into communities and ongoing support – up to £70,000 per annum (£50,000 Homes for Ukraine and £20,000 Asylum Dispersal Grant)**
- 3. Organised activities for children and young people and families (weekends, evenings and holiday periods) -up to £25,000 per annum (£15,000 Homes for Ukraine and £10,000 Asylum Dispersal Grant)**
- 4. Individual grants fund to asylum seeking communities £25,000 – Asylum Dispersal Grant** to support with adhoc funding requests and support to move into and furnish accommodation for a maximum of £1,500 per family. (Please note this scheme is already in place for those eligible under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.)

Additionally, the second Cabinet Paper makes proposals for a **housing offer for Ukrainian nationals** which comprises of a rent assist offer (deposit, 6 week's rent in advance and a council guarantee to fund the rent for the duration of the tenancy should the tenant defect) to

support Ukrainian guests to move into private rental properties. Also the paper proposes to use some of the Homes for Ukraine funds to act as a dedicated fund to bridge the gap between local housing allowance and market value rent.

Community Safety Report April 2024:

Thursday 29th February 2024 saw the launch of the Social Outreach Service Space (S.O.S. Space) organised by partners of the Uttlesford Community Safety Hub

It's ok to ask for help

SOS
Space

Social Outreach Service

Cost of Living Mental Health housing Addiction

Find us between 10am - 2pm at the
Saffron Walden Community Link ,
1A Market Street Saffron Walden CB 10 1HX

on the **LAST THURSDAY** of EACH MONTH
commencing **THURSDAY 29TH FEBRUARY 2024**

A collection of charities and organisations are working together in Uttlesford to help support people that are homeless, or are at risk of homelessness, and people affected by the criminal justice system with health, wellbeing and accommodation outcomes.



This space allows for residents to conduct face to face meetings with a variety of agencies for support with mental health, housing needs, substance dependence and cost of living.

It is open on the last Thursday of each month 10-2pm at Saffron Community Link 1a, Market Street Saffron Walden CB10 1HX

The Hub asks for members to promote wherever possible and amongst parishes.

March saw the review of the Uttlesford Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS)

It has been agreed that Enforcement officers continue to use their additional accredited powers for the next 12 months, authorised by the Chief Constable at Essex Police assisting in joint partnership operations where required.

The Community Safety Hub was asked to promote the Community Payback Scheme

Community Payback is where offenders work on projects to pay back the community for their crimes, for example by:

- removing graffiti
- clearing wasteland
- improving and decorating a public place or building, like a community centre
- repainting communal areas
- making pathways accessible
- clearing alleys
- doing grounds maintenance and gardening
- planting trees
- picking litter

The work must:

- benefit the local community
- not take paid work away from others
- not make a profit for anyone

Whilst this round has now closed for nominations, Members are asked to consider areas that may be of benefit for future rounds

The Community Safety Partnership is utilising the Jubilee Hub to promote their Stay Safe, Stay Well project. Drop in sessions are available on the below dates to obtain key safety advice on staying well and safe 10-12pm

A poster is currently being developed, which can be shared amongst members again to assist in the promotion of the project.

| | |
|------------|--------------------|
| 16th April | NHW & Watch Groups |
| 23rd April | Water Safety |
| 30th April | Citizen Advice |
| 7th May | Local Crime |
| 14th May | Smoke Alarms |
| 21st May | Hate Crime |
| 28th May | Next Chapter |

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 4 th June | Crime Stoppers |
| 18 th June | Rural Crime |
| 25 th June | Safe in the home |

The Community Safety Partnership is working with Crimestoppers to develop a Crimestoppers Zone within the area of Great Dunmow -here [CM6.cdr \(dor2dor.co.uk\)](http://CM6.cdr (dor2dor.co.uk))

This zone aims to increase the reporting of crimes, and the quality of the intelligence gained. It will specifically target the area above and the partnership is working with GDTC to launch this on Wednesday 8th May 2024.

Last week saw the Community Safety Partnership assist Homegroup Housing Association, in obtaining a partial closure notice for a property causing ASB. This is Uttlesford's first partial closure notice and will be reported more widely in the press once details are finalised.

The Community Safety Partnership received £6300 as part of Op Minerva funding. Op Minerva identified zones and required the partnership to conduct projects to tackle the causes of violence against women and girls. The Minerva Zone identified was Great Dunmow, and discussions are taking place with HRS to commission TicBox Theatre to deliver their Stronger Together theatre production , exploring misogyny and sexism with an aim to create a safe community for all. As part of this project it is hoped that 30 ambassadors within the school will be created , allowing for culture change within the school.