



NOTICE OF ITEM(S) OF BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

Date when item(s) to be considered:	Wednesday, 19 AUGUST 2026
Name of Individual Executive Councillors who will consider the items:	Councillors D Mickelburgh and L Davenport-Ray
Subject of item(s) to be considered:	Community Chest Grant Aid Awards to Voluntary Organisations 2026/27.
Summary of item(s) to be considered:	To consider the applications that have been submitted to the Community Chest 2026/27 funding programme and whether the applications meet the criteria which has been set and to decide which applications to award. Supporting report attached.
Contact for further supporting information	Claudia Deeth, Community Services Manager ☎ 01480 388233 Claudia.Deeth@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

This Notice has been copied to the Chairman of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

Dated this 13 day of August 2026

1. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

To receive from Members declarations as to disclosable pecuniary, other registerable and non-registerable interests in relation to any Agenda item. See Notes below.

2. COMMUNITY CHEST GRANT AID AWARDS 2026/27 (Pages 3 - 14)

To consider applications received via the Community Chest Awards Scheme for 2026/27 and to indicate preference for the allocation of funds in accordance with agreed eligibility criteria.

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Public
Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Community Chest Grant Aid Awards 2026/27

Meeting/Date: Grants Panel – 19 August 2026

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Communities, Health and Leisure
– Councillor D Mickelburgh

Executive Councillor for Climate, Transformation and Workforce
– Councillor L Davenport-Ray

Report by: Community Resilience Manager

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

The Community Chest Grant Scheme aims to help small groups and organisations deliver projects which benefit the local community.

From 2021/22, the Community Chest welcomed applications that focused on helping residents during and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since 2023/24, the Community Chest Grant Scheme has been extended and now welcomes applications from community groups and organisations who would like to support the District Council in achieving the following priorities that have been set out within the Corporate Plan for 2023-28:

- Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone;
- Keeping people out of crisis;
- Helping people in crisis;
- Lowering carbon emissions.

Community groups and organisations requiring financial aid to deliver projects that address one or more of the challenges are invited to apply from 1 July 2026. Applications must be for projects based in Huntingdonshire and where a significant majority of beneficiaries are Huntingdonshire residents.

The previous budget for 2025/26 was spent in year. With no unspent funds to carry forward, the total budget for 2026/27 is £30,000.

On 15th September 2022, the Council announced that it would be setting up a Warm Spaces Network. In 2022/23, funding was used to support communities through the cost of living crisis. The Council recognises that Community Spaces, (formerly referred to as Warm Spaces) offer a social shelter, thus where an existing Community Space can demonstrate to have had a significant positive impact, the Council welcomes applications of up to £500 per year to help keep these facilities and activities open.

Recommendation(s):

- a) To consider applications submitted to the Community Chest 2026/27 funding programme to date and determine whether they meet award criteria.
- b) To decide which applications will be allocated funding.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline details of the applications received from groups or organisations representing Huntingdonshire communities for project funding from the 2026/27 Community Chest. From 2021/22, the Community Chest welcomed applications that focused on helping residents during and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Since 2023/24, the Community Chest Grant Scheme has been extended and now welcomes applications from community groups and organisations who would like to support the District Council in achieving the following priorities that have been set out within the Corporate Plan for 2023-28:

- Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone
- Keeping people out of crisis
- Helping people in crisis
- Lowering carbon emissions

1.2 Additionally, the Council continues to recognise the importance of its community hubs and encourages applications from existing and new community spaces that can demonstrate a significant positive outcome.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY?

2.1 In setting the Council budget for 2026/27, £30,000 was set aside for the Community Chest Award Scheme. With no unspent funds to carry forward from 2025/26, the total budget available for the panel to use in 2026/27 is £30,000.

2.2 From the commencement of the 2026/27 financial year, the panel has committed £0 to applicants, leaving £30,000 available for the remainder of 2026/27.

2.3 The maximum amounts that can be applied for have been increased and now stand at:

- a. £800 for Community Spaces,
- b. £1,000 for community events, and
- c. £2,500 for longer-term projects

Successful applicants will be required to complete an evaluation of their project later in the year which demonstrates the impact of the funding.

2.4 Once all funding has been allocated, the Community Chest will close.

2.5 Although grants have been awarded, a total of £5,000.00 worth of grants awarded remain awaiting payment from previous years.

3. ANALYSIS

3.1 Appendix 3 of the report provides a summary of applications been received since the last meeting. In establishing the Community Chest for 2026/27, funding criteria will be used, and it is against these criteria that the applications have been assessed.

4. KEY IMPACTS / RISKS

- 4.1 The funding awarded for the 2026/27 scheme must be used against projects applied for and approved in the 2026/27 financial year.

5. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 At ongoing meetings of the Grants Panel, Members will determine which projects should be allocated funding. Officers will then advise all applicant organisations of the outcome.
- 5.2 Groups or organisations awarded funding must be able to confirm that their project can be delivered within 12 months of the award being made.
- 5.3 If the award remains unpaid 12 months after having been approved, the District Council will contact the applicant to establish if the grant is still required. If the grant is still required, the original application, along with an updated statement from the applicant will be forwarded to the Grants Panel for further consideration.
- 5.4 If the applicant no longer requires the grant or the Grants Panel decide that the criteria can no longer be met, the District Council will cancel the award.

6. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The Community Chest Programme links directly to the Council's Corporate Plan 2023-28, specifically the following priorities:
- Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone
 - Keeping people out of crisis
 - Helping people in crisis
 - Lowering carbon emissions

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Community Chest and Community Spaces are advertised by the Council through a wide range of media including the District Council website, press releases and social media. Further communications will be made to advertise the funding available in 2026/27.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The funding of £30,000 allocated to the Community Chest 2026/27 is within the Council's approved budget.

9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 9.1 Applications recommended for consideration demonstrate that they satisfy the eligibility criteria set by the Council for the Community Chest Award Scheme 2026/27.

10. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

[Appendix 1 - Huntingdonshire District Council Community Chest 2026/27 – Funding Criteria](#)

[Appendix 2 – Community Spaces](#)

Appendix 3 - List of applications received, with officer comments.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Community Chest 2026/27 Eligibility Criteria

CONTACT OFFICER

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Huntingdonshire District Council - Community Chest Awards - 19 August 2026 Grant Panel Applications

Project Name/Applicant	Priority Focus	Criteria Met	Project Description	Amount Requested
CCG 01 26-27 (KZDDSGGJ) Finding Self In Nature CIC Finding Self In Nature	The initiative aims to improve quality of life by reducing loneliness, fostering a sense of community and increasing access to preventative wellbeing support through links with social prescribing networks and referral partners. It also encourages environmental stewardship and care for local green spaces.	• Helping people in crisis • Keeping people out of crisis • Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone	Nature based wellbeing programme- Initial small pilot group x 2. The project provides early intervention wellbeing support through nature-based activities, helping people build resilience, improve mental wellbeing and develop coping strategies before challenges escalate into crisis. Participants benefit from a supportive outdoor environment that encourages connection with nature, physical activity and meaningful social interaction	£2,500.00
CCG 02 26-27 (GNRWGKKX) Loves Farm House Community Centre Solar Reflective Window Films	The project aims to reduce carbon emissions by lowering heat gain within the community building and reducing reliance on energy-intensive cooling methods. By creating a more comfortable indoor environment, it will support continued use of the facility for exercise classes, community activities and a volunteer-run café, helping to maintain social connections and promote healthier, more active lifestyles. The project responds to recent periods of extreme heat, which have led to the cancellation of activities and loss of income. It seeks to improve the building's resilience to high temperatures, ensuring it remains accessible and welcoming for the local community.	• Lowering carbon emissions • Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone	To install solar window films to reduce the heat within the building from the solar gain, by doing this we aim to reduce our energy use and improve comfort in our community space.	£2,497.80

CCG 03 26-27 (SSZSPHPB) Needingworth Cricket Club Needingworth CC Training Nets	Encouraging physical activity in the Holywell Cum Needingworth area by making cricket more appealing. A more professional setup at Millfields will show that the club can stand on it's own two feet and not be reliant on other grounds and will reduce our dependency (and costs) on renting equipment.	Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone	To purchase a training net setup for installation on the ground/site at Millfields in Needingworth. Currently the club pay to use a different teams' nets at Bluntisham. This will have short and long term benefits to the club. This would help grow the club into multiple teams and a junior setup.	£2,500.00
CCG 04 26-27 (XTDJMPLF) Fenstanton Village Hall Trust Extending Palliative Outreach into a Permanent Active Ageing Legacy	This project will provide weekly sessions for older residents that combine gentle exercise, wellbeing support and access to local services. By improving mobility, reducing loneliness and offering early intervention support, it aims to help people maintain independence, prevent crisis and strengthen community connections.	- Helping people in crisis - Keeping people out of crisis - Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone	In September/October 2026, Arthur Rank Hospice Charity (ARHC) is confirmed to deliver a specialist 6-week Living Well pilot at Fenstanton Community Hall. This pilot directly supports local residents living with advanced, life-limiting conditions (typically within 2 years of end-of-life) and their primary carers. While this clinical outreach is vital, short-term pilots often risk a "support cliff-edge" once the 6 weeks conclude. This application requests funding to capitalise on that initial momentum and transform the pilot into a permanent, self-sustaining weekly "Active & Ageing Well Hub."	£2,250.00

CCG 05 26-27 (VQLVKMBH) Brampton Netball Club Additional Equipment and Training Resources	Brampton Netball Club provides affordable opportunities for people aged 14 to over 60 to participate in regular physical activity, improving physical and mental wellbeing while building social connections. Funding will help purchase essential kit and equipment for around 30 players, reducing financial barriers to participation and supporting an inclusive environment. The project aims to retain existing members, attract new players and continue providing a welcoming community where people can stay active, build confidence and reduce social isolation.	Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone	Brampton Netball Club is raising funds to provide new playing kit, equipment and training resources for over 30 players aged 14 to 60+. The project will help make netball more accessible, encourage participation, and support the growth of a welcoming, inclusive community sports club.	£2,500.00
CCG 06 26-27 (NMGDFHSJ) CARESCO BBQ for Multiple Group and Event Use	CARESCO supports over 300 people each month across 15 rural Huntingdonshire parishes, providing services that reduce isolation, improve wellbeing and support vulnerable residents through activities, transport, volunteering opportunities, a foodbank, strength and balance classes, social groups and community events. The organisation is currently self-funded and operating at a loss, limiting its ability to fund equipment replacements. The grant would enable CARESCO to replace an ageing BBQ that is regularly used for its Green End Day Club, community events, volunteer activities and wellbeing garden sessions. The new BBQ would help the organisation continue providing affordable food, social opportunities and fundraising activities that strengthen community connections and support its wider programme of services.	- Helping people in crisis - Keeping people out of crisis - Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone	A large BBQ to support events and groups run by CARESCO including free volunteer events (130+ volunteers), free Green End Day Club (GEDC) use and other group use. We also support Sawtry Colts Youth football events such as their presentation day, Sawtry 10K road race, Sawtry Carnival and more by providing low cost food which also helps us fund our charity to carry out the community work we do	£349.99

CCG 07 26-27 (GQXKLGKC) Abbotsley Village Hall Series of Autumn Tasters	The project aims to increase community participation by introducing new activities and groups where there is currently limited provision. Proposed taster sessions in Yoga, Tai Chi and Zumba Gold would expand opportunities for physical activity, while a new Baby Group and After School Lego Club would support families and help maintain social connections between children and parents. An evening Craft Club would also provide an accessible creative activity for working-age residents who cannot attend daytime groups.	• Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone	To provide a series of 'Taster Activities', aimed at engagement with the community, leading on to permanent groups.	£430.00
CCG 08 26-27 (NQXVPSKX) Southoe Parochial Church Council (PCC) Turning up the heat - the Southoe and Midloe Community Hub Project	This project strongly supports the Community Chest priorities of Lowering Carbon Emissions and Improving Quality of Life and Wellbeing, while also promoting Social Connections Across Communities. The replacement of an oil-fired heating system with a low-carbon infrared heating system will significantly reduce emissions, while enabling a newly refurbished community hub to operate year-round. The improved facilities will support a wide range of community activities, helping reduce isolation, strengthen community cohesion and provide accessible local opportunities for residents.	• Lowering carbon emissions • Keeping people out of crisis • Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone	Over the past year, Southoe PCC has obtained funds from many grant making bodies to transform the nave of Southoe church in a community space for the village of Southoe and beyond. This includes new solar panels funded by Hunts DC. The next phase is introducing a carbon reducing heating scheme in October costing £59,539.66. We are only £5,000 short of our target and hope to start work on this in the last week in October 2026. A contribution to this last piece of the funding puzzle would be great!	£2,500.00

CCG 09 26-27 (NXJKKSHP) St Ives EcoAction Reducing Home Energy Costs in St Ives	The project aims to reduce carbon emissions by helping residents identify areas of their homes that would benefit from improved insulation, particularly in older housing stock in St Ives. By enabling households to make low-cost energy efficiency improvements, the project will also help reduce energy bills and support residents in avoiding financial hardship. In addition to environmental and financial benefits, the project will foster community connections and, with appropriate volunteer training, could also help identify overheating risks in the homes of vulnerable residents during periods of extreme heat.	• Lowering carbon emissions • Keeping people out of crisis • Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone	We are working with Cambridge Carbon Footprint to help people in St Ives reduce energy use in their homes. We will buy the recommended type of thermal imaging camera to easily identify areas in a property needing additional insulation. It will then be available for short term (week or weekend) loan to residents.	£750.00
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