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

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| Date when item(s) to be considered: | Wednesday, 18 NOVEMBER 2026 |
| Name of Individual Executive Councillors who will consider the items: | Councillors N Hunt and D Mickelburgh |
| 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.<br><br>Supporting report attached. |
| Contact for further supporting information | Claudia Deeth, Community Services Manager<br>☎ 01480 388233<br>Claudia.Deeth@huntingdonshire.gov.uk |

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

Dated this 11 day of November 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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Agenda Item 2

**Public**
**Key Decision - Yes**

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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| **Title/Subject Matter:** | Community Chest Grant Aid Awards 2026/27 |
| **Meeting/Date:** | Grants Panel – 18 November 2026 |
| **Executive Portfolio:** | Executive Councillor for Communities, Health and Leisure – Councillor D Mickelburgh<br><br>Executive Councillor for Resident Services and Corporate Performance – Councillor N Hunt |
| **Report by:** | Community Resilience Manager |
| **Ward(s) affected:** | All |

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**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 £800 per year to help keep these facilities and activities open.

**Recommendation(s):**

a) To consider applications submitted to the Community Chest 2026/27funding 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 £15.541.38 to applicants, leaving £14,458.62 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 - 18 November 2026 Grant Panel Applications**

| Project Name/Applicant | Priority Focus | Criteria Met | Project Description | Amount Requested |
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| **CCG/27/26-27** (BWQRCHCM)<br><br>**Sipro Community Hub CIC**<br><br>**Parkinson's Punches** | Sipro Community Hub CIC delivers weekly adapted, non-contact boxing sessions for people with Parkinson's in St Ives, currently attended by 12 regular participants. The programme helps improve balance, mobility, strength, coordination and confidence, while also providing valuable social opportunities that reduce isolation. With no comparable Parkinson's boxing classes available locally, the sessions meet a clear community need. Previously funded by Parkinson's UK, the programme now faces closure due to the end of that funding. Support is being sought to sustain this established service and ensure local people with Parkinson's can continue accessing both physical activity and social connection. | • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone (Encouraging physical activity and Supporting social Connections | Sipro Community Hub CIC delivers weekly adapted boxing and exercise sessions for 12 people living with Parkinson's in St Ives. The programme supports mobility, balance, confidence and social wellbeing. Funding will help continue these established sessions following the end of initial financial support from Parkinson's UK. | **£2,500** |

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| **CCG/28/26-27** (RBNZJPMZ)<br><br>**Ramsey and District Horticultural Society**<br><br>**Horticultural Society Member Engagement Events** | The group promotes sustainable living by encouraging people to grow their own food and flowers using environmentally friendly, chemical-free methods. This helps reduce reliance on imported produce while improving local biodiversity and soil health. The group also provides valuable social opportunities, particularly for older residents who may live alone, helping to reduce isolation and build friendships through meetings and guest speaker events. Gardening supports both physical activity and mental wellbeing, giving participants an active and engaging hobby. The group is also working to attract younger members to encourage the sharing of knowledge and strengthen community connections across generations. | • Lowering carbon emissions<br>• Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone (Encouraging physical activity and Supporting social Connections | We are a community gardening group that promotes gardening as a way to improve physical health, mental wellbeing, and social connection. While many of our members are older residents, we actively work with younger people and community groups, including the Guides, to encourage wider participation and the sharing of skills across generations. The group provides a monthly social event with guest speakers, helping members stay engaged, learn new skills, and build friendships. We currently have at least 55 registered members, over 125 followers on social media, and regularly attract visitors to our events. Our activities culminate in an Annual Show, which brings together more than 300 local residents to celebrate gardening, growing, and crafting. This project helps people remain active, connected, and involved in their community, with the funding ultimately benefiting around 300 local people each year. | **£1,000** |

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| **CCG/29/26-27 (GTVCWJBG)**<br><br>**Purple Horizons Community CIC**<br><br>**Men's Health Matters: Bringing Prevention into the Community** | The project aims to keep people out of crisis by improving access to preventative healthcare and encouraging the early detection of prostate cancer. As prostate cancer often develops without symptoms and there is currently no routine NHS screening programme, many men may be unaware of their risk or delay seeking advice due to work, family, or caring commitments. By offering free PSA testing in convenient community venues on weekends, the project removes practical barriers to participation and helps men engage with preventative healthcare at an earlier stage. This approach is particularly valuable in reaching individuals who might otherwise postpone seeking medical advice, enabling greater awareness of personal health risks and supporting earlier intervention where needed. | • Helping people in crisis<br>• Keeping people out of crisis<br>• Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone: (Encouraging physical activity and Supporting social connections across communities) | Men's Health Matters will deliver two free Saturday PSA testing days in Huntingdon and St Neots, supported by targeted awareness campaigns, health information and follow-up exercise sessions. The project will improve prostate health awareness, overcome barriers to preventative healthcare, promote cardiovascular health and encourage sustainable lifestyle changes among men and their families. | **£2,500** |
| **CCG/30/26-27** (CDXXVMNB)<br><br>**St Neots Golf Club**<br><br>**Unisex Accessible Toilet and Baby Changing Area** | St Neots Golf Club, established in 1890, is a community-focused golf club that promotes participation in golf while providing a welcoming environment for members, guests, visitors, and local community groups. The club aims to offer high-quality sporting and social facilities that are accessible to all and support long-term community engagement and inclusion | • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone (Encouraging physical activity and Supporting social Connections | The Clubhouse was built in 1988 and did not incorporate accessible facilities. We have identified a large store room on the ground floor that can be transformed into a unisex accessible toilet and baby changing area. This is part of our ongoing project to make our Club more accessible. | **£2,500** |

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| **CCG/31/26-27 (SQKCMWZC)**<br><br>**St Ives Carnival & Music Festival**<br><br>**The St Ives Carnival Community Flag Parade** | The project aims to strengthen social connections by bringing together school children, care home residents, youth groups, and other community organisations through a shared creative activity, fostering civic pride and a stronger sense of belonging. The parade will also encourage physical activity by providing an accessible opportunity for people of all ages to participate in an outdoor walking event.<br>The applicant explains that the traditional carnival parade has not taken place for several years due to the cost and safety challenges associated with road closures. By relocating the parade to Hill Rise Park, these barriers can be removed, making the event safer and more accessible. Providing flags free of charge will further reduce financial barriers to participation. The project seeks to revive a valued community tradition, reduce social isolation, and support the objectives of the Huntingdonshire Wellbeing Strategy by offering a free, local activity that promotes social interaction and outdoor recreation. | • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone: (Encouraging physical activity and Supporting social Connections | A new community-led walking parade opening the 2027 St Ives Carnival at Hill Rise Park. The project funds materials for local schools, youth groups, and residents to create town-themed flags, culminating in a vibrant opening march and a "Flag Forest" public art exhibition celebrating local heritage. | **£1,000** |

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| **CCG/32/26-27** (MZKBQKST)<br><br>**Pomegranate Events, Buckden Towers (previously Buckden Community Events)**<br><br>**Over 75's Christmas lunch** | With the continued rise in living costs and the constant exposure to negative news and uncertainty, it is more important than ever to provide opportunities for this age group to come together. These activities offer a positive focus, help reduce feelings of isolation, and support improved mental health and wellbeing by creating a sense of community, purpose, and connection. | • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone (Encouraging physical activity and Supporting social Connections | A volunteer-led group that organises an annual Christmas Lunch for around 100 older residents aged 75+ in Buckden and the surrounding area. The event provides a traditional festive meal, entertainment, and companionship for those who may otherwise feel isolated during the Christmas period. As well as enjoying food and social interaction in a welcoming environment, each guest receives a small Christmas gift. The project aims to reduce loneliness, promote wellbeing, strengthen community connections, and ensure older residents feel valued, included, and supported during the festive season. | **£220** |

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