



Cottsway Community Fund

**Annual Report
2020-2021**

As a way to give back to the communities we work in, Cottsway makes money available to fund various projects every year. This report highlights some of the great causes that we have supported. It also gives you an idea of how the funding works and how you can apply.

Who have we supported?

Ascott-Under-Wychwood Cricket Club

This community village cricket club was first formed in 1861 and has been re-energised in 2020. Their old pitch roller, which they have been using since the 1960's, had broken down. It's a crucial piece of equipment for preparing their pitches for practise and match days. This club is an important part of the local community and welcomes new members to come along and play cricket.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the club had struggled to raise funds, but the Cottsway Community Fund has been able to help and they purchased their new pitch roller.



“WOW thank you so much! This will make such a difference to the club, which is really beginning to thrive. We're practising so hard and everyone is enjoying it again, and we're engaging numerous teenagers in the team that wouldn't have been playing otherwise.”



Chipping Norton Theatre

Chipping Norton Theatre applied to the Cottsway Community Fund to put together a Christmas Windows project which saw 105 creativity packs delivered to local families. Families and children were guided into creating a beautifully illuminated window display on the theme of A Christmas Carol.

The funding itself went towards employing local artists to pull together the design of the pack, printing costs, materials and packaging.

Staff from Cottsway delivered these to families in Chipping Norton and the packs were well received by families.

Yellow Submarine

Yellow Submarine are a charity who have a cafe at the Windrush Leisure Centre in Witney. It is a vital tool enabling them to demonstrate that people with learning disabilities and autism are capable of and entitled to opportunities in the workplace, commensurate with their abilities. They were awarded funding to buy some new equipment as many of their items were originally donated second hand.



“We're extremely grateful for the financial support from Cottsway and will be using money provided to buy some much needed new equipment for the kitchen and new uniforms for our trainees.”

What did we achieve?

April 2020 to March 2021 saw us spend over £20,699 on funding 13 amazing causes across our communities. We have funded a local mental health project supporting young people, new equipment for sports clubs and community outreach work.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic we quickly took action to direct the funding pot to help groups or projects that support vulnerable people who might be isolating to get food or access to services.

Due to the popularity of the Community Fund we are pleased to increase the fund to £30,000 available for 2021 -2022.

Below you will find the complete list of applicants from last year.

Group applicants	Reason for applying	Amount awarded
Joss Searchlight	Winter Wonderland Christmas project (postponed to 2021)	£1285
Witney Radio	New antenna for better broadcasting in West Oxfordshire	£1837
Synolos	Work and mental health outreach work	£2500
AUW Cricket Club	New pitch roller	£1935
MS Society	Online fitness classes	£1285
Homestart	Supporting Cottsway families in Chipping Norton	£1450
Yellow Submarine	New items and Coronavirus compliancy for the café	£2500
Quest for Learning	Pupil support at Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School	£2387
The Theatre, Chipping Norton	Christmas window creativity project	£1100
Got2be CIC	Detached youth work and equipment.	£2032
Coronavirus crisis support applicants	Reason for applying	Amount awarded
Carterton Community Assistance Group	Coronavirus community support project	£1,000
Freeland Covid Mutual Aid	Coronavirus community support project	£150
Bridewell Gardens	Coronavirus community support project	£1,000

How does the Community Fund work?

There are four different levels of funding to suit everyone's needs - from individual and local groups, to larger committees and organisations.

In 2020-2021, group applications were reviewed and approved by members of our closed Facebook group open online to Cottsway customers through [Communities@Cottsway](#).

If you want to join the group, please get in touch. Applications for Coronavirus crisis support were approved by senior managers as we needed to get funding out to groups really quickly.

Grant	Eligible projects	Examples
£250	For individual Cottsway customers to support individual learning and skills development, especially where this will increase employment prospects.	Training courses, qualifications and the materials and equipment needed to support learning.
£500	Small projects and community events which benefit your neighbourhood and directly affects other residents of Cottsway properties.	Events, activities and trips that involve the neighbourhood and bring the community closer together.
£2,500	Group projects that benefit the community and are accessible to Cottsway residents.	One-off and ongoing projects; social, environmental and educational. Including training to improve services, equipment, printing and publicity.
£5,000	Environmental projects that directly benefit Cottsway's customers.	Community clear-ups and improvements, conservation projects etc. on Cottsway's land.

How can I apply?

www.cottsway.co.uk/community-fund. You can also call us on 01993 890000 or email us at communities@cottsway.co.uk



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