

STRONG COMMUNITIES GRANT FUND

Progress Report - March 2022



Cronfa
Grant
Cymunedau



Strong
Communities
Grant Fund

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Overview: March 2022

Since the Strong Communities Grant fund was launched in August 2017, grants totalling £1,154,672.95 have been awarded to 120 projects across the Vale of Glamorgan. The Council and its partners: The Waterloo Foundation; Natural Resources Wales, and representatives of the Town and Community Councils have joined forces to support projects which are making a real difference to the quality of life and range of services available to people and communities in the Vale.

In March 2020 the Council made a long-term commitment to continue this support with a new five-year allocation of £837,533 for Strong Communities grants up to April 2025. This commitment coincided with the start of a period of unprecedented change for people living and working in the Vale. In response to the outbreak of the pandemic, communities across the Vale stepped up to the challenges presented, by rapidly developing innovative and effective projects which support some of the Vale's most vulnerable residents. In 2020, the allocation of £50,000 from the Strong Communities Grant Fund to a dedicated Vale Heroes Fund supported a tide of community action to address urgent priorities triggered by the pandemic. Strong Communities grants supported 23 Vale Heroes projects, ranging from provision of basic equipment for emerging Covid-19 support groups to funds for a small army of volunteers to sew much needed scrubs for care homes. Through the grant scheme, funding of wi-fi enabled tablets for loan via libraries and support for local radio ensured that communication channels remained open to those most at risk of isolation. Several organisations recognised the potentially damaging effects of lockdown on children and young people and responded by using grant support to bring their services online. In short, the period since March 2020 has seen a surge in initiatives that demonstrate the resilience of ordinary Vale residents at an extraordinary time.

While community venues and activities were forced to close, many groups used this time to develop ambitious plans for growth. Several of these projects are now coming to fruition. Many focus on the important work of expanding the range of community services and activities on offer. However, 2021 also saw a welcome move towards projects that address, either directly or indirectly, the climate and nature emergency, in line with the council's Project Zero commitment.

It is evident that the pandemic has not deterred the Vale's vibrant and active communities. Groups across the Vale of Glamorgan continue to be dedicated to making positive changes in the areas where they live. Through the fund, successful groups have fulfilled the SCG eligibility criteria to deliver projects which have demonstrated engagement with their communities and meaningful sustainability. Now, more than ever, by working together we can achieve the Council's vision for the Vale of 'Strong Communities with a bright future'.

‘The Strong Communities grants approved to date will contribute towards the delivery of projects with an overall value in excess of £3.61 million, all of which offer far reaching benefits to communities across the Vale.’

This Progress Report highlights projects approved since March 2020. As previously, the Fund supports ‘stand-alone’ projects but has also contributed valuable ‘match’ funding for large-scale initiatives where needed. In many cases the grant is a key component in a package of support from multiple funders which will help organisations take on new assets or secure the future of their existing assets for generations to come. Many projects will help the most marginalised residents to access support and integrate more easily into community life. Addressing isolation, whether age related, due to lack of transport, limited income, cultural barriers or lack of confidence, is a priority for many organisations we have supported.

Of the 41* applications approved since March 2020, 25 projects have been completed and a further 11 are underway. As previously, projects of any scale are encouraged, although the maximum grant is now limited to £25,000 and the application process for grant applications of up to £3,000 has been simplified. The scale of completed projects ranges from small items such as shared mowing equipment to reduce a bowling club’s running costs to refurbishment of a community hall serving a population of more than 2,000 local residents. A common theme is support for projects which bring people together close to where they live. Our grants are helping people across the Vale to access the services that they have identified as much needed, through support for training, leisure or social activities and the many organisations and volunteers who provide these.

Details of projects approved since March 2020, their progress and their impact on the local communities they support are included in this report. An infographic illustrates performance to date and explains how we have spread the word about the Fund. You can find information on all projects approved and delivered under the 2017 to 2020 Fund allocation in the Progress Report February 2020 on the Vale of Glamorgan Council’s [Strong Communities Grant Fund webpage](#). We will continue to monitor and report on successful projects for the duration of the grant programme.

**Excludes Vale Heroes Grants. A separate report on these is available to view below:*



Synopsis of Vale
Heroes Grants.pdf

APPROVED GRANTS March 2020 to March 2022

Applications between £3,001 and £25,000					
Round	Applicant	Project	Grant offer	Status	Ward
6	1 st Penmark with Porthkerry Scout Group	Refurbishment of scout hall	£21,750	Complete	Rhose
7	Barry Town Council	Mindfulness garden, Cemetery approach	£10,000	Awaiting start	Dyfan
7	Benthyg	Mobile Benthyg in the Vale	£25,000	Complete	Vale Wide
6	Bro Radio	Bro Radio in Llantwit Major	£22,798.16	Complete	Llantwit Major
6	Cadogs Corner	Refurbishment of toilets	£16,371.33	Complete	Cadog
7	Cardiff and Vale Scouts	Jubilee campsite development	£25,000	Awaiting start	Peterston Super Ely
7	Colwinston Community Council	Colwinston Old Ford environmental project	£20,000	Ongoing	Llandow / Ewenny
6	Cowbridge tennis club	Court expansion	£12,000	Awaiting start	Cowbridge
6	Innovate Trust	Insight into the Vale	£12,198.50	Complete	Illtyd
7	Llandough Community Council	Improvement to play equipment at King George V Memorial playing fields	£13,077	Ongoing	Llandough
6	Llandow village hall	Roof renewal	£20,000	Complete	Llandow
7	Llantwit Major town council	Enhancement projects for recreation field and cenotaph	£6,047.83	Ongoing	Llantwit Major
7	Penarth town council	Turner House open exhibition	£5,000	Ongoing	Plymouth
7	Rhose community library	Extension and refurbishment of library	£23,309	Ongoing	Rhose
7	St Peter's Church Rhose	Equipment for community hub	£6,831.38	Ongoing	Rhose
6	Vale cricket club	Refurbishment of showers and toilets	£14,142.80	Complete	Llandow / Ewenny
7	Vision 21	Craft at Barry	£16,000	Awaiting start	Gibbonsdown
Applications up to £3,000					
Round	Applicant	Project	Grant offer	Status	Ward
6	Aberthin Village Hall	External storage	£712.70	Complete	Cowbridge
7	Aberthin village hall	Hall refurbishment	£2,925	Complete	Cowbridge
7	Barry Central Bowling club	Green maintenance equipment	£2,940	Complete	Baruc

7	Barry Male Voice choir	Reconstruction of website	£2,000	Complete	Baruc
6	Barry Romilly Bowling club	Kitchen refurbishment	£3,000	Complete	Baruc
7	Billboard Ensemble	Radio mics	£1,320	Complete	Cadoc
7	CAOS Musical Society	Equipment	£2,960	Complete	Cowbridge
6	Capel Siriol, Treoes	Equipment	£2,890	Complete	Llandow / Ewenny
6	CAVRA	Training	£2,890	Complete	Vale wide
6	Cowbridge Art Group	Display equipment	£2,910	Complete	Cowbridge
7	Forget me not chorus	Musical sessions	£3,000	Ongoing	Vale wide
7	Llandow village hall	Events equipment	£2,849	Complete	Llandow / Ewenny
7	Metalidads	Branding and advertising for support group	£1,000	Complete	Barry wide
6	Ogmore by Sea village hall	Tables and storage trolleys	£3,000	Complete	St Brides Major
7	Ogmore by sea village hall	Seating for community hall	£3,000	Awaiting start	St Brides Major
7	Our Future Community	Sully and Lavernock Place Plan	£1017	Awaiting start	Sully
7	Peterston Community Council	Climate Action Project	£2,202	Ongoing	Peterston Super Ely
7	St Athan Play group	Play equipment	£2,016.97	Complete	St Athan
7	St Hilary village hall committee	Improvements to access	£3,000	Ongoing	Cowbridge
6	Vale Adaptive cycling club	Special needs trike	£2,950	Complete	Gibbonsdown
6	Vale Cricket Club	Club house improvements	£3,000	Complete	Llandow / Ewenny
7	Valeways	Way markers	£1,957	Ongoing	Vale wide
7	Valeways	Website	£3,000	Ongoing	Vale wide
7	Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band	Refurbishment of band room	£2,414.32	Complete	Cadoc

R6: Round 6: 7 September 2020

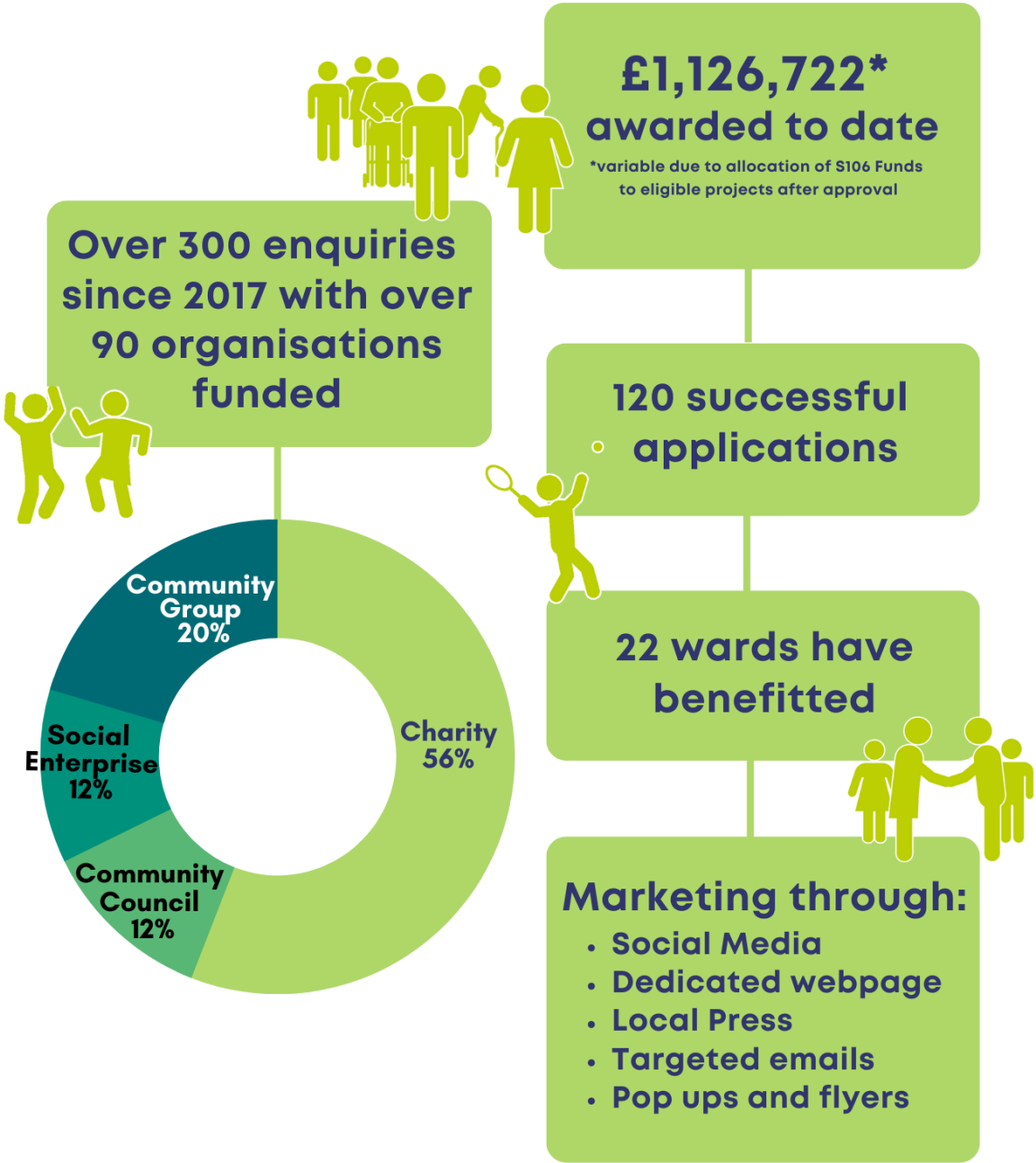
R7: Round 7: 27 September 2021

completed projects March 2022

ongoing projects March 2022

Projects awaiting start or withdrawn

AT A GLANCE – PERFORMANCE TO DATE



1ST PENMARK WITH PORTHKERRY SCOUT GROUP

REFURBISHMENT OF SCOUT HALL



Project Outline

Refurbishment included the replacement of kitchen, toilets/shower rooms, rewiring the hall and providing access for disabled people.

The Scout Group provides a programme of wide and varied activities for around 75 6-18 year olds and is one of the largest Scout Groups in the rural Vale. It serves a 48 square mile catchment area that includes villages of East Aberthaw, Fonmon, Llancadle, Llanberthery, Llancarfan, Penmark, Moulton and Rhoose, drawing membership from all villages. The much needed improvements were achieved by over 2000 volunteer hours, and invaluable help from local trades and businesses, resulting in a fantastic community space.

Progress - Completed

“It was always going to be a challenging project, which the pandemic made even more difficult, but we are proud of the result. Everyone, who has contributed to the project can look back with pride on the rewards it has reaped. We now have a warm, bright, and welcoming environment in which to providing Scouting to our community and can offer another modern communal space to the wider community.

The young people and those of us who use the facility each week cannot describe what a difference it has made to entering a hall that says, “come on in and make yourself at home”.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £21,750

Total project cost: £21,750

Round 6

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL

MINDFULNESS GARDEN



Project Outline

Creating a Mindfulness Garden, at Cemetery Approach Gardens, Barry. Barry Town Council, in partnership with VOGC, has recently developed the land at Cemetery Approach to provide peaceful gardens and a new Community Centre. Following community engagement, this project will transform a concreted area at the entrance to the gardens, formerly the site of an air raid shelter, into a landscaped garden for peaceful reflection. The following priorities were identified by the local community:

- A garden to remember all those affected by the pandemic, a space for those who have lost loved ones and been unable to grieve properly or attend funerals.
- The site should play tribute to its original use as an Air Raid Shelter, so information boards will be placed on site to provide visitors with historical information.

Progress - awaiting start

The project is the last part of the Cemetery Approach Gardens to be developed and will add value and complement the existing area. The site, as a whole, is open and accessible to everyone, offering all residents of Barry equal opportunity to enjoy the natural environment

AT A GLANCE

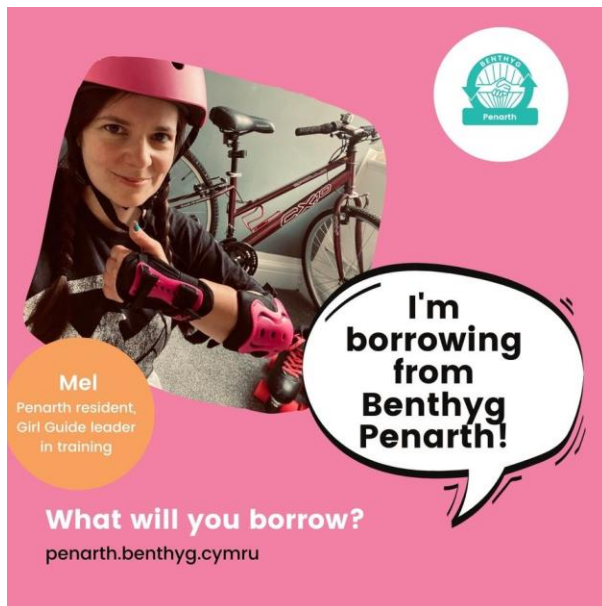
Total grant: £10,000

Total project cost: £21,295

Round 7

BENTHYG

MOBILE BENTHYG IN THE VALE



Project Outline

Purchase of an electric van. Benthbyg’s mission is to operate a network of places (a ‘library of things’) where people can: access affordable borrowing of things they need but don’t own, saving money and space in their homes, donate things they own but don’t need, contributing to national waste reduction targets and meet to share knowledge and skills with each other, increasing community resilience. An electric vehicle will allow Benthbyg to launch a door-to-door collection and delivery service for those unable to access venues in Penarth or Barry, run outdoor ‘pop-up’ events around the Vale, bringing repairs, borrowing and skill sharing to a wide range of residents. Collect donations for the Penarth and Barry projects from around the Vale, diverting items from landfill using a zero emissions vehicle. The mobile Vale project provides opportunity to reduce inequalities by making costly items accessible to all and by bringing separate parts of the community together to share skills.

Progress - completed

“The grant has enabled us to purchase an electric van which can be used across the Vale to extend the reach of our Benthbyg in Barry and Penarth.

We are looking forward enormously to working with residents in the Vale who haven’t been able to travel to our established libraries of things before. Through the delivery and collection of items to local pop ups we are hopeful that in partnership with individuals and organisations we will be supporting communities in contributing to a more sustainable way of living - sharing instead of consuming and working towards a carbon neutral future.”

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £25,000

Total project cost: £27,800

Round 7

BRO RADIO

BRO RADIO IN LLANTWIT MAJOR



Progress - completed

“The funding from the Stronger Communities Grant has allowed us to open up our service to communities in the rural Vale of Glamorgan, making volunteering and training opportunities available to isolated individuals, whilst building our links with the local community, groups and businesses.”

The space has helped to kickstart the growth of the organisation in the rural Vale of Glamorgan, the delivery of its service and its long-term financial sustainability.”

Project Outline

Support was offered towards the cost of broadcasting, IT and general office equipment to fit out new premises for the radio station in Llantwit Major. Working with YMCA Barry, Bro Radio now operate and broadcast from the Major Music studio located in CF61 in Llantwit Major. Bro Radio is the main community radio station for the Vale of Glamorgan, providing a local radio service which aims to inform, educate, entertain and engage with the communities it serves. Studios in Barry are used regularly by a team of 60 volunteers throughout the week, to deliver programmes, with limited time and space available for new volunteers and revenue opportunities. Grant funding allows the new studios in CF61 to be fitted to professional industry standards, giving opportunities for local people in the west of the Vale the chance to participate, without traveling to Barry - which many state is a current barrier.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £22,798.16

Total project cost: £36,971.14

Round 6

CADOGS CORNER

REFURBISHMENT OF TOILETS



Progress - completed

CCDG deliver a diverse range of projects from the community centre including a junk food café and a fare share shipping container shop. These cover their own costs with affordable drinks, snacks and meals as well as supermarket waste food being sold on a pay as you feel basis. True Tuesdays is a weekly session for adults in the community to take part in a physical activity, to learn about healthy eating and cooking as well as supporting mental good health. In partnership with Cadoxton Primary school, the group runs a children's breakfast club from the centre.

Improving the toilet facilities will help the group to develop their enterprises further. They estimate additional income through hire for parties and other users (such as parent and toddler groups) who have previously been reluctant to hire space without baby changing facilities that will be provided through the project.

Project Outline

The grant will be used to supply and fit new cubicles, disabled and standard toilets, urinals and wash handbasins. Works include new flooring, radiators and lighting. The application was submitted by the Cadogs Corner Development Group, a community group who base most of their activities in the Victoria Park Community centre, Cadoxton, Barry. The works will benefit all users of the centre.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £16,371.33

Total project cost: 16,371.33

Round 6

CARDIFF AND VALE SCOUTS

JUBILEE CAMPSITE DEVELOPMENT



Progress - awaiting start

Project Outline

The project will provide new toilet facilities, showers, hot water and lights, CCTV, replacement storage containers, dry room/meeting room, tables and pizza oven. Purchased in 1957, the campsite has had little development since then. It serves the 4500 Cardiff and Vale scouts as well as 6000 others involved in scouting within an hour's drive. At present, the site does not meet the standards for young people to be able to go there and learn #SkillsforLife in large numbers throughout the year. Scouts come from a mix of backgrounds and the movement helps develop their potential from age 6 years to 25. The project is the first phase of a wider masterplan for the site's improvement. The project is the result of consultation with users and the wider scout movement to understand the needs of a campsite for the 2030's. The organisation is working with local schools with a view to potential wider community use of the site.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £25,000

Total project cost: £89,436

Round 7

COLWINSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

OLD FORD ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT



Project Outline

Restoration of an ancient woodland and adjacent wetland area, to create and sustain an important community asset, restore an ecological site at further risk from climate change, and connect with ongoing heritage projects in the area. Key elements are the re-establishment of a pond and wetland planting, tree removal and new planting, restoration of the Medieval Well enclosure, hedge laying and coppicing, construction of a paved observation area by the Clapper Bridge and fencing to the woodland. The area has been used for many years for informal recreation by local residents. Working with the VOGC Ecologist and Coed Cymru, the Community Council and the project group have developed a project which will provide a thriving natural environment and a valuable community resource for current and future generations.

Progress - ongoing

Groundwork preparation of the area to establish the pond and laying and coppicing of the boundary hedge to the Old Ford area have already been completed with the Community Council's contribution.

“The Old Ford Project has been enthusiastically welcomed by our local community and the volunteer group are about to set up a formal structure to take the work forward as the weather improves. To the delight of older residents the pond has been cleaned and restored. Planting of the area is due to start later in the month and weather permitting the stonemason will start as well. The first group of unsafe trees in the woodland have been felled with a second group of unsafe trees identified will be tackled in April.”

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £20,000

Total project cost: £50,877

Round 7

COWBRIDGE TENNIS CLUB

COURT EXPANSION



Project Outline

The grant will contribute towards a much needed additional court including fencing and lighting.

There are no public tennis courts in or around Cowbridge. In July 2018, the club introduced an on-line system for court booking and made the facility available for public pay and play. This has allowed them to generate additional income while introducing significant numbers of new people to tennis in Cowbridge.

Progress - awaiting start

The clubhouse is used for other activities such as a regular pilates classes (open to non-members), and social events throughout the year such as a regular quiz and social gatherings again open to non-members.

The increase in courts and other improvements to facilities would also allow significantly more coaching to take place alongside fixtures, training, social and other activities held weekly at the clubhouse. This is part of a phased series of improvements which include improvements to the toilet and shower facilities to make them accessible for disabled people.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £12,000

Total project cost: £79,700

Round 6

INNOVATE TRUST

INSIGHT INTO THE VALE

Project Outline

The grant funded a Project officer to focus on people with learning disabilities living in the Vale of Glamorgan, helping them to stay connected with one another, keep fit, well and active, ensuring they maintain their physical and mental health and well-being. Through involvement in the project, people with learning disabilities have gained the necessary skills in digital technology that will prepare them for moving on to further learning, training and employment, thus helping to sustain their prospects for the future. This project follows a successful pilot, called Insight, started during the lockdown period.



Progress - completed

“The Strong Communities Grant helped us provide meaningful volunteering opportunities for adults with learning disabilities. The project was a safe place in which to develop skills, make new friends and build confidence. It simply wouldn't have been possible without the support that we received from the Vale of Glamorgan Council.”

“I like getting wet and dirty and laughing my socks off.”
- James, participant

'I finished college and I didn't know what to do with myself. I came here for a test and since then I've really enjoyed it. It's been the best experience.' - Shane, participant

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £12,198.50

Total project cost: £69,850

Round 6

LLANDOUGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

PLAY EQUIPMENT AT KING GEORGE V MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD



Project Outline

The grant is for the purchase and installation of a metal climbing frame at the children's playground in King George V Memorial Playing Fields. The lack of play equipment for children has been long recognised and in a community engagement survey undertaken back in 2017, residents stated that improved equipment should be a top priority. Since the arrival of a new MUGA facility there is evidence that parents are accompanying their children to the playing fields and the area is increasingly well used. The equipment will provide an opportunity for children in younger age groups to develop their physical and motor skills as well as their personal confidence and the opportunity to make friends and engage with those of a similar age.

Progress - ongoing

"The residents of the community especially young people and their parents have been delighted with the MUGA facility that was installed back in 2020. The funding of a climbing frame using a grant from the SCGF will enhance the playground equipment available for younger children and will provide an added attraction for children to participate in play. We expect the facility to be well used by children in the community".

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £13,077

Total project cost: £16,077

Round 7

LLANDOW VILLAGE HALL

ROOF RENEWAL



Project Outline

The village hall is an historic Victorian School transferred over to the community specifically for the purposes of supporting the local community. It is located at the heart of the village. Llandow has no shop or pub, meaning the hall is the only local community hub. In addition to the larger community events (annual fete, Christmas caroling night, bingo nights etc) it supports many small groups (e.g. Mothers Union etc) and individuals (an alternate space to ‘work from home’; internet access). Over the years the Village Hall has raised funds to patch repair the ageing roof in an attempt to prevent further degradation. This approach is no longer sustainable and the grant will provide a new roof to ensure the long term future of the hall.

Progress - completed

“The grant has meant that we have been able to save our only community space for now and into the future. As a village we are starting to be able to use the hall again, post-Covid and plan to bring more people together - something we can’t do anywhere else locally. Even during covid, having a safe, socially distanced place to support home workers has been invaluable.”

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £20,000

Total project cost: £21,170

Round 6

LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL

ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS FOR RECREATION FIELD AND CENOTAPH



Progress - ongoing

“Thank you so much for the new signs. Visiting tennis teams now know how to get into the car park / tennis courts when they come to play matches. The new signage will publicise our Club and we hope encourage new members to join the Club” Member of the Tennis Club Committee.

“The new signs have replaced an old Rugby Sign. The new signage clearly displays all the sporting facilities available to play on the Recreation Field and for use by our local community and tourist visiting the town.” Town Council Staff

Project Outline

The grant will support 3 projects aimed at enhancement of the Cenotaph and recreation field. Each demonstrates a commitment to working with and for the communities in Llantwit Major. **Project 1:** Two Memorial Benches at the Cenotaph will replace existing. This area is the central hub for the community, for commemorative events, a meeting point for the cycling community as well as a place of remembrance and reflection. **Project 2:** Adult outdoor gym equipment at the recreation field will supplement existing which is popular with teens and adults. The aim is to promote the recreation ground as a hub of sporting activity, where non team-based activities are also encouraged **Project 3:** Additional signage at the recreation field. Visitors to the sports clubs here have commented on lack of visibility. New prominent signs will help to help to raise awareness of the town’s important social/recreational facilities that encourage regular exercise and promote mental wellbeing.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £6,047.83

Total project cost: £8,063

Round 7

PENARTH TOWN COUNCIL

TURNER HOUSE OPEN EXHIBITION



Progress - ongoing

“The SCGF has allowed us to confidently deliver the Turner house Open Exhibition and embed it as part of Penarth’s annual cultural calendar. In our first year we were able to attract over 200 applications with a total of 67 selected Artists. SCGF Funding will enable us to fully maximise the use of the venue during this period and ensure that this project provides a platform for as many people in the local community as possible. By allowing us to purchase specialist tools and exhibition equipment we have been able to ensure an excellent standard of curation for all exhibitions in the gallery, not just for the Open Exhibition and we are now able to accommodate a wider range of artworks than was possible in 2021. The dates for the 2022 Open Exhibition have been set for the 4th of August - 11th of September with information on how to get involved released shortly.”

Project Outline

The Turner House Open Project: The grant will provide a contribution towards equipment, staffing, marketing and workshops to facilitate an annual, month long exhibition of artwork by local residents. The reopening of The Turner House gallery took place on 20th May, 2021 and saw over 900 visitors in the first 3 weeks of opening. The project ensures that a space is ringfenced for an annual period of activity for residents to exhibit new work as a whole community. As an open call exhibition, using established networks, the project will highlight and showcase the local talent within the community. The format is intended to encourage more people from marginalised parts of the community to engage with arts and culture.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £5,000

Total project cost: £12,500

Round 7

RHOOSE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

EXTENSION AND REFURBISHMENT

Project Outline

Grant will contribute towards a new extension to the library to provide flexible meeting/training spaces for community use. The extended library to will have increase community hiring capacity, events and teaching and training opportunities as well as fund raising capacity. The extension will include a second accessible toilet and full kitchen, making it more attractive to a wider range of users. Rhoose's population is growing in size with new housing developments and a new primary school boosting demand for up-to-date modern facilities and services. The library will expand opportunities for reading, literacy, ICT development and also provide coworking facilities. The project is the culmination of several years of volunteer effort and extensive community engagement. The approved project reflects the range of ideas expressed and provides the flexible space and other facilities prioritised by local people in Rhoose.



Progress - ongoing

“The Strong Communities Grant Funding has been essential to our plans to deliver improved facilities and services to the people of Rhoose and the surrounding villages. We were pleased to have the benefit of the team providing essential guidance, support and advice that has helped Rhoose Community Library transform our ambition into action”

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £23,309

Total project cost: £221,924

Round 7

ST PETER'S CHURCH RHOOSE

EQUIPMENT FOR COMMUNITY HUB



Progress - completed

“This grant has meant that we can take the project from an extended building to a hive of activity for the community. The counselling room will be a comfortable place for quiet and private conversation, and may also be used by Health visitors who have requested a local space to help women with breastfeeding, the dividers and Dementia cafe equipment will help us create a safe and regular space for people with dementia and their carers to interact meaningfully with others and the equipment for the toddlers and youth will provide quality activities (rather than equipment which is old and tired and not fit for purpose any more)”.

Project Outline

The grant is for the purchase of equipment to fit out the new extension to St Peter's Church, for use as a community hub. The items funded include a room divider, refurbished laptops and printer, play equipment, a dementia activities pack, storage cupboard, table tennis table, armchairs and coffee table. The hall already hosts several community activities including a weekly parent and toddler group, community choir, art group, guides, rainbows, and youth club. The extension will expand the services on offer to include a community café which will host a monthly dementia cafe, a job club and life skills training, along with free internet use and support for users provided by volunteers.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £6,831.38

Total project cost: £6831.38

Round 7

VALE CRICKET CLUB

REFURBISHMENT OF SHOWERS AND TOILETS



Project Outline

The main grant is funding much needed new toilet facilities. The Club was built in 1998. Although fit for purpose when the club was built back in the 90's and cricket was a game played predominantly by adult males, the game now has a much wider appeal and is played by girls and boys from five years up. In the last three years Vale CC has started a women and girls' soft ball team which competes against other ladies teams. The club also hosts Cardiff University Ladies Cricket Club (CULCC) who play their home games at Vale CC and practice here. It is now common for teams to play with male and female members and separate changing room facilities will provide facilities for female players. The club also provides a popular venue for the local community to use for events and functions, with a volunteer base of over 20 administrators and junior coaches.

Progress - completed

Vale Cricket Club have received two grants from the Vale of Glamorgan SCGF project. The first allowed the club to refurbish our toilet facilities and install six individual shower cubicles. In addition to this the club received funds to improve our WIFI coverage, purchase a projector and furniture to help the club set up a co-working pilot and provide improved training and meeting facilities. These grants have helped the club to grow its membership, improve our facilities, attract new community groups and make the club more sustainable.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £14,142.80

Total project cost: £15,116.32

Round 6

VISION 21

CRAFT AT BARRY



Progress - ongoing

“The grant we received through the SCGF will allow V21 the opportunity to provide more learning opportunities for people with a learning disability in the Vale of Glamorgan. It will support our service users to build, not only employment skills, but soft skills as well. Skills such as teamwork, using initiative and communication. It will also enhance self-confidence and self-esteem in those most removed from society”.

Project Outline

The grant will contribute towards the cost of running a new flexible craft project based at the Vale Enterprise Centre in Barry. The grant will help fund the salary of a project coordinator, rent of the unit for one year, marketing, start-up equipment and materials.

V21 already works at the heart of the community alongside social services in the Vale to support people with a learning disability. The project will incorporate different elements of their existing work including basic woodworking (making of Fairy houses, Christmas decorations, etc.) aspects of online retail (taking photographs of products and uploading them onto the sales platform), horticulture (wreath making, table decorations, etc.) and card making and paper decorations. The new project will explore more work around textiles and the upcycling of old clothes and materials. The project will enable people to build new skills and practice existing ones, with the focus on building the softer skills everyone needs to function within the world.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £16,000

Total project cost: £35,650

Round 7

ABERTHIN VILLAGE HALL

EXTERNAL STORAGE, NEW CEILING AND LIGHTING



Project Outline

The Village Hall committee was awarded 2 small grants in 2020 and 2021. The hall hosts numerous entertainment events as well as a number of regular users including Arty Cooks, Bridge Club, Ball room dancing and Pilates classes. Each of these groups have regular attendees and bring approximately 70-90 weekly users together, across a wide range of ages. In common with many village halls, storage space was minimal and restricting space for users. The solution was to provide a secure shed to house tables, chairs, ladders and other equipment needed by the hall users as well as gazebos for fundraising events. Volunteers erected the shed to keep costs down. A further grant funded replacement of an outdated suspended ceiling and installation of new energy efficient lighting. Both projects have helped to make premises sustainable for the future.

Progress - completed

“Aberthin Village Hall supports an active community, supporting all age groups. Consequently, having a presentable environment is essential. Having recently redecorated the main hall, the 30 year old suspended ceiling was looking drab and untidy. With the help of this grant we renewed not only the old tiles but the old florescent lighting strips with efficient LED lighting units. The work has brightened the hall and helped with reducing utility costs for the future”

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £712.70 & £2,925

Total project cost: £1,101.94 & £3,052.78

Round 6 & 7

BARRY CENTRAL BOWLING CLUB

GREEN MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT



Progress - completed

“Barry Central Bowling Club are a small club in Barry and we could not afford to have a private company come in and maintain our Bowling Green. The SCGF Grant enabled us to purchase secondhand machinery and new machine reels to maintain the Bowling Green ourselves. Without this help the club would not have been able to maintain its required standard of Green Playability and would have been forced to close”.

Project Outline

Following the passing of the management of the club from the Council to the club members in 2019 a grant was offered to the club to buy remaining parts of mowing equipment needed to maintain the green themselves. The main priority to keep the club up and running is the upkeep of the bowling green. If this task was given to an outside contractor to maintain the cost would be too high for the club to sustain. The grant has made it possible for the club to survive and it is working hard to attract new members, while also generating income by hiring the club house for events.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £2,940

Total project cost: £2,940

Round 7

BARRY MALE VOICE CHOIR

RECONSTRUCTION OF CHOIR WEBSITE



Progress - completed

“The grant has enabled us to bring in a professional web designer to rebuild our website. The basic design is now in place. All that remains is for us to feed in information, photographs and other material to keep our followers and the wider community informed about what we do and how we do it. A lot of work. Without the grant this would not have been possible. The photo is of the choir in 2019 singing in Llandaff Cathedral in front of a packed audience in aid of pancreatic cancer research.”

Project Outline

The grant provided a contribution to a new website for the choir which has been running since 1902. The website provides the main platform for communication with the community, also allowing people to hear recordings and keep abreast of the choir’s plans and achievements. The choir has a long history of promoting the culture and heritage of Barry, a gold mine of social history in the context of Barry. In the past the choir has attracted acts several thousand stakeholders annually to concerts and a large proportion of these use the website as a channel of communication. With the loss of face-to-face activities over the last 2 years online activities such as remotely prepared videos have attracted large audiences on social media. Two-way interaction is vital for the lifeblood of the choir to remain a vibrant body for many years into the future providing service and pleasure to the community and augmenting pride in Barry.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £2,000

Total project cost: £3,750

Round 7

BARRY ROMILLY BOWLING CLUB

KITCHEN REFURBISHMENT



Project Outline

The grant provides a contribution to a new kitchen. A condition report commissioned by the Council recommended this as a priority as the current kitchen was original to the building, almost 30 years old and no longer fit for purpose. In April 2019 the club was given permission to sublet the building, allowing them to encourage not only bowling but a whole host of other activities that will enhance the health and wellbeing of the community. Prior to covid the number of social members grew significantly and along with the hiring out of the clubhouse has exceeded all expectations. Investment in a well-designed and functional new kitchen enhances the range of options open to the club to expand their range of users further, attract more income and become a hub for the local community.

Progress - completed

“The project has been completed and the club members are really pleased with the outcome. I would like to take this opportunity again to thank the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the Stronger Communities team in particular for your help. It has certainly helped to attract and sustain community involvement at the venue.”

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £3,000

Total project cost: £5,914.59

Round 6

BILLBOARD ENSEMBLE

RADIO MICS



Progress - completed

“Thank you once again for the funding, it worked a treat in our very successful pantomime, ‘Aladdin’ in December of 2021. Returning to our audiences after such a long time was so nerve-wracking but so exciting. As many other groups and organisations we were concerned about our funding due to the pandemic. The SCGF grant helped BillBoard Ensemble massively and we are very grateful. We will continue to advertise our microphones for hire in every future production.”

Project Outline

The grant has provided the organisation with radio microphones to help during the audition and rehearsal process. The mics will also be used in the multiple shows put on each year in the Vale of Glamorgan. BillBoard Ensemble are an amateur dramatics company, based in Barry, performing regularly in the Memo Arts Centre, Barry and local schools. They aim to bring West End vibe productions for a fraction of a West End ticket price. With shows such as ‘Crazy for You’, ‘Thoroughly Modern Millie’, ‘Legally Blonde’, ‘Sister Act’ and many more. These productions are solely funded by members subscription fees and public charitable events.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £1,320

Total project cost: £1,320

Round 7

CAOS MUSICAL SOCIETY

BRINGING MUSIC & CULTURE TO THE COMMUNITY



Progress - completed

“The radio microphones we purchased with grant worked extremely well on the night and the sound quality improvement over our previous show in 2019 with older equipment was clearly noted by our sound technicians and the audience. We have been advertising the availability of the microphones to other societies in the Vale and have had one amateur dramatic organisation approach us so far. There are still a lot of societies who are postponing their events and we will be expecting more approaches in the future. We also purchased a portable piano with the grant and this was used at a Christmas concert at the turn on of the lights in Rhoose.”

Project Outline

The grant will contribute to the cost of microphones and a key board. CAOS Musical Society draws members from across the Vale of Glamorgan and has been running since 1969 with membership open to anyone over 16, without audition. As well as putting on smaller choral concerts, a primary aim of the Society is to bring a West End style musical experience to the local area providing a chance for those unable to travel to a major city or unable to afford to do so to enjoy the pleasure such productions bring to an audience. The keyboard is being used in rehearsals, full productions and at concert venues throughout the Vale. The microphones will be used at all major productions where vocal amplification is needed to overcome the volume of the orchestral or band accompaniment. After a long absence CAOS delighted audiences with a performance of Evita in October 2021.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £2,960

Total project cost: £10,000

Round 7

CAPEL SIRIOL, TREOES

EQUIPPING HERITAGE HUB



Project Outline

Grant support provided the final touches to an ambitious project to transform an underused vestry into a new heritage hub for the community in Treoes. This small grant provided equipment, including TV monitor, computer, kitchen equipment, and flexible collapsible tables/chairs to allow the refurbished space to be used to its full potential.

An earlier Strong Communities Grant contributed towards the major renovation of the building, which also benefited from Welsh Government and Heritage Lottery funding.

Progress - completed

“What was once a filthy stables underneath, unused by anyone for 45 years, with a damp meeting room with only one electric heater to warm above - is now transformed into a ground floor with large disability toilet, full kitchen, lift to first floor to a fully equipped meeting room for 8/10 and a general meeting room for up to 20+. Outside we have created a small courtyard. Thank you again.”

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £2,899.18

Total project cost: £42,99.18

Round 6

CIVIL AID VOLUNTARY RESCUE ASSOCIATION (CAVRA)

TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS



Project Outline

Civil Aid Voluntary Rescue Association (CAVRA) received a grant towards the cost of training volunteers in flood water rescue. The Group works closely with local voluntary services groups as well as the Police and Fire Service during times of adverse weather such as floods and heavy snow. During 2019 to 2020 (pre pandemic), their members were responsible for rescuing 8 people and assisting a further 47. CAVRA provides support to all communities across the Vale, attending numerous sporting events throughout the area, to provide first aid cover, race support and communications.

Progress - completed

“The Strong Communities Grant Fund has helped CAVRA to recruit and train a number of volunteers to our flood rescue team. CAVRA has also developed a resilient radio system for use in flood situations, we are currently registering a trade name and logo. CAVRA was also fully operational at an event (Brecon to Cardiff Ultra race) where the weather was absolutely atrocious with high winds and floods, 5 people were rescued and a further 24 assisted.”

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £2,890

Total project cost: £2,890

Round 6

COWBRIDGE ART GROUP

DISPLAY PANELS FOR ARTWORK



Project Outline

A grant has been awarded to Cowbridge Art Group in conjunction with Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, to buy display boards with the aim of holding an annual open competition for artists from across Wales and the south West. Hosted at the Old Hall, the aim is to raise the profile of Welsh artists, particularly local ones, and exhibit the work of professional artists and students in the Cowbridge Community College. The annual exhibition will build on the Food and Music Festivals and increase footfall for the benefit of both exhibitors and businesses in the town. Aside from the annual competition, the purchase will allow Old Hall to host bigger exhibitions. In addition, the boards will be available to art groups across the Vale, where they may be used in a variety of smaller community venues enabling more people to access art close to home.

Progress - completed

“The acquisition of display boards in 2021 financed by Strong Communities has been an invaluable asset to the Cowbridge Arts Group and art groups in the Vale. They have enabled us to double the amount of exhibition space we can provide for the 2022 Cowbridge Open Art exhibition, and future events and allowed smaller groups to exhibit in locations which had no previous suitable facilities. They have already been used by the Wick art group in a 2021 exhibition and as Covid restrictions are eased, we expect them to be used by more groups as and when required.”

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £2,910

Total project cost: £6,575

Round 6

FORGET ME NOT CHORUS

ACTIVITIES FOR CHORISTERS



Project Outline

Forget me not Chorus has used song to support those living with and alongside dementia since 2011. The grant will help fund weekly in-person activity for choristers in the Vale (rehearsing at Elfed Avenue Church, Penarth) and sessions for staff and patients connected with the Mental Health Service for Older People, at Llandough and Barry hospitals. The grant will contribute towards a project manager, music leader and pianist as well as hire of rehearsal venues. Alzheimer's Society Cymru's investigation has shown the pandemic's toll goes beyond the number of deaths from the virus. The service will specifically address sufferers, whose issues have been worsened by the pandemic by improving health and wellbeing, reducing isolation and offering an escape from the everyday caring routine for those with dementia and those that care for them.

Progress - ongoing

"I am delighted to feed back that our community choir in Penarth is meeting in-person every week and beneficiary numbers continue to increase which is wonderful news. FMNC is truly grateful for this SCGF support as we recover and rebuild our activity that was so hugely impacted by the pandemic. It is my pleasure to attach pictures of our choristers in rehearsal at Elfed Avenue - I hope these photographs will give you a real sense of the joy of a FMNC session, and the power of song to lift spirits, improve health & wellbeing and create a strong, supportive community."

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £3,000

Total project cost: £11,825

Round 7

LLANDOW VILLAGE HALL

EVENT FUNDRAISING EQUIPMENT



Progress - completed

“The grant has meant that we have been able to save our only community space for now and into the future. As a village we are starting to be able to use the hall again, post-Covid and plan to bring more people together - something we can’t do anywhere else locally. Even during covid, having a safe, socially distanced place to support home workers has been invaluable.”

Project Outline

The village hall committee has been offered a small grant to buy equipment - gazebos, a marquee, outdoor tables and chairs. Looking ahead, they are keen to help to make themselves less dependent on grant funding by holding fundraising events within the local community. In the past the annual fete has provided a valuable source of income and the equipment will replace the now depleted stock. Project equipment would also be available to the many groups and organisations who use the village hall, ensuring benefits are maximised. In recent years, hall users have included: University of the Third Age (U3A) groups- Duke of Edinburgh groups- Guides groups- Charity-raising activities (notably Breast Cancer Care, Noah’s Ark Children’s Charity and Tros Gynnal Plant Children’s Charity as well as local private party hirers and many others either regularly booking or holding one off events.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £2,849.70

Total project cost: £2894.70

Round 7

METALIDADS

BRANDED MERCHANDISE



Project Outline
 METALIDADS is a support network and friendship group for new and experienced fathers to share their advice and experiences. They aim to help other dads combat the challenges of addressing mental health taboo, quashing societal expectations of paternal duties and supporting an efficient family unit and home. METALIDADS is a community of Barry dads whose common ground began with a love of rock/heavy metal music. A small start-up grant has allowed the group to trademark their name, buy equipment to support awareness raising events and print literature such as flyers. To strengthen the confidence of dads they arrange events on the topics of opening up about mental health, strengthening knowledge on being a dad and looking after the community in Barry. Practical initiatives include signposting services for those suffering poor mental health, pop up ‘talking shops’ and regular litter picking in parks and on beaches.

Progress - completed

" The Strong Communities grant has enabled us to invest in branded merchandise, which has helped spread our logo across Barry and the Vale. On the strength of people seeing the logo we've had countless people enquire about room to accommodate their husbands/partners, to which we have opened up our support network to them and increase our membership".

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £1,000

Total project cost: £1,000

Round 7

OGMORE BY SEA VILLAGE HALL

TABLES AND STORAGE TROLLEYS AND COMMUNITY SEATING



Progress - ongoing

"The village of Ogmore by Sea is delighted to see the realisation of a long term ambition to build a multi purpose village hall to serve our growing population. A big part of the hall's role is to provide a venue for social and community events ranging from sharing a tea or coffee after an exercise class to larger events, family celebrations etc. This would not be possible without having the necessary facilities within the hall space. We are therefore immensely grateful for our Strong Communities Grant which funded the purchase of tables, suited to all ages, including a baby changing table. It has opened up so many possibilities for our lovely new hall."

Project Outline

The village hall committee has received two small grants which help to bring their long-awaited aspiration of a new village hall to fruition. The new building replaces redundant toilets - a longstanding eyesore - with a modern community venue. The building has unbeatable views across the Channel and is the culmination of the community's efforts over several years. It has been supported through Welsh Government, Section 106 funds and Strong Communities Grants, as well as a huge community fundraising effort. The SCGF previously contributed to the building's new kitchen. Two additional small grants will now provide collapsible tables with storage trolleys and much needed seating for users.

AT A GLANCE

**Total grant: £3,000 and
£3,000**

**Total project cost: £3,075
and £3,400.13**

Round 6 & 7

OUR FUTURE COMMUNITY

SULLY & LAVERNOCK PLACE PLAN



Progress - awaiting start

Project Outline

The group 'Our Future Community' was formed to bring together local people in Sully with expertise in relevant fields (e.g. economics, architecture, transportation and planning) in order to create a Place Plan. The Place Plan would provide a living document allowing residents to focus on issues that shape the future of their community. The Plan is intended to become adoptable Supplementary Planning Guidance to guide the community and County Councils when considering improvements, investment and development in order to achieve long-term sustainability. The grant will provide funds for equipment, venue hire, printing and other essentials to allow the group to continue its work in engaging the community in Sully in preparation of the Plan. The objective is to enable local knowledge and community aspirations to be realised at the very local level of planning.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £1,017

Total project cost: £1,383

Round 7

PETERSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CLIMATE ACTION PROJECT



Project Outline

The Community Council in Peterston aims to lead the way in taking local action to tackle the climate emergency. Their Climate Action project is taking small but important steps to enhance their natural resources and make the most of their rural assets. Funding has been granted for a project focused on the Memorial field which houses a playground, MUGA and a football pitch. Damaged fencing to the field will be replaced with a hedge to improve biodiversity. Dog fouling and littering will be tackled by providing stations that dispense 100% compostable bags free to the public. Two eco-friendly stations will replace a litter bin in the playground and the memorial field, encouraging people to take their rubbish home and recycle. The third element will see Interpretation boards installed, providing information on biodiversity meeting the challenges of climate change. Since the grant was approved, the Woodland Trust has provided a grant for hedging, freeing up funds for an accessible picnic bench near the biodiversity site.

Progress Report - ongoing

“We are looking at ways to encourage further biodiversity at the memorial fields and encourage all users of all ages to enjoy the biodiversity that will be introduced on the field. We hope that this project will be the beginning of many where we will look at ways that we can implement ways to combat climate action and work towards Project Zero.”

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £2,202

Total project cost: £2,252

Round 7

ST ATHAN PLAY GROUP

PLAY EQUIPMENT



Project Outline

Based in the Old School Hall, St Athan, the play group has been providing low cost local, safe play facilities for pre-school children in the village for 40 years.

The large housing developments due to be built locally will mean more pressure for the services provided. There is also a concern that many families with children born during lock downs will have had limited social interaction in the last couple of years, meaning there is an even greater need for the social and educational support provided. A small grant has been awarded to fund the replacement of outdated equipment with new sensory items including play mats, storytelling chairs, outdoor play equipment and a basic computer.

Progress - completed

“We are very happy with the equipment for our playgroup, it has ensured we provide a stimulating and educational experience, our children love the equipment and get a lot out of it after a couple of difficult years, this has enabled our community children to socialise and get back to normality.”

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £2,016.97

Total project cost: £2,016.97

Round 7

ST HILARY VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

IMPROVED ACCESSIBILITY & SAFETY



Progress - completed

“The upgraded, level access has ensured that the hall is a focal point for the village. Events and activities are more accessible and inclusive - no more exiting the hall down steps onto a narrow highway! The reopening event on March 4th saw nearly 50 villagers joining together for the traditional St David’s Supper, coincidentally this was the last event held in 2020 prior to the introduction of COVID restrictions. A joyous evening with everyone appreciative of the improved access.”

Project Outline

The project will upgrade a double door fire exit to become the new main entrance to the village hall. The current main entrance is accessed up three steep steps, from a side road where there is no footpath and this entrance is not accessible to those with mobility issues or parents with children in prams and buggies. The benefits to the community will be in allowing independent access to the hall for users such as the St Hilary WI who have an elderly membership, the monthly community café which appeals to both mothers with pre-school children and older villagers, and traditional village events such as the St David’s Supper and the Parish Lunch. In addition, the new entrance is level and not directly onto a road which will increase the safety of hall users. The grant will fund the supply and installation of new entrance doors, blocking up the old doorway and provide a storage area within the hall.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £3,000

Total project cost: £5,900

Round 7

VALE ADAPTIVE CYCLE CLUB

TRIKE



Progress - completed

“We purchased the special adaptive cycles and because we had new Electric bikes, more disabled people and their carers/families were able to access and enjoy the exhilaration of cycling on a regular weekly basis. Last season in Jenner Park was our most successful cycling season ever, more new beneficiaries attended, plus a lot of groups come along, do their cycling and then stay for the rest of the afternoon socialising. So the project has 2 elements, cycling and social inclusion which improves all the participants including carers/families general health and well-being.”

Project Outline

Since 2008 the club has provided specialist adaptive equipment and facilities for children, young people and adults with severe disabilities, enabling them to access sport and leisure activities regularly, increasing and improving their general health, wellbeing, independence and social inclusion.

The grant provides a Special Needs Tomcat Bullet Tricycle for young people and adults with mild/moderate disabilities, and limited mobility, enabling them to access cycling activities. Tomcat Bullet Trike is a new style trike, highly stable, lightweight, low sitting young person and adult trike, designed to be user friendly. It also has quick release two-piece frame for car transporting. The club intend to loan out the trike to beneficiaries, enabling them to participate in cycling at safe locations of their choosing, with their friends and family.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £2,950

Total project cost: £2,950

Round 6

VALE CRICKET CLUB

INSTALLATION OF WIFI AND EQUIPMENT



Progress - completed

“The club received funds to improve our WIFI coverage, purchase a projector and furniture to help the club set up a co-working pilot and provide improved training and meeting facilities. These grants have helped the club to grow its membership, improve our facilities, attract new community groups and make the club more sustainable.”

Project Outline

Based in Corntown, the club provides facilities for juniors, senior and women and girls to play cricket. It is also a venue for the local community to use for events and functions. The club has a volunteer base of over 20 administrators and junior coaches. The grant will fund purchase and installation of wifi cabling and a router for connection throughout the building, 10 folding meeting tables, soft seating, personal protection screens, a TV monitor stand and a projector trolley. The club is working hard to improve its meeting and community space and has established links with businesses and other potential users. Wifi will help them to attract a wide range of users and raise valuable income to help sustain the club.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £3,000

Total project cost: £3,000

Round 6

VALEWAYS

WAYMARKERS AND NEW WEBSITE



Project Outline

Established in 1996, Valeways priorities remain to promote health and wellbeing through walking in the Vale, to improve safe access to the Vale’s countryside and to provide guided and self-guided walks for all ages and abilities. The group organise regular volunteer path-clearing each year helping maintain and to make safe 400 miles of tracks, paths, gates and stiles. The charity has been successful in securing 2 small grants: for purchase and installation of new way markers and a contribution towards developing a new website. Improved online presence is seen as vital to complement the advances the group has already made in social media output and the new site will help to improve the marketability, profile and presence of Valeways.

Progress - ongoing

“The financial support offered by Strong Communities and the assistance of the Council’s PROW officers has enabled Valeways to progress the correct marking of public rights of way in the Vale. The charity receives a lot of comments from the public relating to difficulties following the routes in the Vale and also praise regarding the path marking so we feel that this project provides invaluable support to the community.

Since commissioning Maxim Consulting Services to establish the platform for our new website and other aspects of our IT capabilities, we have been making steady progress towards what we view as the first phase of the IT Renewal Project.”

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £1,957 & £3,000

Total project cost: £3,914 & £5,900

Round 7

VALE OF GLAMORGAN BRASS BAND

REFURBISHMENT OF BAND ROOM



Progress - completed

“The Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band has been serving the Community for over 45 years and our future is dependent on continuing to recruit new players. To do this we need to offer a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere. We were therefore delighted to receive a grant from the SCGF to refurbish our band room which was in serious need of attention. Funding included replacement of water damaged ceiling tiles; old lighting units for new LED panels and recarpeting the band room with reclaimed carpet tiles from Greenstream Flooring, a Community Interest Company based in Porth. The SCGF has enabled the Band to reduce its ongoing energy costs, limit its carbon footprint, upgrade a community asset and recruit 2 new players (and counting). Here’s to the next 45 years.”

Project Outline

The band, established in 1974, has occupied and rehearsed weekly at two former squash courts at the Barry Athletic Club, on Barry Island, since 2012. The group has been successful in raising their own funds to refurbish the toilets to provide disabled access and have now been awarded a grant to make the band room more welcoming and inclusive to attract and retain new players from within the community. The project included refurbishment of the roof, replacing damaged ceiling tiles, replacing the carpet with recycled carpet tiles, replacing 50 fluorescent tubes with energy efficient LED equivalents and folders to organise their key asset - music. To bring the project within the budget Band members have undertaken most of the refurbishment work therefore ensuring value for money.

AT A GLANCE

Total grant: £2,414.32

Total project cost: £3,114.32

Round 7

**Working together,
we can achieve the
Council's vision for
the Vale of Glamorgan of
'Strong Communities with
a bright future'**

