



Sustainable Development Fund Guidance Note Community / Village Halls

Community Halls are often at the heart of community life, especially in rural areas. They enable people and groups to come together to socialise, play, make, plan, learn, celebrate, run events and much more. Brecon Beacons National Park Authority recognises and values this and can consider applications for projects and initiatives which help to ensure the sustainability of our community spaces – safeguarding Halls for the future and reducing their environmental impact.

As well as helping to deliver the 'People' and 'Place' objectives in the National Park Management Plan, Community Halls help to deliver several Sustainable Development Fund criteria and the Welsh Government's Wellbeing of Future Generations Act aims – including those which support:

- *sustainable communities, towns and villages*
- *a Wales of cohesive communities: attractive, viable, safe, and well-connected communities*
- *the involvement of young people*
- *opportunities to participate in sport and recreation*
- *increased opportunities for volunteers or local employment*

The Sustainable Development Fund may be able to contribute to, for example:

- *Energy Efficiency Measures:* usually following a specialist energy audit which sets out clear, prioritised recommendations with backing evidence
- *Events and Activities:* meeting an identified need
- *Structural Improvements and Upgrades:* where these can be shown to deliver real benefits

In addition to meeting general Sustainable Development Fund requirements, proposals need to show:

- *How your Hall is used and the role it plays in the community - providing a bookings calendar will be useful, along with letters/emails of support from regular users*
- *That policies are in place to support Hall management – see Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations' (PAVO) suggested list at Appendix 1 below*
- *How the facility is promoted and marketed as widely as possible*
- *That users have been consulted about and involved in project proposals*

- *What difference the funded work would make – e.g., attracting new users to the Hall to increase income; improving energy efficiency – creating a warm and useable space; improving accessibility; providing essential services locally*
- *That hire income covers essential running and maintenance costs – or that plans are in place to work towards this.*
- *That any materials used are environmentally friendly and locally sourced as far as possible, with local contractors carrying out the work if possible*
- *If there is more than one Hall in your community, we'd ask how you work together to provide services.*

Potential Match Funding Sources

- Welsh Government's Community Facilities Programme: [Community Facilities Programme | GOV.WALES](#)
- National Lottery People and Places Fund: [People and Places: Medium grants | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](#) - £10,001 - £100,000
- National Lottery Awards for All: [National Lottery Awards for All Wales | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](#) – up to £10k, so probably too small
- [Community Ownership Fund round 2: how to express your interest in applying - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) – fund administered by the Westminster Government - part of the 'Levelling Up' programme.

County Voluntary Councils can also advise on funding opportunities and project development, and put you in touch with other Hall management groups who have undertaken similar developments:

Powys	Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO) http://www.pavo.org.uk
	Community Buildings - Support (pavo.org.uk)
Carmarthenshire	Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services (CAVS) 01267 245555 / admin@cavs.org.uk / http://www.cavs.org.uk
	Community Centres Network - CGGSC~CAVS
Monmouthshire	Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) 01291 675474 / info@gavo.org.uk / https://www.gavo.org.uk

Appendix 1 – Community Buildings: Policy / Document Checklist

- Governing document
- Risk Assessments (building, fire and Covid)
- Health and Safety Policy
- Conditions of hire including hirers agreement Financial Policy
- Reserves Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Data Protection and Privacy Policy
- Fire Safety Policy
- Building Evacuation Procedure
- Insurance Policies
- Licences (TV, music, premises for sale of alcohol etc.)
- Volunteering policy
- Equal Opportunities
- Maintenance Policy
- Checklist for Hirers leaving the venue
- Contract of Services Procedure
- Recruitment Policy
- Complaints Procedure
- Conflict of Interests Policy & Register
- Emergency Closure Policy/Plan
- CCTV Policy