

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Panel 28th February 2022

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Rosemarie Harris, Leader

REPORT TITLE: Covid Recovery Update

REPORT FOR: Information

1.0 Purpose

1.1 At the meeting of the Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee on 27th January 2022, It was requested that additional information be brought forward on two specific areas of the Covid Recovery Programme. These areas being the Highways Maintenance Programme and the Covid Recovery Community Grant Scheme.

2.0 Background

2.1 As part of budget setting for 2021-22, Cabinet announced the creation of a specific reserve fund to help support council and community services recover from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The fund will be used over two financial years to deliver a programme designed to deliver county-wide support and complement existing and planned Welsh Government recovery activities. The allocation of **£1.8million** to set up the fund was approved by Council at its meeting on 25th February 2021. Initial proposals for the Covid recovery programme were considered by Cabinet on 2nd March 2021. The programme has two key themes: i. Community and ii. Economy & Environment.

2.2 To date the funding has been awarded against the following themes for the first financial year;

- Theme 1 Community – Year 1 (2021/22)
Covid Community Recovery Grant £498,990
Public Convenience Support £92,414
- Theme 2 Economy and Environment – Year 1 (2021/22)
Business Recovery Support £120k
Highways Recovery Fund £340k
Financial Recovery Support £40k
Council Services and Project Specific Support £85,145

2.3 The total allocated for year 1 is £1,176,549 leaving a year 2 balance for Covid Recovery of £623,451. The breakdown of the 2022/23 funding allocations has yet to be finalised.

3.0 Highways Recovery Fund

3.1 The Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee requested additional information on Highways works funded through the programme. These are listed below, all works are on schedule for completion by the end of the current financial year;

- 140k spend on hire of 'Archway Jetpatcher' in Area 1 north Powys. This has increased the capacity of Highways Team to resurface necessary patches in the Area.
- Work done to reduce the backlog of cat 2 defects in Area 1.
- £28k allocated to Resurfacing on three small sites in Area 1 North, B4393, B4395 and B4580.
- £86k allocated to South area Sites.
- £86k allocated to Mid area.
- South and Mid sites will be complete now the capital programme is completed, and extra resource is available.

3.2 As the work is ongoing, Highway Officers will produce a complete report on the finalised works at the end of the financial year.

4.0 Community Covid Recovery Fund

4.1 The Third sector organisations in Powys are facing challenging and uncertain times during the current Covid-19 pandemic. In recognition of the vital role played by the sector, this time limited fund has been made available by Powys County Council to support local organisations improve, develop, and deliver their services and activities.

4.2 The purpose of the Community Recovery Grant is to help community groups, charities, social enterprises, and voluntary groups supporting people and communities in Powys respond to the challenges and impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The application form is attached at Appendix 1 for information. The criteria for applications had already been reviewed by scrutiny on 10th June 2021.

4.3 The Regeneration Service ensured that the grant scheme was promoted through the Authority's Communication Team and our relevant partner organisation networks such as PAVO and the Arts Service.

4.4 The programme aims to assist recovery and help organisations develop flexible and responsive plans and activities to become more resilient and financially sustainable in the future. The overarching grant criteria is attached at Appendix 1 for information.

4.5 Following an open application process, 94 project proposals were received totalling £750k. To date 54 projects have been supported and awarded grants totalling £498,990. These projects are detailed at Appendix 2.

- 4.6 Projects not meeting the criteria are being supported by Regeneration Officers to identify other possible funding streams for support.
- 4.7 Applications are assessed by members of the Regeneration Service, initial checks as fit for purpose against the criteria and due diligence were undertaken. An Officer recommendation was given to the Economic Development Group and then to the Thriving and Sustainable Environment Board, who then made the final decision on the application. Two approved projects and two rejected projects will be provided as a detailed presentation at the meeting.
- 4.8 All projects were approved through the Thriving and Sustainable Environment Board, chaired by the lead for Economy and includes cabinet members representing regeneration, property, and highways. All meetings were recorded, noting any abstentions and decisions made.
- 4.9 Two key decisions to be noted includes the reduction of funding for property projects to 50% due to high demand of support requested in this area and an overall increase of funding awarded, noting that supporting communities as soon as possible to implement recovery investment would be more beneficial than waiting as recovery investment had already been put aside.
- 4.10 The key elements supported by the grant are:
- To support organisations that need to adapt and change to find new ways of operating due to the Covid crisis.
 - To ensure that safe, resilient, and sustainable practises are introduced to allow continued and enhanced community activities and services to take place.
 - To develop and implement new services and activities, or the extension of existing projects that have been adversely affected by Covid, that benefit people in their local community.
 - To encourage healthier living and wellbeing, enhance the provision of local facilities, activities and community services that have been adversely affected by Covid.
 - To encourage communities to have an active role in the design and delivery of the services they need.

5.0 Scheme Review

- 5.1 The Scheme has now closed for first year applications and following discussions, it was felt that a review of the application process would be beneficial.
- 5.2 There was a request for potentially 2 successful and 2 unsuccessful applicants to attend Scrutiny to share their experiences. However, Officers have been unable to encourage any representatives from these Third Sector

groups to enter this process. As Volunteers, they either have work commitments or find the request a daunting task.

5.3 It was then felt that an anonymous online survey of all the Grant Applicants would be beneficial, giving a review of the process to date and to assist with potential future schemes. The results of the online survey are detailed at Appendix 4.

6.0 Information/Decision

6.1 Report to be noted as information.

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Powys County Council

Covid Community Recovery Grant Application Form

Please read through the application criteria and guidance notes before you start to fill in this application.

This form has been designed so you can provide the standard information we need to assess your proposal. Your answers should show that you have thoroughly considered every aspect of your proposal.

Along with your application please submit the following:

- Your organisation's constitution or memorandum and articles of association
- A copy of your latest audited accounts
- Your organisation's equal opportunities policy
- Your organisation's health and safety policy
- Your organisation's child protection policy (if applicable)

If you are unable to do so, please explain here:

Before you submit this application form, please check that you have:

- Completed every question on the application form
- Kept a copy of the application form for your own records
- Included any additional information requested

For further information or support please contact
communitydevelopment@powys.gov.uk or tel. 01597 827659

1. Your Organisation

Name of Project	
Organisation	
Contact Name	
Position	
Organisation Address	
Post Code	
Telephone Number	
Email	
Website Address	

2. What is your organisation's legal status?

Please tell us the legal status of your organisation eg. registered charity, not for profit / social enterprise etc

Company or Charity Number (if applicable):

3. When was your organisation established?

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4. How many people are involved in running your organisation?

Board/ committee members/ trustees	
Paid employees: full time	
Paid employees: part time	
Volunteers	

5. Organisation aims, objectives and governance

What are the main aims and objectives of the organisation and what is its governance structure?

6. Please indicate the level funding you are applying for

Up to £5,000 grant for small project	
Up to £10,000 grant for local projects meeting local needs	
Up to £20,000 grant covering a wider geographical coverage and range of beneficiaries	

7. Project summary (max 300 words)

Tell us what you are looking for funding from the Community Recovery Fund to do and how it will have a positive impact for the people and communities you work with.

8. Need for the project (max 300 words)

Explain how the project will respond to the challenges and impacts of Covid and help support recovery. How have members of the community been engaged in the planning and design of the project?

9. Partner organisations

If you are applying as part of a partnership, please tell us who you are working with and how you will work together.

10. Implementation

What arrangements will be put in place to ensure the successful management and delivery of the project?

11. Show how your project contributes to Powys County Council's Vision 2025 priorities (your project may not fit in all 4 categories)

Supporting the Economy	
Supporting Health & Care	
Supporting Residents & Communities	
Strengthen Learning & Skills	

12. Timescales

Please indicate the estimated timescales for implementing the project

Start Date	
Completion Date	

13. Will your organisation be able to reclaim the VAT element of project expenditure?

Yes		No	
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14. Total project costs ((Ex VAT for VAT registered organisations)

Total project cost	£
Amount of grant requested	£
Match funding & source (if applicable)	£
Grant rate	%

15. Breakdown project costs

Please give a detailed estimation of the project costs. Ex VAT for VAT registered organisations

Item	Cost
Total costs	

16. Match Funding

Please give details of other funding sources for this project/activity

Description	Amount	Name of funding	Confirmed Yes/No

18. Funding risks

Which, if any, of the funding is at risk? State the reason and contingencies that are in place if the funding is not available.

19. Outputs

Please list estimated outputs which will be delivered through the project eg. number of new users supported, new income generated etc

Output	Quantity

20. Monitoring

What procedures are to be put in place to monitor the project and its outputs?

21. Value for money

Please describe how this project demonstrates value for money.

(A measure of quality that assesses the monetary cost of the product or service against the quality and/or benefits of that product or service.)

22. Forward Strategy

Please state how the project will continue after the grant funding support ceases or how the project will be wound up.

Data Protection

Information collected in this form will be used confidentially in accordance with the Council's privacy and data protection policies ([insert link](#)).

Declaration

I confirm that to the best of my knowledge and belief, all of the information I have given in this application form is accurate in all respects, and I confirm that if there is any change to the information provided above I will write and advise accordingly.

I also confirm that the proposal in the application falls within the objects and powers of the constitution or Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Name:
Position:
Signed:
Date:

Community Recovery Fund – Projects Supported

Appendix 3

Town/Community/Area	Project Summary	Project Value
<u>Newtown</u>	A community flagship venue that supports communities to connect to and benefit from green spaces; for food, for exercise for quiet recreation etc	£20,000.00
<u>Montgomery</u>	Maldwyn Dragons, as many community clubs, have been directly impacted by COVID-19 to vastly improve numbers of members to pre-covid levels, and further enhance the provision. The project aim is to enhance capabilities with more equipment that can be utilised throughout the community and allow more members of the community to become active and signpost them towards active membership with the club.	£4,000.00
<u>Hay On Wye</u>	To adapt office accommodation to provide Covid safe booking and enable enhanced re-opening and broaden community participation. Recruit and Support Volunteers. To recruit and support volunteers to provide additional capacity to support member demand and support the service recovery. Since covid several drivers have not returned as volunteers and re-establish the service there are around 8 volunteer driver vacancies.	£9,510.00
<u>County Wide</u>	To support reboot YFC members, to encourage new membership, through promotional events and media	£12,000.00
<u>Brecon</u>	To purchase marquee to help stage show and sheep dog trials in a Covid safe way. The intention is to also hire out in order to bring income in to sustain future show and Sheep Dog Trials	£2,222.40
<u>Llanfyllin</u>	Arts programme moving premises To purchase equipment for a outdoor workshop delivery and are looking to buy foldable tables and benches and an event shelter	£796.00
<u>Montgomery</u>	Adult Outreach team supports clients who have experienced domestic abuse, on a 1-1 basis, across sparsely populated North Powys. Due to the increasing demand during Covid they wish to recruit an additional support worker to this team and seek funding for the initial 6 months of employment.	£10,000.00
<u>Builth Wells</u>	To increase the number of British Cycling coaches that to offer more coaching sessions to young riders in our community. oversubscribed and are turning young riders away. To recruit from the pool of parents that currently bringing their children to coaching. To train up our level 1 coaches to level 2 coaches for more experienced riders	£2,756.00

<p><u>Radnorshire</u></p>	<p>Support for a short-term post to come and help increase volunteers following covid. The role will undertake a review current status with staff to identify opportunities for seeking extra help. The post then recruits and induct volunteers before passing them on to existing staff for future involvement and support.</p>	<p>£10,000.00</p>
<p><u>Brecon</u></p>	<p>Brecon Volunteer Bureau would like to expand on the usage of the Vaults to support a community Kitchen, where people can come together in a safe environment. To create one new part-time position of coordinator to oversee the running of the kitchen and associated training for those involved. To enable the development of skills, not just those related to food independence but also communication, interpersonal, numeracy, literacy etc. These would also open further volunteering and employment possibilities clients.</p>	<p>£4,200.00</p>
<p><u>County wide</u></p>	<p>Continue and develop school-based youth work this is particularly important now, with all the stresses covid-19 has placed on young people and their schooling) offering 1:1 support, drop-in space, peer support groups and courses - delivered in 3 schools. •Work with school staff and parents to increase knowledge/understanding of mental health. To increase the offer in terms of geographical area. To increase the staffing to enable them to meet the developmental and client needs for their youth service. Previously supported by PAVO and Moondance Foundation. Funding finishing end of Sept.</p>	<p>£20,000.00</p>
<p><u>Brecon</u></p>	<p>Dedicated Volunteer Coordinator to recruit several volunteers to support them developing and actioning our Fundraising Strategy to supplement our other aspects of funding. to develop and implement a more robust Fundraising Strategy. Covid highlighted the need to develop a new way of working, not only face to face but virtually as well.</p>	<p>£10,000.00</p>
<p><u>Countywide</u></p>	<p>The charity is looking for funding to create a new role for a post-holder who will plan, develop, and fundraise in respect of the following: The re-introduction and extension of existing projects which have been adversely affected by covid across Powys. Consolidation of several innovative projects which have been developed during Covid, e.g., art boxes and for care homes, and online art classes for those with long term covid and taking art activities into public areas.</p>	<p>£14,990.40</p>
<p><u>Llangynog</u></p>	<p>To provide a Covid-friendly, centralised play area and community, outdoor facility. Covid restrictions and beyond. Covid-friendly systems, ie. a one-way system, hand sanitising stations, signage etc • Additional benches to provide socially distanced seating allowing residents to socialise safely.</p>	<p>£9,674.00</p>

<u>Llanwrthly</u>	Funding to design and build two small sheds. The first, for the purposes of serving refreshments to their community audience and participants at live events, and the other to provide a backstage storage space for costumes and props during performances	4,000.00
<u>Machynlleth</u>	Canolfan Owain Glyndr contains two a major building, known as the Grade 1 parliament, house the site of the first Welsh parliament (hosted by Owain Glyndr in 1404) and the 'institute'. The Centre at the heart of a lottery application to renew a part vast of the old institute. There is a further need to refurbish the interior a parliament house by creating an innovative exhibition by using the latest technology. Lottery Funding has now been confirmed.	6,660.00
<u>Brecon</u>	Yearly Bonfire event. Will also involve local school project and recognise work by the Community and Armed Forces through the pandemic	£6,000.00
<u>Montgomery</u>	The impact of Covid on Girlguiding in Montgomery and area meant that Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units were closed. The project will support the recovery of this important part of the community. They wish to purchase 'starter kits' with Covid to promote and increase membership which has decreased during covid.	£2,000.00
<u>Llandrindod Wells</u>	Request to support the entertainment and insurance element of the event following the pandemic.	£5,000.00
<u>Welshpool</u>	To support the core running of the event and marketing. Requesting grant for 2022 event.	£10,000.00
<u>Brecon</u>	BCA aims through independent advocacy, to empower people with a learning disability to live their lives as valued, responsible and enriched citizens. Since March 2020 our Powys People First self-advocacy project has kept in touch with members via phone and social media, posted newsletters, weekly Zoom meetings, they have delivered parcels within Covid guidelines, they would like to continue the project. Powys wide Project.	9,382.00
<u>Rhayader</u>	Following W.G. funding they are seeking extra funding for: • a Volunteer Coordinator • an Exhibitions Installation Manager to keep the display build on track and give informed decisions on the correct materials to use in the Museum. • a Marketing Officer with graphic design skills to produce designs for interpretation panels and successfully promote the new attraction • a laptop and graphics software to give them the ability to work on larger scale graphics, marketing, and educational materials.	10,269,69
<u>Llanyre</u>	To regenerate the play area within Llanyre. To purchase and install a number of pieces of new equipment to enhance the lives of children and families within the community but also for visitors and all essential tourism trade, which has suffered due to Covid.	9,499.00
<u>Newtown</u>	The project taking in donated cycles which might otherwise have gone for scrap and putting them back into low-cost use, looking for funding to enable Bike to the Future to pay for ancillary costs such as ground matting, stakes, and a cargo bike for carbon free	3,540.00

	transportation. It will donate £5 for each cycle sold into a tree planting fund, then our participants can plant a tree.	
Newtown	To form part of a multi-agency bid to purchase Digital Screening Equipment. Enable Hafren to present "live" and "encore" performances from national and international companies, such as National Theatre Live, Royal Shakespeare Company, British Museum, V&A, NY Met Opera etc	20,000.00
Montgomery	Gwersyll y Bryniau, is available for our Scout Groups to use and also for any youth organisations that wish to visit the area. This request for funding is towards an outdoor shelter, education and hammock space at Gwersyll y Bryniau which will enable Scouts and other young people of all ages to make greater use of the site regardless of the weather	20,000.00
Llanwyddyn	Grant to go towards the cost of replacing the play park equipment. But the ways in which this will benefit the community is far more complex.	10,000.00
Machynlleth	To introduce and develop a day-to-day app to inform parents of their child's development on a regular basis following Covid. It will provide opportunities for parents to catch-up and share their experience. The introduction of the app will give them greater opportunity to share information. Member of staff will be given 1/2 day a week for 6 months to set up, train, and monitor the success of the project. Unfortunately, as they are not based on the school site, they are unable to access schools' system.	£3,900.80
Cwmdu	Looking forward a larger kitchen would benefit organisations especially where catering is required as a fund raiser. Social distancing, stringent sanitisation is part of the project.	10,000.00
South Powys	To deliver first access instrumental sessions for whole classes in 8 Powys schools - 7 primary schools plus Penmaes SEN school. As Powys has no county music service or similar, South Powys Youth Music provides vital opportunities for young people to discover and develop their musical skills. Schools in Brecon, Hay-on-Wye, Builth and Talgarth	5,620.00
Ystradgynlais	Requesting monies towards purchase of lease of the Sports Ground in Ystradgynlais. £40k raised by Association Deadline for lease monies: £25,000 for 2021 instalment £45,000 for 2022 instalment £35,000 for 2023 instalment	£20,000.00

<p>Trewern</p>	<p>Trewern playground has a large unused grass area which is available for more play equipment. The majority of which was installed prior 1999. Since then, new development has taken place with an increase for play equipment. Outdoor play is vital for young people's wellbeing, particularly due to the impact of the pandemic. Free school meals have increased from 12%-15%, which reflect the hardship in the area, especially following the pandemic.</p>	<p>£9,450.00</p>
<p>Ystradfellte</p>	<p>The grant is to achieve the following: 1. Re-engagement of existing clubs by providing them with a subsidy to provide free-services to the local community. 2. Provide PPE and sanitizing stations within the hall. 3. Updated and revamped website to attract new members and a booking system for the general public. 4. The creation of a new club 'the after-hours school club' to provide an opportunity for school aged children to socialize and mix in with other children after lockdown. 5. Community engagement and welfare by YFC providing breakfast clubs and a church led evening meal. 6. To be able to offer online services such as concerts, readings and plays through a web-based camera for those not wanting to visit the hall</p>	<p>£2,412.00</p>
<p>Hay on Wye</p>	<p>This funding would enable to put in a kitchen in the existing breeze block shed and build an open barn structure at the bottom of the garden with outdoor heaters to enable to continue outside safely. This will also enable us to open the new Squirrels section for 4 - 6-year-olds</p>	<p>£4,097.18</p>
<p>Presteigne</p>	<p>To create a Museum Assistant post, to support the Development Manager in the daily operation and growth of The Judge's Lodging, both during its open and closed seasons. This post will assist the Development Manager with marketing work, including social media, maintenance of databases and e-correspondence. To migrate to predominantly digital marketing. This member of staff will support the Volunteers identified that one of these placement is showing a particular desire to learn more about our work and is proving extremely capable. Following the initial 12 months hopefully continue their role with us into paid employment, supporting and training a young person from the community. In addition, we would like to update our website, which launched in 2020, with the inclusion of a donation facility, something that would encourage individual donations, not just on a general basis, but by utilising specific fundraising campaigns and online events.</p>	<p>£9,609.00</p>
<p>Builth Wells</p>	<p>As a registered charity, under the criterion 'to purchase of equipment to enhance facilities and services' for 'Arts & Cultural Organisations' they are seeking funding to support the mental health and general wellbeing of our audience as we emerge from the Covid pandemic. Specifically, for funds to provide new quality audio equipment for live music and other live performances both for and by the community across Mid Wales.</p>	<p>£10,000.00</p>

Llanwrtyd Wells	They are looking for funding to develop a “walking for wellbeing” facility offering a low-level wheelchair friendly walk along a flat terrain, operating on a model of social prescription where health professionals are able to refer patients to support within their community in order to improve their health and wellbeing. In the wake of the pandemic many people are still reluctant to gather in crowded spaces. This project will provide a space where people are socially distanced but can exercise in the knowledge that they are safe. They would provide hand sanitisers along the route and could, if necessary, have a one-way system around the perimeter of the field.	£10,000.00
Newtwn	Funding to improve and adapt our venue so that they can support more people to increase confidence and life skills in a practical, well ventilated and disabled friendly outdoor setting. The project will help respond to the increased anxiety, social isolation, lack of confidence and other mental health challenges that people have suffered because of Covid-19. People remain reluctant to take part in social activities which is exasperating social isolation in rural areas.	8,407.00
Caersws	The Village Club has over several years been slowly undergoing refurbishment. In summer of 2020 they completed the much-needed refurbishment of our toilets, we also have several flat roof areas and most recently we have completed the full replacement of the function room roof. All of this refurbishment has to date been funded by the Village Club revenues and donations from groups and private individuals.	5,000.00
Churchstoke	The project is to extend the clubhouse to provide a kitchen facility, freeing up space in the clubhouse to host members and visitors to the club in a post covid environment. Though the clubhouse is a temporary structure it is of a quality that has stood the test of time and the extension is to be built to the same standards. At present there are makeshift kitchen facilities within the clubhouse taking up valuable space and not really fit for purpose.	5,548.00
Meifod	To improve access for all to our club house we wish to install a lift. The function bar area is on the first floor. They feel that by installing a lift into the club house, this will enable us to host events that will appeal to all ages and members of the community. They are flanked by the bowling green, tennis courts and our playing fields, so we anticipate that they would benefit from the improvements.	7,730.00
Clatter	To replace three large 113-year-old windows in the community centre, formerly the village school, to ensure the continued use for the benefit of the local community.	£3,172.00
Talgarth	The area has been cleaned and repaired by volunteers but needs refreshment to encourage and enthuse both children and their parents/grandparents to engage in active play and to commune.	8,000.00

Aberhafesp	<p>Funding to provide a fit for use PA system and loop, also a wifi connection so that community council can meet new Welsh office guidelines to provide hybrid meetings.</p> <p>Also, YFC and WI and other groups can access remote meetings or take part in learning situations.</p> <p>Hall has very high ceilings and acoustics are poor but with Loop will benefit those with hearing difficulties and those without.</p> <p>Hopefully encourage more groups to use centre and increase revenue and encourage accessibility and inclusivity.</p>	£3,942.00
Dolau	<p>They are looking to create an outdoor space by the village hall. It was recognised during the lockdowns that there is nothing available in Dolau for people to enjoy the outdoors.</p> <p>They would like to have a small play area and picnic benches so families in the area are able to walk to the facility/ meet friends outdoors. The past year has made everyone realise that outdoors is safer by having this space available not only can families continue to meet if there are any restrictions put in place again to avoid meeting indoors.</p>	£5,000.00
Tregynon	<p>Need to adapt the land to facilitate and develop outdoor space. To provide composite and sustainable picnic tables and benches. To encourage residents and families to play and picnic in a safe outdoor environment. To promote wellbeing, exercise in an outdoor space as we recover from Covid.</p>	£2,176.00
Llangynidr	<p>The Community recovery fund will enable the village hall to regenerate the playground facilities providing play opportunities for all ages and abilities. They have had numerous meetings about getting the playground regenerated with safer working equipment. have sent out a survey to find out what the community want in terms of playground equipment. The re design of the playground will include a one-way system, social distancing, and hand sanitising stations.</p>	£10,000.00
Abermule	<p>Bowling Leagues is planning to have open sessions on the green for people in community, and visitors (nearby caravan park) also discussing having schools sessions on Friday afternoons. The project will not only re-establish regular bowling for members/ex members, getting them back to healthy outdoor activity, where risk of Covid is more easily managed.</p>	£1,824.50
Montgomery	<p>Montgomeryshire Community Regeneration Association owns and manages Plas Dolerw which is conference and local community facility in Newtown. The lift in the building was installed in 2000. The lift is serviced every six months but due to the type of the lift, replacement parts are no longer produced and available. The lift stopped working just before Covid19 and unfortunately needs to be replaced. The lift enables disabled users and the elderly access to the first floor where different voluntary organisations occupy offices.</p>	£8,491.00

<p>Presteigne</p>	<p>Marketing materials to promote Mid Border Arts, request for lift in the Assembly Rooms. And Lift for disabled access . The Assembly Rooms are spread over 2 floors. All main events take place upstairs and access to this room for the elderly, infirm or very young is via the lift. Performers and theatre companies also use it to move their equipment up to the performance space. The loss of the lift is a huge blow for our most vulnerable visitors who are less physically able and struggling with the effects of shielding and isolation. Having a working lift is crucial to our post Covid recovery. Relaunching their programme to the local community and beyond is also key to their recovery.</p>	<p>9,863.00</p>
<p>Llanfair Caereinion</p>	<p>Works to display building to restore it to full use after Covid and accommodate the move of Cloverland’s Model Museum from Montgomery to Llanfair, in order to increase its public access. Cloverland’s Model Car Museum, currently housed in Montgomery Institute and open for extremely restricted hours and adapt part of WLR Museum space for their displays. This will substantially increase the footfall to both museums. To visitors, the attraction will appear as a single collection, although Cloverland’s will retain ownership of their artifacts.</p>	<p>7,328.00</p>
<p>Pontneffechan</p>	<p>This project is for a design and feasibility study to identify the best use of the building and the works needed to achieve this. Facilities at the Hall are insufficient for the demand from both the community and visitors - in excess of 50,000 visitors per year to this end of the village and this has increased significantly since COVID. Craig y Ddinas is an outdoor activity hot spot with gorge walking and climbing being very popular activities. There are no public facing facilities in this area, so the communities and environment have been impacted by inappropriate toileting, changing, litter and parking issues. The community benefit very little from these visitors as there is minimum opportunity to spend and they believe that there is a huge opportunity missed here.</p>	<p>5000.00</p>
<p>Berriew</p>	<p>Depleted funds and membership following Covid. They are requesting materials to make masks, torches a to buy also the girls individual torches, rucksacks and picnic blankets, reflective jackets, so we can start meeting face to face outdoors to eliminate the risk of covid further. Also help towards hall rental</p>	<p>800.00</p>
<p>Llangorse</p>	<p>Replacement of broken kitchen doors, worktops, and crockery. Maintaining good standards of hygiene and safety will improve the facilities provided, reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission, and ensure people who attend the Community Centre can do so safely.</p>	<p>1708.50</p>

Covid-19 Community Recovery Grant – Mid Term Review

8 questions were selected, and the survey circulated throughout the Regeneration and Partnership networks. There were 37 responses out of the total 94 applicant returned, giving a 39.3% response rate, which is a relatively high return for Local Authority surveys. The survey was a combination of multiple choice and comment boxes, the responses are detailed below:

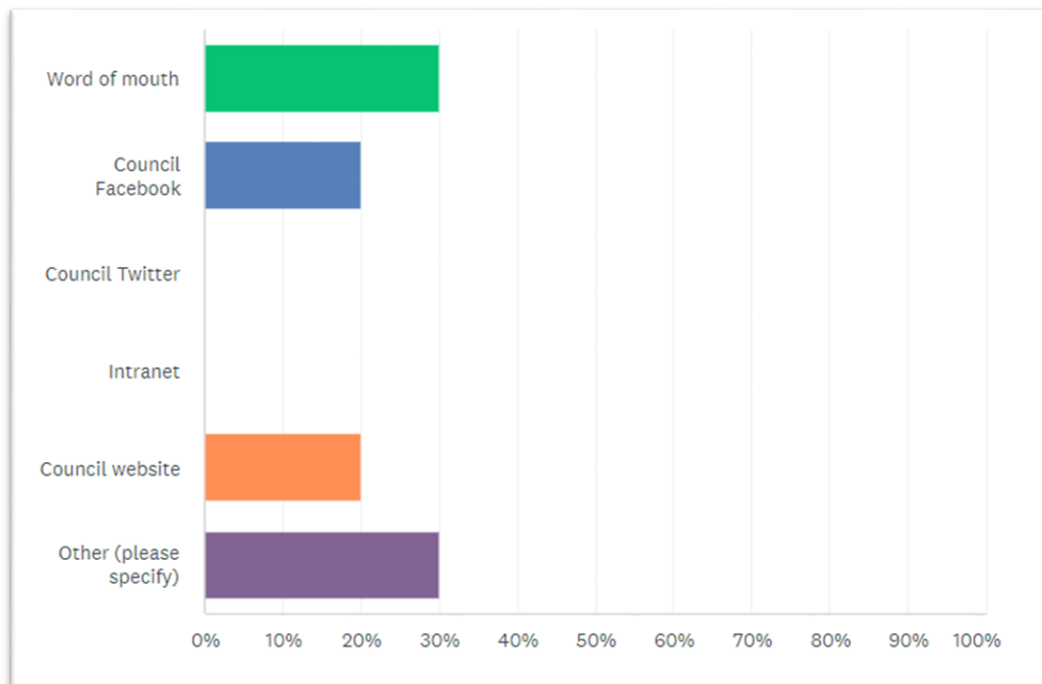
Q1. What is your organisation sector?

Officers have included all the 94 groups in this response as it was stated on the application. The breakdown of groups is as follows: -

Organisation	Approved	Refused	Total
Health & Wellbeing orgs.	9	8	17
Arts	7	6	13
Sports	5	7	12
Community Councils	4	2	6
Play V Hall	7	3	10
Events	3	0	3
Youth	7	8	15
Other Community Organisations	11	7	18

Q2. Where did you hear about the scheme?

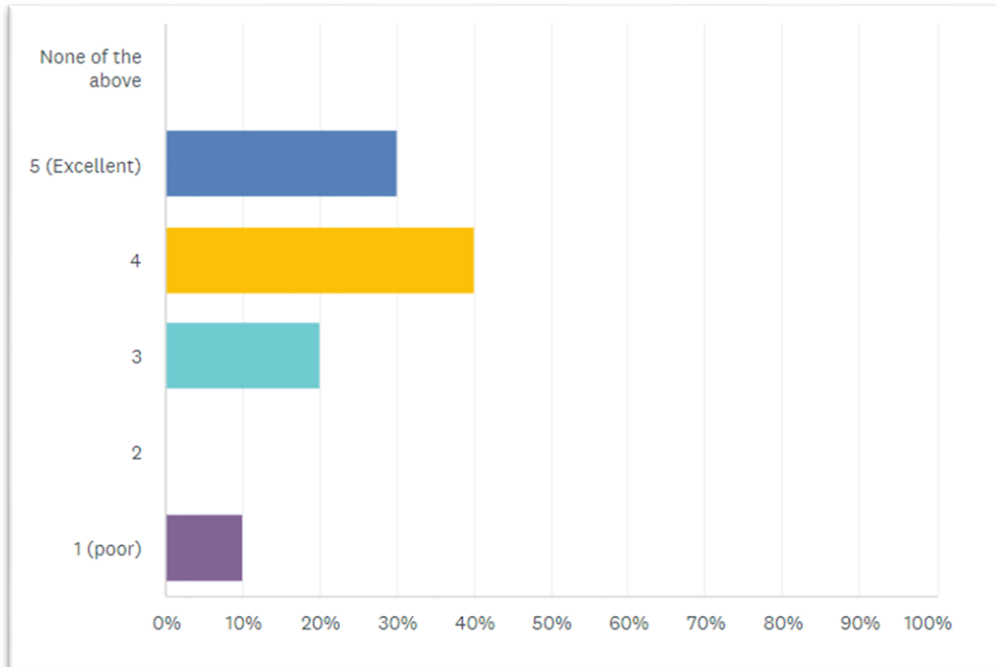
This question was to test how successful the marketing of the Scheme has been to date.



This shows that engagement through Members, Partner Organisations and Regeneration Team networks appears to have been the most successful way of communication, as on further examination the other methods included Community Council, Town Council and County Councillor.

Q3. What was your experience with the online application? (1= poor, 5=Excellent)

Given this is the first Community Grant scheme that has been undertaken online, it was felt important to be aware of any issues the Third Sector had experienced with the process.



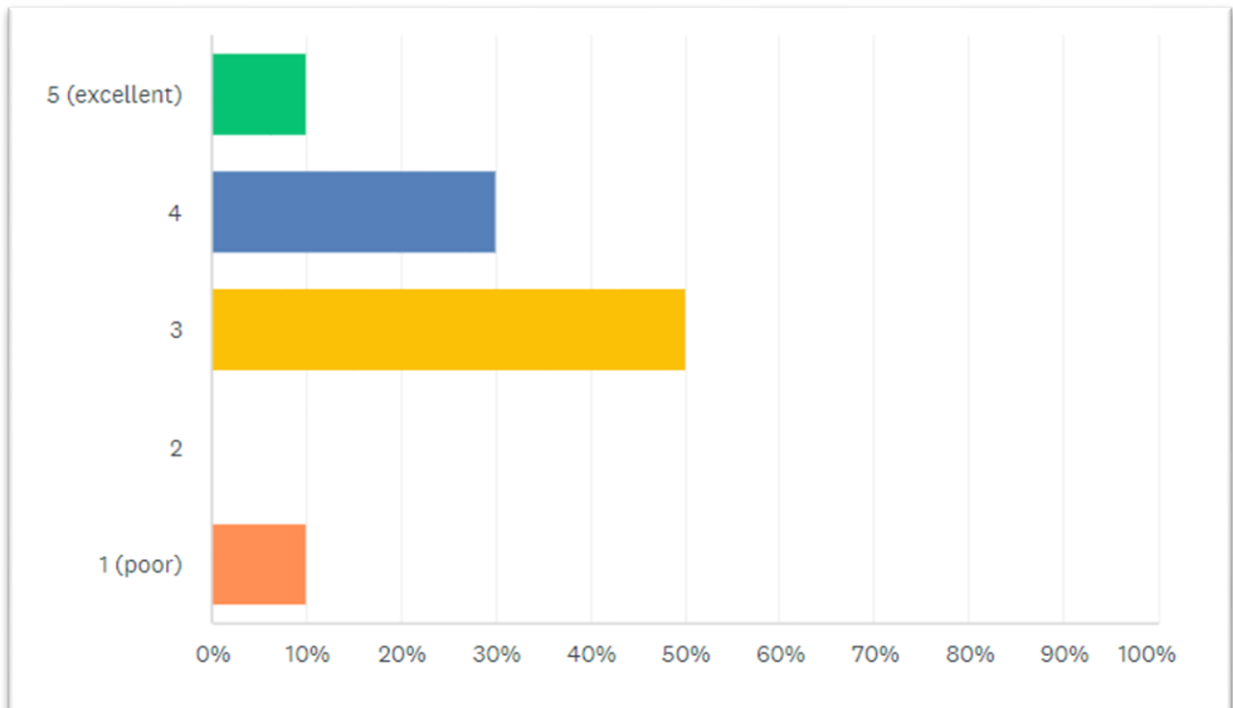
This showed across the full spectrum of Applicants felt that the online process was above average in its style and questions.

A sample of both positive and negative responses include (These have been taken direct from the Survey and unedited):

- *The questions don't always relate exactly to the project and the questions were a bit repetitive*
- *I found it quite straightforward*
- *Easy to understand though (rightly) demanding*
- *It wasn't very user friendly*
- *copy and paste form with same awkward question. did not say religion cannot apply. but was rejected on that basis.*
- *Fairly easy to complete, self-explanatory*

Q4. What was your overall experience of this process? (1= poor, 5=Excellent)

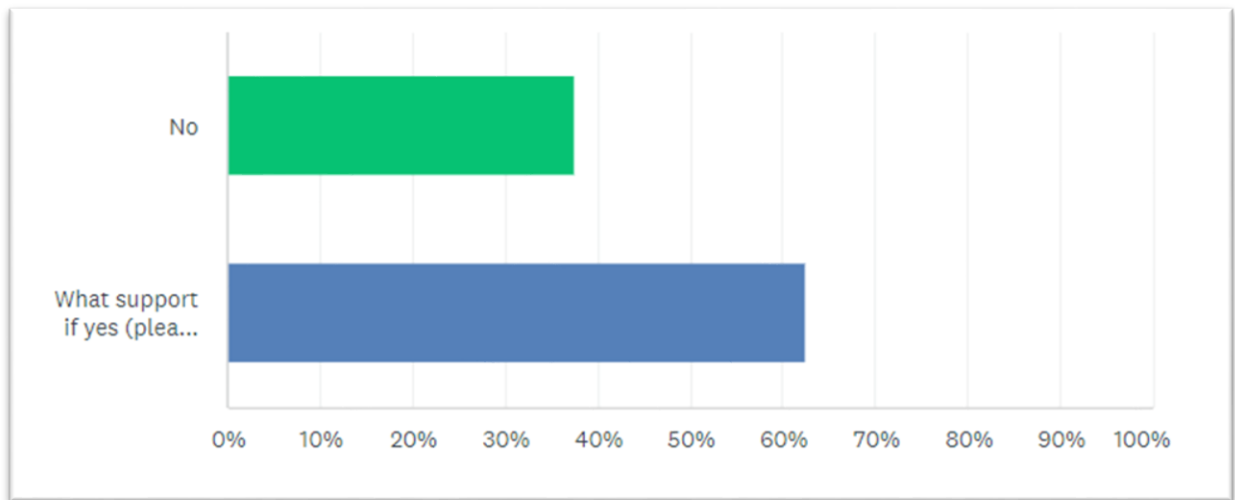
The Applicants were asked to score and give comment (if desired). on the application process.



50% of the applicants who responded thought the process was average and many had no specific comments to make. Below is a selection of the written responses made:

- *I was very grateful to receive the grant, but the application stated that the grant would be 80% but was actually 50%.*
- *Good*
- *Poor communication and mixed messages as I was trying to apply for our local toilets, in much need of repair having been neglected by Powys*
- *Very time consuming with such a short time in which to complete the application*
- *Excellent telephone support*
- *Need shorter time from application deadline to confirmation of amount awarded.*

Q5. If you were unsuccessful, were you offered support in alternative avenues?



This question raised some concerns as one third of the unsuccessful applicants stated that they had received no support on looking for other external funding.

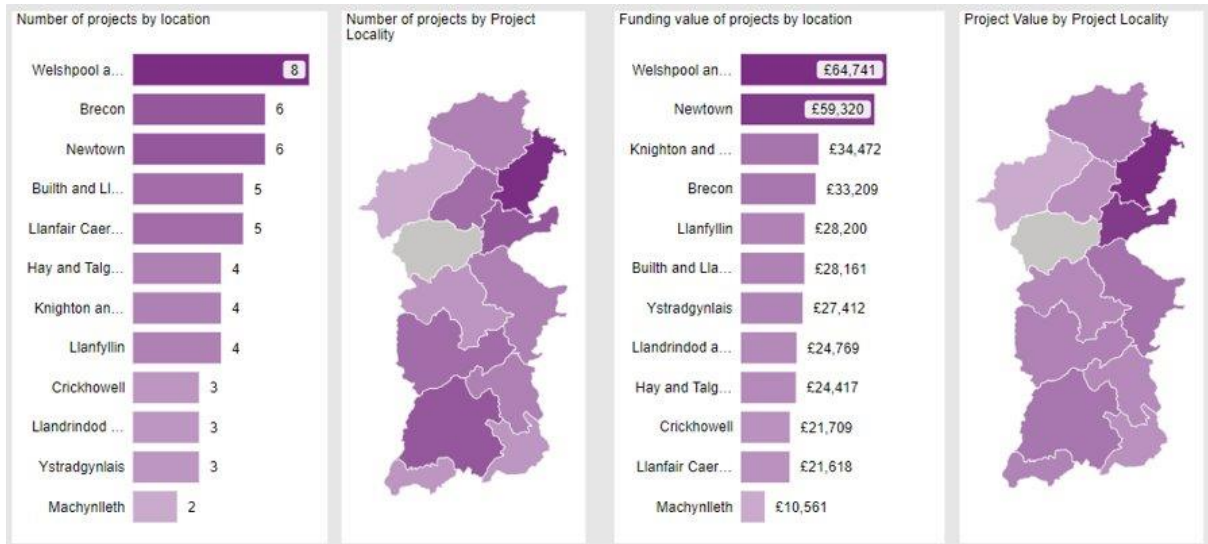
Each applicant was given suggested alternative external funding streams. However, it is noted that the letters sent to applicants need to be clearer. A funding leaflet of the major funding options is being pulled together and will be included with each unsuccessful applicants' responses going forward.

Only three written responses were received:

- *Alternative options*
- *I have not heard yet if we have been successful (This applicant did give contact details, so after discussion this, the information had gone into the email spam filter)*
- *N/A*

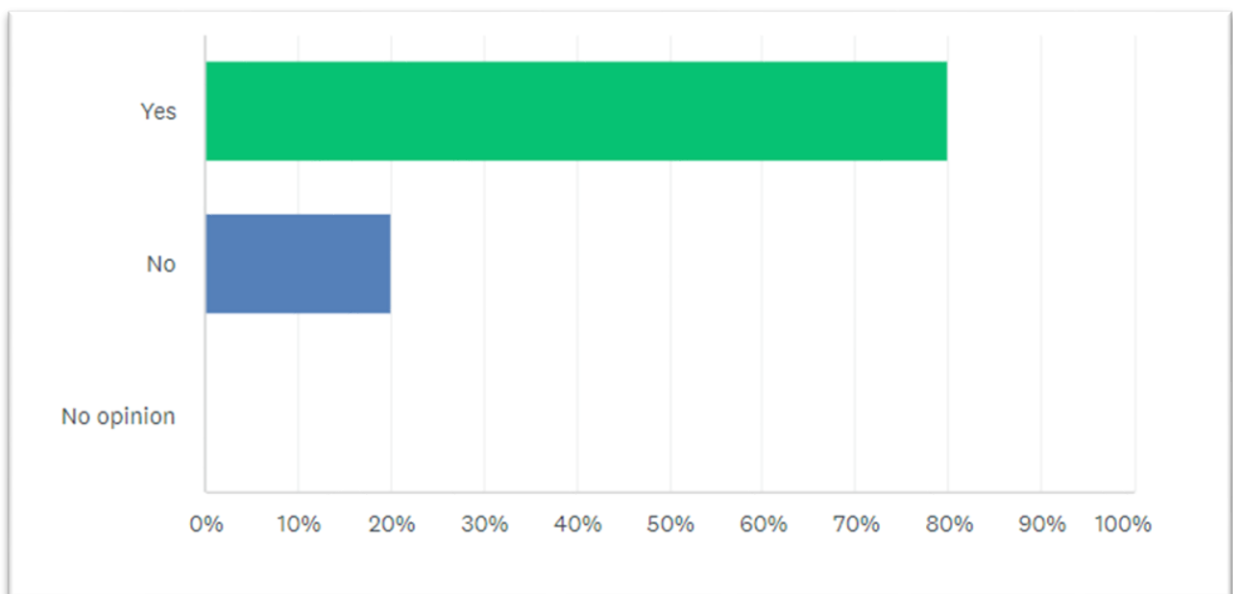
Q6. What is your Geographical area?

This shows that the grant has been distributed evenly across the County. This has been drawn from all 94 applicants' postcodes.



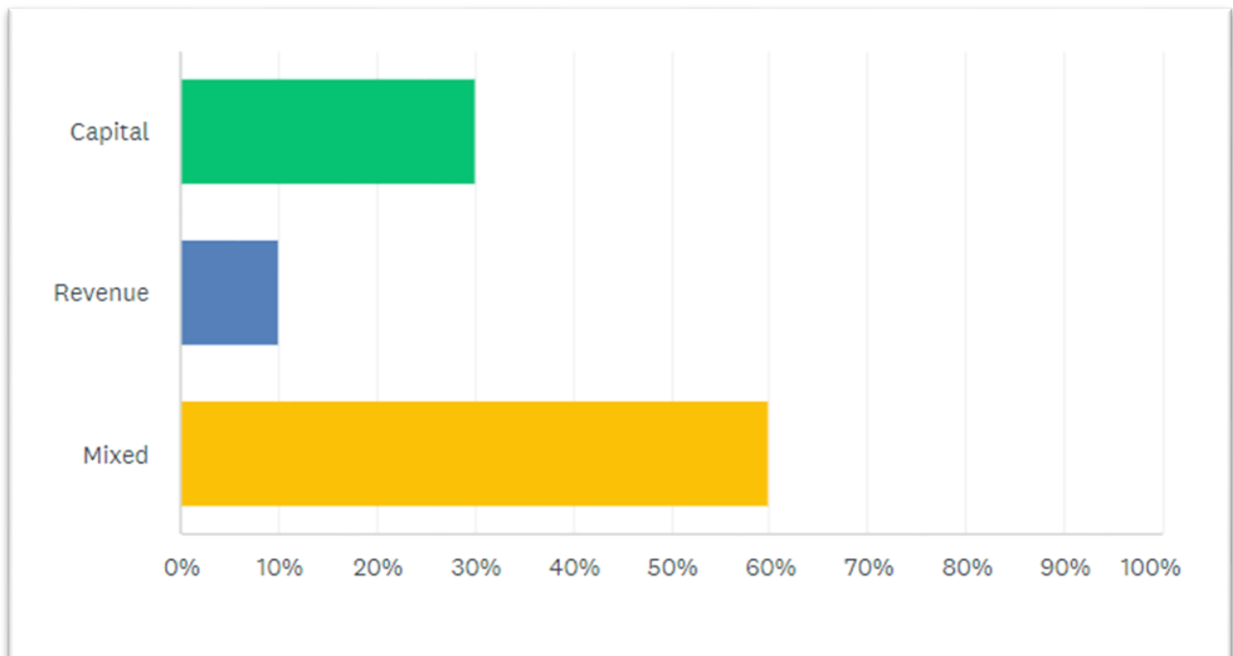
In future surveys, there needs to be constituency in the wording to ensure a clear response. Giving the option of a text box resulted in 19% of the applicant responses stated Powys rather than a specific area, with 18% stating South Powys. So, although a useful question it was not specific enough for the information required.

Q7. If there was further funding in future would this experience, make you want to apply.



Although there has been criticism of the application process and the decisions made, 80% of those who responded would apply for funding again.

Q8. Also, if there would be future grants, is there a preference on capital or revenue funding?



Those who responded were asked if their Organisation would prefer Capital, Revenue or Mixed funding, clearly with 60% responding that they would prefer mixed funding gives an indication that the Community Recovery Fund is the correct financial balance.

Next Steps

The final year of the Covid Recovery Grant scheme is due to open in the new financial year, Officers will take forward the points raised through the Survey to ensure a high standard of customer service is achieved.

Jenni Thomas

Professional Lead – Town Centre and Community