

GRANTS SUB COMMITTEE

Cllr Mike Cole, Chairman



Thatcham Town Council appreciates the value of supporting local organisations and the difference this funding makes. In 2023/24 the Town Council provided £92,720.96 of funding to support the local community.

Community Grant Awards

The Grants Sub Committee oversees the allocation of our Community Grants. This is done through bi-annual funding awards in January/February and June/July. We have a matched funding agreement with Greenham Trust where every £1 awarded by the Town Council has the potential to be matched by Greenham Trust. Applications are administered through The Good Exchange, this ensures recipients receive the matched funding.

The Sub Committee considers applications that serve the Thatcham community, to ensure residents of Thatcham benefit from the grant awarded. Applicants are often invited to attend a meeting to present their project and take questions.

During 2023/24 Thatcham Town Council awarded the following grants, all of which were doubled up with valuable matched funding from Greenham Trust:

ORGANISATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Time to Talk West Berkshire	Thatcham Outreach	£2,722.25
St Mary's Church	Thatcham Baby Café	£67.35
West Berks Action For Refugees	Case worker for asylum seekers and refugees	£2,000
Thatcham Rugby Club	Community Kitchen	£2,500
BBOWT (Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust)	Nature Memories Cafe	£2,000
TOTAL		£9,289.60

Committed Community Support grants

Thatcham Town Council has a number of funding agreements with organisations, providing funding to support these organisations to commit to serving the Thatcham community. This year we've provided the following funding:

ORGANISATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Friends of Thatcham Library	Garden maintenance costs	£416.84
Friends of Thatcham Library	Lawnmower & dyslexia friendly books	£339.13
Friends of Thatcham Library	Children's sofa, tables & cupboard	£1,569.20
Friends of Thatcham Library	Storage cabinet & bench	£459.00
Old Bluecoat School	Service Level Agreement	£1,000.00
Cold Ash Brass	Annual retainer	£800.00
Citizens Advice West Berkshire	Thatcham outreach service	£4,785.00
Thatcham Youth	Provision of youth activities	£7,000.00
RMD Adventure Learning	Youth Work	£2,475.28
Thatcham Flood Forum	Website maintenance	£50.00
Thatcham Litter Pickers	Public Liability Insurance	£161.41
Thatcham Memorial Foundation	War Memorial Insurance	£844.75
TOTAL		£19,900.61

Community Projects Fund

As well as the Community Grants, the Town Council also has a mechanism for distribution of smaller grants of up to £300. The Community Project Fund is administered directly by the Town Council and is in place to support organisations where a smaller amount is sought, but will make a big difference. When an application is made by an organisation to the Community Project Fund, it is considered by the next appropriate Council meeting, thus allowing these awards to be considered swiftly throughout the year rather than on the bi-annual basis of our larger grant scheme.

Beneficiaries of this fund during 2023/24 are:

Organisation	Project	Amount
Dementia Friendly West Berkshire	Thatcham Garden Party	£250.00
Royal Air Force Cadets	Navigational Compasses	£210.00
Thatcham Baptist Church	Welcoming Asylum Seekers	£299.75
West Berks Action for Refugees	Art Classes	£300.00
Greenham Control Tower	Moving Forward with Purpose Project	£250.00
Thatcham Repair Cafe	Start-up funding 2024	£250.00
Kennet Amateur Theatrical Society	Assist with prop hire	£240.00
TOTAL		£1,799.75

Partnership Contributions

Thatcham Town Council has formal agreements with West Berkshire Council to provide partnership contributions towards the running costs of two significant local services, Kennet Leisure Centre and Henwick Worthy Sports Ground.

Our contributions for 2023/24 were:

Kennet Leisure Centre	£21,731
Henwick Worthy Sports Ground	£40,000

Councillor Mike Cole