

GRANTS SUB COMMITTEE

Cllr Mike Cole, Chairman



Thatcham Town Council appreciates the value of supporting local organisations and the difference this funding makes. In 2024/25 the Town Council provided £83,033.08 of funding to support the local community.

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 2024/25 were:

Kennet Leisure Centre: £24,061

Henwick Worthy Sports Ground: £40,000

In-Kind Grants

Thatcham Town Council proudly supports local charities, businesses and organisations to get started on their journey with free hall hire, borrowing equipment, and free weeks at Thatcham Friday Market.

This year we have donated the following in-kind:

Thatcham Community Larder: £7,889

Project Salama: £736

Pub Watch: £75

Afrofest: £150

Community Grant Awards

The Grants Sub Committee oversees the allocation of our Community Grants. This is done through bi-annual funding awards in February/March and September/October. 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, which 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 2024/25 Thatcham Town Council awarded the following grants, most of which were doubled up with valuable matched funding from Greenham Trust:

Cold Ash Brass	£800	Annual Retainer (not match funded)
Citizens Advice West Berkshire	£4,981	Contribution towards Operational Costs
The Newbury Community Resource Centre	£500	Cost of Living Crisis - Essential Household Goods Scheme 2024
All Yours Period Box C.I.C	£456.50	2024 West Berkshire Period Boxes (Cost of Living Application)
West Berkshire Therapy Centre	£500	Replacing Power-Assisted Exercise Machines Phase 2 2024
Time to Talk West Berkshire	£900	Time to Talk Thatcham Outreach 2024
Pied Piper Preschool	£400	Garden Project
ABC to Read	£500	Transforming Lives: Support Children's Reading with ABC to read 2024-2025
Thatcham Bowling Club	£250	Bowling England Approved Training for Club Volunteers
Response Organisation	£1,000	Thatcham Wellbeing Hub
Time to Talk West Berkshire	£750	Counselling in Schools
Kennet Amateur Theatrical Society (KATS)	£500	Modernisation of lighting equipment
2nd Thatcham Scout Group	£500	Scout Hut - Toilet Refurbishment
Daisy's Dream	£900	Increasing social and emotional support for bereaved children in West Berkshire - Greenham Escalator Project
Thatcham 10k CIC	£1,000	Henwick Sports Field - Distance Marker Course
Swings & Smiles	£750	Play Leader to support Disabled Children

Committed Community Support Grants

Thatcham Town Council has a number of funding agreements with local organisations. Providing funding to support these organisations ensures a commitment to serve Thatcham's community. This year we've provided the following funding:

Friends of Thatcham Library	£533.43	Public Liability Ins, scatter cushions and padlocks
Friends of Thatcham Library	£533.96	Gazebo, rugs, games, art course, shelf
Friends of Thatcham Library	£351.98	Art classes and camouflage netting
Friends of Thatcham Library	£189.14	Folding tables & chairs, strimmer & safety glasses
Friends of Thatcham Library	£1,510.80	Soft furnishings recovered
Friends of Thatcham Library	£280	Activities
Old Bluecoat School	£1,000	Use of Old Bluecoat SLA
Thatcham Litter Pickers		Public Liability Insurance

Community Project Fund

As well as the Community Grants, the Town Council also has a mechanism for distribution of smaller grants. 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 2024/25 were:

Thatcham Bowling Club	£250	Community Engagement Project
Eco-Friends West Berkshire	£230.27	Maintain website
Jubilee Garden Volunteers	£250	Garden tools for volunteers
Alice Bye Court	£350	Dementia friendly garden
West Berks Heritage Forum	£50	Operational costs
Life Education Wessex	£555	Helping children make healthy choices
Hidden Gem Cafe	£280	Set up a chatty café table
Angels Outreach	£250	Empowering marginalised communities in Thatcham