

GRANTS SUB COMMITTEE

Cllr Mike Cole, Chairman



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 2025/26 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	£5,115	Contribution towards Operational Costs
Newbury Pride	£1,696.50	Assistance at Family Fun Day
Old Bluecoat School	£500	New Car Park Fence
West Berkshire Food Bank	£2,500	Hungry Holidays' project
Thatcham Town Cricket Club	£1,500	Upgrade indoor cricket nets at Kennet
Thatcham War Memorial	£876.34	Memorial Insurance
Volunteer Centre West Berkshire	£500	Community Transport Services
Home-Start West Berkshire	£800	Provide essential resources
Newbury Weekly News	£800	Over 80s Christmas Parcel Fund

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 2025/26 were:

Kennet Leisure Centre: £28,000

Henwick Worthy Sports Ground: £70,758

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	£219.63	Garden items & embroidery w/shop
Friends of Thatcham Library	£804	Makeover of Library Garden
Friends of Thatcham Library	£99.05	Purchase of Sack Truck
Friends of Thatcham Library	£398.27	Library furniture and games
Friends of Thatcham Library	£382.79	Garden Seat & chalkboards
Friends of Thatcham Library	£525.00	Book returns box
Old Bluecoat School	£100	Card Making

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 2025/26 were:

7th Brownies Thatcham	£250	Assist 2 girls to go on camp
Thatcham Comedy Club	£250	Assist Comedy Club
Project Salama	£250	Assist Fundraising event
Welcome Space	£250	Create a welcome space, loneliness craft sessions
Thatcham Rotary	£250	Help towards facilitating the duck race in September
Kennet School	£250	Project 'Food Departments Garnish Garden'
1st Thatcham Scout Group	£249.80	Project 'Wood Burning Kettle Stoves'

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: £7,938
Sue Ryder Charity Quiz: £72
Dance Fundraiser: £240
Board Game Club: £66
West Berkshire Comedy Festival: £108
Newbury Building Society Fundraiser: £48
West Berkshire Therapy Centre: £24
Allotment Society: £60
Pub watch: £15
Dementia Friendly West Berkshire: £60
Neighbourhood Watch: £34
Swings and Smiles: £60