



News Release

Communications and Media Team

Tel: 01803 861368

Email: communications@swdevon.gov.uk

£153,000 Given to Local Projects

9 March 2017

A new memorial hall roof in Stokenham, a new play park in Modbury and Village Hall improvements in West Alvington are among eight projects which have been given a share in a £153,900 fund from South Hams District Council.

The scheme called the Community Reinvestment Fund has been running since 2013. It uses money given to the Council when new homes are built, called the New Homes Bonus, to support community infrastructure projects in communities where development has taken place.

Last year £113,000 was split between 5 projects, 4 of which were based in Totnes:

- Leechwell Garden Association - Leechwell Garden Play Structure
- Totnes Community Development Society - Mansion Totnes
- Totnes Trust - Rotherfold Improvement Project
- Totnes Town Council - Totnes Civic Hall rebranding
- Salcombe - Community Link Path

The Leechwell Garden Play Structure is due to open on Wednesday 22 March and will provide an adventurous natural play space in the heart of Totnes. The new Path at Salcombe has been completed and will provide a safe pedestrian link alongside Batson Creek to the community at Lower Batson.

Works to improve the civic space at the Rotherfold in Totnes are nearing completion, with new paving, planting areas and hand carved benches. The space reflects the

community aspiration for a space to sit and rest, a safe place for children to play and a space for markets and plays.

This year the total applications to the £153,900 funding pot amounted to over £300,000 (as opposed to just £113,000 in 2016/17). As a result not every application could be supported and some difficult decisions had to be taken.

This year, the money has been split between 8 Projects:

- Stoke Fleming PC Surfacing replacement £7,250 - Replacement of cracked wet pour surfacing within play park
- Stokenham PC Footpath drainage £8,500 - To improve the drainage and surface along the path and extend it towards Cotmore and Beesand
- Stokenham PC Memorial Hall new roof £39,475 - To replace the existing roof with a new watertight, energy efficient replacement.
- Yealmpton PC Footpath improvements £5,000 - To create a stable footpath which will not be washed away by flooding of the River Yealm.
- Champernowne Play Park Steering Group New play park £30,000 - The aim of this project is to modernise Champernowne Play Park in Modbury, adding significant play value for children up to the age of 12.
- Newton and Noss PC Play park improvement £16,980 - To upgrade and renovate the children's play park equipment, create a natural play space, outdoor table tennis facility, renovate basketball facility, improve pedestrian access gates and update picnic and bench seating.
- Salcombe TC New street lighting £20,000 - To provide street lighting to ensure a safe route for children to and from school, and pedestrians using these path leading to a newly built estate at Bonfire Hill during darkness.
- West Alvington Village Hall Committee Village hall improvements £26,695 - To improve the facilities – kitchen, toilets with disabled access, shower unit

and baby changing, heating system, flooring and general upgrade of this much used facility.

Cllr Hilary Bastone, Portfolio Holder for Customer First, said: “This year we saw an avalanche of applications, many more than last year and we had a tough time whittling down the successful applications from so many. Looking at each application on its own merit, we are delighted to be allocating funding to 8 community projects across the District.

“While we understand that there is disappointment in Totnes that applications in the town have not been chosen this year, I think that it would be unfair to say that Totnes hasn’t benefitted from the scheme. Last year we allocated £113,000, and out of that, £85,000 was allocated to Totnes alone. Development happens across the South Hams and I am pleased to see villages and towns across the District being provided with community facilities.”

The Community Re-investment Projects Fund will run again next year using the New Homes Bonus from recent developments. The project funds are available for Town and Parish Councils and voluntary and community groups in the areas where the developments are taking place. The deadline for applications next year will be in mid-January 2018, and the Fund will be promoted by South Hams District Council during the coming year.

To apply for these funds, community projects will need to be near a development with more than 10 homes, or more than 3 homes in smaller Parishes, and would have the support from Ward Councillors and the Parish or Town Council. For more information visit South Hams District Council website

at <http://old.southhams.gov.uk/article/5188/Community-Re-investment-Projects-Fund>.