



**Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities**

Jacob Young MP
Minister for Levelling Up
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

To: All MPs

25th September 2023

Dear colleague,

Community Ownership Fund Round 3 Window 1

For many in our towns, villages, and cities, levelling up is about safeguarding the small, but much-loved assets on which we cannot put a price. I am writing to you regarding the £150 million Community Ownership Fund, which I am delighted to inform you has today awarded funding to 45 new projects in Round 3 Window 1, totalling £12.3 million. This additional funding takes the programme's funding total to £49.3 million for 195 projects.

The Community Ownership Fund helps communities across England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland to take ownership of beloved community assets at risk of closure. This Fund forms part of the UK Government's wider levelling up agenda, building opportunity and targeting support towards places where community assets can make the most difference.

As set out in our Levelling Up White Paper, levelling up is a mission – part economic, part social, part moral – to realise the potential of every place and every person across the UK. To achieve this, it is right that we also think local and consider the everyday infrastructure – the community centres, pubs, sporting facilities – that mean so much to local communities. This is precisely what the Fund does, ensuring local people can support and continue benefiting from the treasured local institutions that matter to them most.

We are already making good progress on this important work, the Community Ownership Fund is already supporting 150 projects across the UK such as The Crown Project in Birmingham; the Queen's Ballroom in Blaenau Gwent, Wales; Glens Digital Hub in Causeway Coast and Glens, Northern Ireland; and Lochranza Country Inn on the Isle of Arran, Scotland. These projects are making a genuine and meaningful difference to their communities. The additional investment awarded in this bidding window, will see more local assets across the United Kingdom, levelling up the places we love and cherish.

As you will know, the Community Ownership Fund is competitive, with individual organisations submitting applications to the Fund. We award funding to those bids which meet our published minimum scoring criteria; therefore, we cannot always guarantee that there is an equal geographical spread in the projects which we fund. However, to address this, we have undertaken promotion of the Fund across all parts of the United Kingdom and our specialist delivery support provider is now helping to target this promotion further and providing in-depth support for the development of

applications and business cases for applicants from underrepresented areas. This support may also include access to small revenue grants to secure specialist support, such as from architects or solicitors. This is a well-resourced package of bespoke support, reflecting the Department's commitment to helping community groups apply successfully from communities right across the UK.

Projects such as the Dartford Gym and Youth Club in Dartford, England; the Vale of Aeron pub in Ceredigion, Wales; South Seeds Community Net-Zero hub in Glasgow, Scotland; and The Old Barracks in Mid Ulster, Northern Ireland have all benefited from this specialist support and have now been awarded funding that will help secure the long-term future of these treasured local assets.

The Community Ownership Fund offers a great opportunity for local groups to take over invaluable community assets and to run them as businesses – by the community, for the community.

As fellow Members of Parliament you are best placed to understand community need and recognise which community groups may be interested in applying, and we encourage you to help us in promoting the Fund, and the development support available, to those groups.

The Fund will be running until March 2025 with four bidding windows per financial year, so there is plenty of opportunity for interested groups to apply. Round 3 Window 2 is currently open and will close on 11th October 2023. The prospectus for Round 3 can be found here- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-ownership-fund-prospectus/community-ownership-fund-prospectus--3>. This window will see the funding cap increase from £1 million to £2 million for all asset types, as well as reducing the match funding requirement from 50% to 20%, meaning more communities can access the funding needed to rescue treasured local institutions. Annex A below shows successful projects for Round 3 Window 1 by constituency and local authority.

I am delighted to work with such a diverse portfolio of projects, from restoring historical pubs to supporting sports clubs and facilities, all of which has been made possible through the Community Ownership Fund. I look forward to building on this success and supporting many more small but mighty local assets across the United Kingdom, levelling up the places we love.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacob Young', written in a cursive style.

JACOB YOUNG MP

Annex A: Round 3 Window 1 Successful Projects by Constituency and Local Authority

Asset Constituency	Asset LA	Project Name
Belfast North	Belfast	The Old Synagogue Belfast
Brecon and Radnorshire	Powys	The Judge's Lodging: constructing a viable community resource
Broadland	Broadland	Haveringland Community Hub
Bromsgrove	Bromsgrove	D7 Omnibus Restoration
Central Devon	Teignbridge	Moor Imagination Centre, Buckfastleigh
Ceredigion	Ceredigion	Tafarn Cymunedol Dyffryn Aeron
Cheltenham	Cheltenham	Petersfield Community and Sports Hub
City of Chester	Cheshire West and Chester	Purchase of the freehold for The Centurion Pub
Dartford	Dartford	Europa Weightlifting, Dartford Gym
Dewsbury	Kirklees	The Cabin new Build
East Surrey	Tandridge	The Oxted 'Park Hub': Enhancing Impact and Securing the Future of Master Park
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	Mid Ulster	The Old Barracks, Dungannon
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	Fermanagh and Omagh	Melvin Recreational Centre
Glasgow South	Glasgow City	Bringing the Old Changing Rooms back in to community use
High Peak	High Peak	Chinley & Buxworth Community Centre Rebuild
Hitchin and Harpenden	North Hertfordshire	Kimpton Pavilion Refurbishment Project
Keighley	Bradford	KWVR Bridge 27 rebuild
Leeds Central	Leeds	The Cockburn Centre
Leeds West	Leeds	Sea Cloud Hall, Leeds
Middlesbrough	Middlesbrough	The International Centre
Newry and Armagh	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	The Old School House, Milford
North Cornwall	Cornwall	The Old Library
North Dorset	Dorset	Shillingstone Old Ox Inn - community purchase
North Dorset	Dorset	Blandford Forum Corn Exchange: Restoration and renewal of a community asset
North Shropshire	Shropshire	Gobowen Station Community Enhancement Project
North Thanet	Thanet	TMS 31-33 High Street
North West Hampshire	Basingstoke and Deane	Keep Overton Swimming
Ochil and South Perthshire	Perth and Kinross	Aero Space Kinross
Preseli Pembrokeshire	Pembrokeshire	Temperance Hall Printworks.
Romsey and Southampton North	Test Valley	Over Wallop Community Pavilion
Sheffield, Heeley	Sheffield	Open House Opening Up
Skipton and Ripon	Harrogate	Henry Jenkins Community Pub
Skipton and Ripon	Harrogate	Skelton-on-Ure Pub & Hub
South East Cornwall	Cornwall	Sterts Theatre Re-build
South Leicestershire	Blaby	Whetstone Community Hub
South West Surrey	Waverley	Crown Court Public Toilets Renovation

St Albans	St Albans	St Germain's Barn and St Michael's Changing Rooms
Stirling	Stirling	Gargunnoch Community Shop
Stretford and Urmston	Trafford	Stretford Public Hall - Investment for the Future
Suffolk Coastal	East Suffolk	Holton Pits - Community Open Space
Tatton	Cheshire East	Knutsford Market Hall
Tonbridge and Malling	Tonbridge and Malling	Purchase of Leybourne Woods
West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	Aberdeenshire	Renovation of the former Laurencekirk Community Centre
West Worcestershire	Malvern Hills	Guarford Village Hall
Wyre Forest	Wyre Forest	Purchase of Allotment Land