

KPT COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND 2023-24

The following information was presented to the Trust's AGM on 31 October 2024.

The Community Benefit Fund was established by the KPT Development Trust to provide grants to local projects that address:

- jobs, disadvantage and conditions of life generally;
- the provision of local services and infrastructure;
- the protection, improvement and promotion of the local environment; and
- the advancement of the local, cultural heritage;

with a focus on sustainability.

It is funded from the profits of electricity generated by the community hydro scheme and sold to the National Grid. Directors of the Trust award funds, as appropriate, to worthwhile local initiatives but all residents of the KPT area can also apply directly for grants for appropriate projects.

In the 2023-24 financial year the fund started with £13,313 (brought forward from the previous year) and in November it added £27,198 from the 2022-23 hydro profits, making a total available of £40,511. During the same period it made awards of £ 23,183 to eighteen separate projects, of which £12,160 was spent and £235 was refunded, leaving £28,586 to be carried forward into 2024-25.

The projects on which the fund was spent in 2023-24 were:

Insulation Grants	£ 808
Tree Planting	£ 578
Children's Summer Activities	£ 1,606
Business Start-Up	£ 500
Cost of Living Vouchers	£ 3,342
Community Sharing Boxes	£ 625
Community Gardener	£ 713
Penpont School iPads	£ 1,000
Café / Warm Wednesdays	£ 1,500
Permaculture Training Course	£ 1,164
Friendship Club / Burns Supper	£ 324
Total	£12,160

The remaining £11,000 awarded during 2023-24, but spent in the 2024-25 financial year, went to another business start-up, further contributions towards community garden costs, the Penpont to Keir riverside path repairs, the replacement of the Penpont MUGA (currently still pending), two cycling events, and broadband for Keir and Penpont village halls.

In 2024-25 to date there have been further awards totalling £15,500 made to projects like the production of the Penpont Local Place Plan, maintenance on the active travel path, the Joseph Thompson Heritage Centre, the 'Amazing Summer' children's activities 2024, the theatre-making workshops in Keir Village Hall and, most recently, the Christmas crafts workshops also being held in Keir Village Hall.

Expenditure on all of the above will be reported in 2025.