

RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUND



New Forest District Council were allocated REPF funding of £540,115.00.

There are two distinct strands to the New Forest Rural Fund:

- A capital grant scheme for certain types of new and improved community infrastructure called 'The New Forest Rural Fund for Community Infrastructure'.
- A capital grant scheme for eligible rural businesses called 'The New Forest Rural Fund for Businesses'. This offered grants of £5,000 - £40,000 and applicants had to contribute a minimum of 50% of the project costs from their own resources.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Government was particularly keen to see projects supported which enhanced green credentials of community facilities and small businesses. The aim of the REPF grants for Community Infrastructure was to strengthen the social fabric and foster a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities.

Grants with a total value of £345,359.60 were awarded to 10 community organisations:

- 3 will improve their local community facilities, including improvements to accessibility.
- 7 will improve resilience of community buildings by investing in energy efficiency / renewable energy systems

Community organisations unsuccessful in their REPF application, were directed to other sources of funding administered by NFDC and available at the time.

REPF Funded Community Infrastructure Projects	Total Project Cost	REPF Contribution
SPUD: Installation of Air Source Heat Pump and Solar Panels at spudWORKS, Sway	£23,797.93	£23,797.93
Lyndhurst & District Community Association: Improvements to energy efficiency at the community centre	£73,486.00	£36,743.00
Sway Youth Centre: improvements to usable area outside the hall	£12,727.20	£3,157.77
St Georges Hall Calshot: improvements to the community hall	£276,554.34	£161,138.34
The Hulse Hall Breamore: Improvements to energy efficiency and renewable energy installation	£21,020.00	£10,510.00
1st Fordingbridge Scout Group: Creation of accessible facilities	£20,655.00	£10,300.00
Bramshaw Village Hall: Improvements to energy efficiency	£60,095.20	£50,082.56
Netley Marsh Community Hall: Improvements for users of the hall and renewable energy installation	£31,860.00	£26,860.00
Hale Village Hall: Improvements to energy efficiency	£26,160.00	£11,160.00
Lymington Community Association: Installation of energy efficient lighting in the community theatre	£15,480.00	£11,610.00

RURAL FUND FOR BUSINESS

The aim of the REPF for Businesses was to provide capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas to increase productivity and efficiency. This included funding for net zero infrastructure.

Grants with a total value of £194,455.95 were awarded to 12 small businesses from a range of sectors including: food and drink producers and retailers, small manufacturing/engineering businesses, and those involved in the marine industry.

- 8 will purchase equipment and/or buildings to improve productivity and grow their business.
- 4 will invest in energy efficient and/or renewable energy systems.

The business grant scheme was launched in August 2023 and closed in August 2024 as the grant budget is fully allocated.

Projects are in various stages of delivery, and all will be completed by 01 December 2024.