



Warm Space Grants
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Summary Report
May 2023

Background

The Rural Community Council (RCC) supported Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council in the administration and distribution of the Warm Hub Grants scheme between October 2022 and April 2023. The grant scheme was designed to support VCS or not for profit organisations with the associated costs in providing a Warm Space provision in the Borough of Hinckley & Bosworth for the benefit of local residents.

The grant criteria required that any Warm Space provision had to be:

- offered for a minimum of 12 hours a month, for a minimum of 4 months during the grant period.
- open to the general public and not refused on grounds of gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, occupation, religious, political or other beliefs.
- over and above their organisations usual offer i.e. is an added value/additional offer to the community.

Grants distributed.

A total of twenty grant applications were received, with eighteen being successful based on being eligible and matching the agreed scoring protocol. All the successful grant applicants listed below, received a single payment of £1,200 in advance of project delivery and within one month of receipt of the required paperwork. Total grants awarded £20,400.

*Barwell Methodist Church - <i>The Cosy Café</i>	Chapel Street, Barwell, LE9 8DE
Burbage Community Library	Church Street, Burbage, LE10 2DA
St John's Church	351 Coventry Road, Hinckley, LE10 0NF
Our Library @ Newbold Verdon	Main Street, Newbold Verdon, LE9 9NP
Elohim Christian Church, Barlestone	Newbold Road, Barlestone, CV13 0DZ
St. Mary's Church Barwell	Church Lane Barwell, LE9 8DG

All Saints Church, Sheepy Magna	Church Lane, Sheepy Magna, CV9 3QS
The George Ward Community Centre	The George Ward Centre, Barwell, LE9 8DG
The Earl Shilton Social Institute	12-14 Station Road Earl Shilton, LE97GA
Twycross Village Hall	Burton Road, Twycross, CV9 3SA
Newbold Verdon Methodist Church	Main Street, Newbold Verdon, Leics. LE9 9NN
Ratby Library and Community Group	Main St Ratby Leicestershire LE6 0LN
St Margaret's Church Stoke Golding	High street, Stoke Golding, CV13 6HE
The Burbage Methodist Church	Windsor Street, Burbage, LE10 2EF
Westfield Community Development Association	Westfield Community Centre, Hinckley, LE10 0LN
St Catherine's Parish Church Burbage	St Catherines Parish Church, Burbage, LE10 2DE
We Care UK	Trinity House, Wharf Farm, Hinckley, LE10 0NF
Markfield Trinity Methodist Church - Churches Together in Markfield	<u>Markfield Methodist Church</u> , 42 Main St, Markfield, LE67 9UU <u>Markfield Congregational Church</u> , 104 Main St, Markfield, LE67 9UU

Please note that the **Barwell Methodist Church - The Cosy Café returned £1,000 their awarded grant payment, minus their initial set up expenses £200 following non attendance at any of their advertised events.*

Monitoring report on activity delivered.

As part of the grant conditions, each grant funded project was required to complete and return a short monitoring report form detailing the activity delivered. A total of fourteen report monitoring forms were received with three not returned.

Warm Spaces provided.

From the reports received, a total of 780 Warm Space sessions were delivered between October and March. These projects provided either a dedicated room or an area of a hall as a Warm Space with free refreshments and access to either games, magazines, jigsaws, crafts, Wi-Fi, or TV. The provision ranged from 2 to 3 hours a day once or twice a week, with one providing 5 day offering. These were all in addition to their usual programme of activities.

Four of the projects provided further support through having information on display including leaflets and flyers about other organisations who could provide help. Some had engaged with outside agencies such as Social Prescribers, Recovery Workers, Police and Local area co-ordinators who visited the Warm Space to chat to those attending and give information and advice.

Key outputs/outcomes of the Warm Space provision

A total of 1,740 residents participated in the Warm Space sessions supported by 94 volunteers.

A number of projects experienced a slow start in the first few weeks of launching their Warm Space provision, with one undertaking some outreach to try and promote the opportunity. Most did start to see a steady increase in visitors with some then becoming regular weekly attendees.

The majority of the Warm Spaces were operated by volunteers with some projects experiencing new volunteers coming forward.

People attending the Warm Space sessions appreciated the warm, safe, friendly welcoming environment and were able to meet new people or old friends, helping with social isolation and loneliness, particularly for those experiencing bereavement.

Some projects reported that the Warm Space provision had helped raise awareness of what their facility could offer, whether a Library, village hall, community centre or club and in some cases, those who had engaged were now regular visitors and engaged in other activities at the venue.

Feedback from those who benefitted from the Warm Space project.

Burbage Community library

Enjoyed coming for the warm space as much for the warmth of the company as for the warmth of the building.

Hannah, who had suffered a sports injury also said that she much appreciated the company along with the warm space.

Pat brought along a set of dominoes and set up a rather lively domino school.

Elohim Christian Church, Barlestone

It has been lovely to have a place to come that's warm and cosy, great company especially in the dark winter months, a place to meet with people and have a hot drink,

It's been great I have really learnt how to crochet whilst making new friends.

We love Tuesday morning stay and play, it's a place where I can meet with friends and my children can play in a safe, warm environment, all the staff are so friendly, willing to listen and help where they can, always offering support and a listening ear. Great coffee and cake

Newbold Verdon Methodist Church

People commented on the welcome and also the relaxed atmosphere in the sessions. Lots of people have said they have enjoyed just relaxing and being with other people as part of their week. Couples came along as well as people who live on their own. Mums have been able to get together somewhere safe for the children to play together and have said how nice it is to do this. One regular comment is that people say they hope we will be able to continue running the space into the future.

St Catherine's Parish Church, Burbage

"A place to come and have a chat and meal".

"It's Good to be among friends".

"Since losing my husband this has been a lifeline".

'Great place for families to be together and have fun'.

St. Mary's Church Barwell

One person said how much they had enjoyed the afternoons.

Twycross Village Hall

"The warm Hubs have been great to help me, as I lost my wife just before Christmas".

Projects planning to continue providing a Warm Space

The majority of projects funded have indicated that they will continue with a Warm Space provision in some form, with some of these either being integrated within their current programme of activities or changed to sessions such as coffee mornings or games club.

Future support that would be helpful

When asked what support would be helpful in providing a Warm Space in the future, projects highlighted the need for funding towards their energy costs and the provision of refreshments, with one project mentioning help with transporting people to venues.

Some projects also wanted to know who they could partner with to better support those attending the Warm Space provision such as Social Prescribers, Local Area Coordinator's & local businesses.

Better advertising and promotion of the Warm Spaces, both by the projects and collectively, was also recognised to ensure that people knew more about Warm Spaces and where they could access them locally.



The Earl Shilton Social Institute



Twycross Village Hall



Twycross Village Hall

