

6 October 2026



VILLAGE HALL INFORMATION BULLETIN

Northern Powergrid Foundation's Warm Spaces Support Fund

****This fund has reopened for applications on Wednesday 9 September**.**

Following their previous pilot programme, they have reviewed and expanded the fund to support more community organisations providing vital warm, safe and welcoming spaces for local people during the winter months.

For full guidance and application details please visit:

<https://www.northernpowergridfoundation.org.uk/warm-spaces-support-fund>

Funding available

Eligible organisations can apply for grants of £250 to £1,000 to help maintain, enhance or expand existing warm hub and warm space activities.

The fund is open to:

1. Registered charities
2. Community Interest Companies (CICs)
3. Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs)
4. Constituted voluntary organisations

Key changes for 2026 include:

1. Funding now available across all Northern Powergrid operational areas
2. Annual income eligibility increased from £10,000 to £50,000
3. Priority for organisations operating within the 30% most deprived areas in England (IMD Deciles 1 to 3)

4. A flexible approach that allows organisations to apply for the items, equipment and resources that will make the greatest difference to their warm space provision

Eligibility

To apply, organisations must already operate an established warm hub or warm space that:

1. Provides at least one session per week during the winter months
2. Offers a warm, safe and welcoming place to sit and connect
3. Provides access to a hot drink
4. Can demonstrate that the service is actively promoted through channels such as social media, posters, leaflets or a website

Organisations do not need to be registered with the Warm Welcome Network to apply.

Important information

Applications will be assessed on a rolling basis and there is no fixed closing date.

However, as this is a pilot programme, the fund is limited to 60 applications and may close once either:

1. 60 applications have been received, or
2. All available funding has been allocated.

For this reason, we strongly encourage eligible organisations to apply as early as possible.

Easyfundraising Impact Fund 2026



Funding opportunity: £1,000 unrestricted grants

The easyfundraising Impact Fund is back for a second round, with 15 unrestricted grants of £1,000 available to village halls and buildings in our network to apply for – that's double the amount awarded in the spring.

Applications are open from Thursday 24 September to Sunday 8 November. If you applied previously, you CAN apply again, whether you were successful or not.

The fund is open to UK-based village halls and buildings, charities, sports clubs, schools, CICs, social enterprises, youth groups, churches and other not-for-profit organisations.

The application is quick and simple, with grants awarded to organisations that best explain how they would use the funding. As the grants are unrestricted, the £1,000 can be spent wherever it's needed most.

Apply now: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/impact-fund

About easyfundraising: Raise unrestricted funding every time your supporters shop online. When they shop with 8,000+ retailers via easyfundraising, retailers donate to your village hall or building at no extra cost to them. Find out more: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/village-hall-funding

Village Halls Week 2027 – Save the date

Friday 12 March until Friday 19 March 2027.

Village Halls Week 2026 focused on health and wellbeing and saw communities from all corners of the country get into the spirit with a host of diverse events, such as balloon volleyball in Lancashire, CPR training in North Yorkshire and chocolate bingo in Derbyshire.

The theme for next year will be announced shortly.



A VAT break on electricity for charities, starting now

From 1 October 2026, VAT on some electricity supplies drops from 5% to 0% for six months.

If your charity already pays the reduced 5% rate, usually because you use electricity for non-business charitable work, this change applies to you. You don't need to do anything. Your supplier will bill you at 0% for the full six months.

Not sure which rate you pay? This is a good time to check. Utility Aid is here to support you and is offering an online bill checking service for free. We will go through your bills with you, explain what each line means, and look for quick wins or anything you have been overcharged for.

[Read more about the VAT reduction](#)

Email partnerships@utility-aid.co.uk to make the most of this free service.

Just have a question? Ask us, with no obligation.