



Village SOS & Community Funding Portal

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Village SOS

A national campaign funded by the Big Lottery to help rural community projects survive and thrive.

Examples:

Community shop or pub, Community Transport scheme, playgroups/pre-schools, broadband, community halls

Grant per project is up to £1,215.

<http://villagesos.org.uk/>

The five-step VSOS support package:

Step 1 – Sign up as a VSOS Member. Every project supported must sign up, as a VSOS member – it's free!

Step 2 – **More information needed.** If you would like support as a project you'll need to talk to the VSOS Hub, to give more details about your project. You can express an interest on the member sign-up form and they will give you a call.

Step 3 – **It's all about action planning.** You will get support and advice from your local VSOS partner organisation (CCS) to develop an action plan for your project that matches your needs, ability and timescales. **£1215** grant available per project.

Step 4 – **Action.** Through one-to-one support locally, and with the help of expert mentors, you will bring your project's plan of support to fruition.

Step 5– **Preparing for the future.** Once your plan of support is complete, a final report of all activity will be written up by your support organisation, this may also include future actions for your consideration.

Community Funding Portal

CCS have invested in a **NEW FREE** online portal provides comprehensive coverage of all available funding opportunities; European, national and regional schemes, local initiatives and is kept fully up-to-date.

<http://somerstrcc.org.uk/funding-2>

Don't forget after your search CCS can help!

The following list gives typical examples of the successful work we are already doing with communities and projects across Somerset:

- Project planning
- Evidence of need – how to consult your community including:
 - pre-survey expert advice
 - custom questionnaire design
 - paper or online surveys
 - if paper-based, we can input responses or train your volunteers
 - analysis, report writing and presentation of findings
- Assistance with bid writing
- Business Planning
- Budget and cash flow advice

Recent evidence from major funders suggests a lack of both quantity and quality of funding applications from Somerset. Increase your chance of success and let CCS help.

CCS is also working with Parish Councils around the county in other ways including:

- Housing Needs Surveys
- Neighbourhood Plans
- Community Plans
- Community Infrastructure Levy Plans.