



2023



Valencia  
Communities  
Fund

ANNUAL  
REVIEW



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	Welcome
4	Message from Our Chairman
5	General Manager's Review
6	Message from Valencia Waste Management

## Landfill Communities Fund

7	Introduction & Financial Information
8 - 11	Funded Projects

## Community

12 - 13	St Peter's Church, Bolton
14	Portico ARLC, St Helens
15	Kiveton Park Colliery Cricket Club, Sheffield
16 - 17	Bacup Cricket Club, Lancashire
18 - 19	St Dunstan's Church Hall, Canterbury
20	Leatherhead Bowling Club
21	St Laurence Church, Catford

## Community

22 - 23	Exeter Mosque
24	Brewham Village Hall

## Heritage

25	St Michael and All Angels' Church, Cadbury
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## Biodiversity

26	New Hill and Tanager, Somerton
27	Boyton Marshes, Suffolk

## Scottish Landfill Communities Fund

28	Introduction & Financial Information
29	Funded Projects
30 - 31	Hepburn Doocot
32	Rosewell Tennis Club
33	Loch Lomond

## The Team

34	The Board
35	The Team







## WELCOME

Valencia Communities Fund is one of the largest Environmental Bodies in the UK. We provide funding opportunities for heritage, biodiversity, and community projects in England and Scotland. All our work is now performed remotely with the team spread across Somerset, from Wellington to Glastonbury.

Since 2001, we have been funding projects in England through the Landfill Communities Fund. In Scotland, this funding has been through the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund. Beneficiaries range from sports clubs to churches, village halls to museums, nature reserves and historic buildings. Many community groups, trusts and non-profit organisations have benefitted from the funding we distribute.

Valencia Communities Fund administers funds donated voluntarily to the Landfill Communities Fund and the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund by Valencia Waste Management, a company that manages more than 40 landfill sites and landfill gas operations across Great Britain.

Over the last 22 years, we have awarded over £155m to hundreds of projects across the country.

Within this brochure are some of the achievements of our applicants over the last 12 months.

(Stats correct as of 31 March 2023 – [www.entrust.org.uk](http://www.entrust.org.uk))



## MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

After many years of concern regarding the future of Viridor's landfill sites we have been delighted this year to work with our new sponsor Valencia Waste Management who took over the sites in March 2022. The management team have been incredibly supportive and encouraging and we are delighted to have been able to welcome Joe Parry, Commercial Director to our Board of Trustees in January this year. Our mission and aims remain the same albeit under a new name – Valencia Communities Fund.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Renshaw". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Peter Renshaw**  
Chairman

Deposits to landfill sites have remained stable although we are aware that with the decrease in construction, increased waste being sent abroad and to Energy from Waste sites and the increase in the scourge of fly-tipping which blots our beautiful countryside we realise funding has begun to decline.

However, we are delighted to have been able to award almost £5 million to projects in England and £250,000 to projects in Scotland. We know many of these community sites are finding it ever harder to manage their finances just to keep going let alone fund vital improvements. We applaud the groups who find innovative ways of reducing their running costs and increasing their income as we have seen many applications for sustainable heating systems and ways of broadening community use.

We know landfill sites will be part of the waste management solution for the foreseeable future and HM Revenue & Customs recently announced that the government will set the value of the LCF for 2023 to 2024 at £32.9 million, slightly up on last year, with the cap on contributions by landfill operators remaining at 5.3 per cent of their Landfill Tax liability. In Scotland the extension to the ban on Biodegradable Municipal Waste going to landfill remains in place until January 2025. This has allowed funding to continue, and we continue to hope to maintain funding for at least another year.

As Chairman, I remain incredibly proud of the continued achievements of Valencia Communities Fund. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the staff who have undertaken the transition from Viridor Credits to Valencia Communities Fund and ensured that the Landfill Communities Fund has continued to support many excellent projects and communities. We are all looking forward to another busy and successful year.



## GENERAL MANAGER'S REVIEW

This year has been yet another 12 months of upheaval and change for us all. Most importantly and significantly our change of sponsor has led to our change of name. In September 2022 we completed the transition to our new company name: Valencia Communities Fund and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Valencia Waste Management for continuing to support us through the Landfill Communities Fund and the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund.

**Alison Salvador**  
General Manager

Whilst a great deal of work was going on to complete the transformation, I am confident that new and old applicants noticed very little difference apart from the new name and logo. Essentially the team have been outwardly calm and professional whilst working furiously behind the scenes.

I am so pleased to be able to report that in 2022-23 we were able to fund 125 well deserving community and heritage projects in England and Scotland with over £5.1 million in funding. Although they have all been delighted with their awards, we have heard so many stories of contractors unable to complete work, essential material shortages and dramatic price increases. We are so pleased to have been able to work with our applicants and remain flexible and supportive to ensure they are all progressing or have indeed already completed.

After a few years of Zoom meetings, it has been wonderful to be able to hold our Board meetings this year face to face and we have been able to visit some of our funded projects at the same time. We thank everyone who has hosted us, and we look forward to continuing this in the coming year. It is incredibly humbling to meet some of the volunteers who give up so much of their spare time to keep these vital community assets going. We know that this is becoming an increasingly difficult financial task. Hopefully, the word 'lockdown' can remain a distant memory.

As always, I must take this opportunity to thank my team and the trustees who remained professional, hard working and supportive despite the often-worrying times we have been through over many years.



The background of the top half of the page is a photograph of a natural landscape. In the foreground, there are tall, purple, spiky plants. Behind them is a body of water, possibly a lake or a wide river, with a grassy bank on the far side. The sky is not clearly visible, suggesting an overcast or hazy day. Overlaid on this image is a large, white, stylized letter 'V' logo. Below the logo, the word 'Valencia' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font.

# Valencia

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR DONOR

Valencia Waste Management purchased the Viridor Waste Management landfill and gas generation businesses in March 2022, bringing them into private ownership. We are passionate about the future of both the landfill and landfill gas elements of the business and are committed to growing the business.

The portfolio of 44 landfill sites along with the former Viridor landfill employees transferred across to the new business ensuring a strong degree of continuity of service to our customers and compliance management of the sites. Valencia Waste Management is committed to becoming a strategic leader in the landfill and energy sector.

The businesses ownership and leadership team plan to invest heavily across the portfolio to maximise landfill operations, deliver restoration commitments, and explore development opportunities to make best use of the land. It is also important to the team that we improve the social and environmental value that we can provide to the communities around our sites. We were very impressed to hear about the work done by Viridor Credits and were keen to continue to support such crucial work via the Landfill Communities Fund.

The variety of projects that we have been able to support through the re-named Valencia Communities Fund, especially during such anxious times, is remarkable and we are certain they will make a real and lasting difference to the quality of life and the environment across our operating areas.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Trustees and team at Valencia Communities Fund who have a proven track record in distributing the funding to the most deserving projects and have shown good governance and clear, inclusive and robust procedures over many years. Everyone involved from the team, the Board and especially those working as volunteers to deliver these projects at grassroots level should be very proud of the work being done and the projects completed.

# THE LANDFILL COMMUNITIES FUND

## INTRODUCTION

In 1996, the Government introduced landfill tax to discourage the disposal of waste to landfill and promote more environmentally sustainable methods of managing waste. The scheme is an innovative tax credit scheme which enables operators of landfill sites in England (and Northern Ireland) to contribute money to organisations enrolled with ENTRUST as Environmental Bodies.

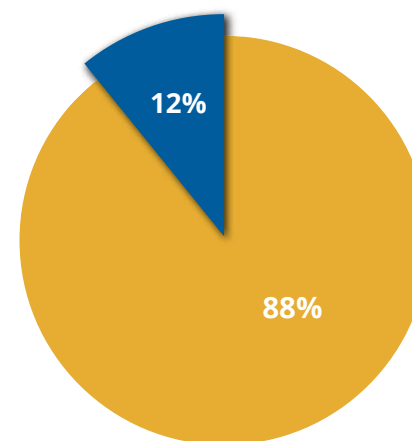
ENTRUST was appointed as the regulator of the Landfill Communities Fund scheme in 1996. Its role is to ensure that Landfill Communities Fund monies are spent in compliance with the Landfill Tax Regulations 1996 (Regulations).

Since its inception, the Landfill Communities Fund has supported projects across England with contributions from landfill operators totalling £1.78 billion. (Stats correct as of April 2023 – [www.entrust.org.uk](http://www.entrust.org.uk))

## FINANCIAL

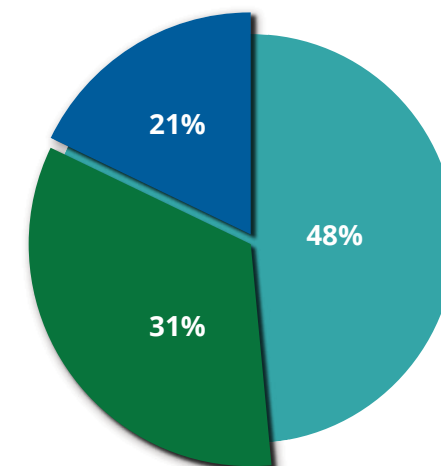
Valencia Communities Fund has allocated £4,872,790 from the Landfill Communities Fund to 108 projects throughout England in 2022/23. Funding of £4,273,142 was awarded between 98 projects to create, sustain, or develop a community facility. Funds of £599,648 was allocated to 10 projects to repair, preserve, or renovate places of historical or architectural interest or places of worship.

**Project Type  
% Split**



■ Heritage  
■ Community

**Proportion of Funding  
to Regions**



■ North - £ 2,361,354  
■ South East - £ 1,509,438  
■ South West - £ 1,001,998

# LCF FUNDED PROJECTS

## ALL REGIONS JUBILEE PROJECTS

To celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's 70th year as the monarch, Valencia Communities Fund announced a Jubilee Legacy Project scheme. The scheme celebrated the Jubilee by funding projects that give outstanding and long-lasting benefits to the community, our heritage, or biodiversity.

### **Darnhill and Heywood Boxing Club**

New Building  
£272,340

### **All Saints' Church, Middleton Stoney**

Repairs, Renovation and Landscaping  
£300,000

### **Exeter Cathedral**

Quire Floor, Heating and Access  
£298,537

## NORTH HERITAGE PROJECTS

### **St Anne's Church, Turton**

Renovations  
£77,288

### **St Mark's Church, Dukinfield**

Roof, Tower and Masonry Repairs  
£13,433

### **St. James's Church, Barlborough**

Stonework  
£8,240

### **Cornerstone Church, Liverpool**

Stained Glass Windows Restoration  
£47,824

## NORTH COMMUNITY PROJECTS

### **People's History Museum, Manchester**

Windows, Toilets and Access  
£96,575

### **St Mary with St Peter, Oldham**

Replacement Heating  
£61,520

### **HOME Arts Centre, Manchester**

LED Lighting  
£69,807

### **St Andrew's Church, Runcorn**

Roof  
£50,000

### **Cherwell Wellbeing Hub, Heywood**

Activity Centre  
£36,770

### **Bury Cricket Club**

New Mower  
£28,250

### **Farnworth Cricket Club**

Kitchen and Hot Water Cylinder  
£10,200

### **Greenmount Cricket Club, Bury**

Access, Extension and Toilets  
£46,650

### **Sedgley Park RUFC, Whitefield**

Replacement Heating System  
£14,936

### **Cronton Pasture, Knowsley**

Access Improvements  
£50,000

### **Littleborough Cricket Club**

MUGA  
£49,567

### **Little Hulton Cricket Club**

Pavilion and Grounds Improvements  
£39,675

### **Walshaw Sports Club, Tottington**

All-Weather Facilities Update  
£49,720

### **The Edge Theatre and Arts Centre, Manchester**

Roof  
£8,478

### **Abbeydale Sports Club, Sheffield**

New Cricket Practice Nets  
£50,000

### **ABC Park, Bolton**

Improvements  
£46,234

### **Frecheville Park, Sheffield**

Improvements  
£49,999

### **Austerlands Cricket Club, Oldham**

New Fence  
£12,600

### **Little Lever Cricket Club, Bolton**

New Practice Facilities  
£31,002



## **NORTH** **COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

### **Rossendale Sports Club**

Upgrade Boiler and Accessible Toilet  
£14,940

### **Aldwinians RUFC, Audenshaw**

Roof Repairs  
£19,140

### **Heaton Sports Club, Bolton**

Equipment Storage Upgrade  
£21,050

### **Farnworth Social Circle Cricket Club**

Access Pathway  
£19,132

### **Unsworth Cricket Club**

Scoreboard  
£6,050

### **St Mary Magdalene's Hall, Warrington**

Car Park Resurfacing  
£50,000

### **St John the Evangelist Church, Walton**

Audio Visual Facility  
£25,381

### **Astley Bridge Cricket Club**

Clubhouse Refurbishment  
£50,000

### **The Portico Library, Manchester**

Kitchen Refurbishment  
£49,039

### **Kiveton Park Colliery Cricket Club, Sheffield**

New Wicket Roller  
£19,140

### **Bacup Cricket Club**

Kitchen Renovation  
£50,000

### **Widnes Cricket Club**

Changing Rooms  
£45,000

### **Cutthorpe Recreation Ground**

Playground  
£38,904

### **Oldham RUFC**

Access and Groundworks  
£48,756

### **Appleton Thorn Village Hall**

Septic Tank and Toilet Refurbishment  
£50,000

### **Springhead Sports and Social Club**

Function Room Refurbishment  
£33,875

### **Hillstown Village Hall, Bolsover**

Solar Panels and Internal Refurbishment  
£33,214

### **Bolton RUFC**

Floodlights  
£17,400

### **Bradshaw Cricket, Tennis and Bowling Club, Bolton**

Improving Access  
£48,260

### **Tonge Cricket Club, Bolton**

Cricket Nets  
£41,313

### **Eagley Tennis Club, Bolton**

Court Renewal  
£25,000

### **Little Hulton Cricket Club**

Refurbishment  
£46,270

### **Rochdale Sacred Heart FC**

Septic Tank and Tractor Mower  
£50,000

### **Rossendale RUFC**

Junior Pitch Drainage  
£9,750

### **Winton Bowling Tennis and Social Club**

Tennis Court Refurbishment  
£50,000

### **Stand Road Park, Chesterfield**

Play Space Refurbishment  
£49,595

### **Highfield Park, Chesterfield**

Play Space Refurbishment  
£39,750

### **Shirebrook Market Place**

Memorial Gardens  
£90,588

### **Willows Community Centre, Bolton**

Improvements  
£98,699

## **SOUTH EAST** **COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

### **Herne Bay Football Club**

Clubhouse Refurbishment  
£94,411

### **St Peter's Church, Copdock, Ipswich**

Toilet and Kitchen  
£100,000

### **St Clement's Church, Ipswich**

Community and Arts Hub Conversion  
£76,751

### **Turweston Village Hall, Brackley**

Improvements  
£50,000

### **St Patrick's Church, Wallington**

New Kitchen  
£41,650

### **Oaks Meadow, Stowmarket**

Play Area  
£50,000

### **St Hilda's Church Hall, Lewisham**

Kitchen and Dining Area Refurbishment  
£50,000

### **The Conrad Hall, Bishopsbourne**

Roofing and Drainage Works  
£12,276

### **Debenham Community Centre**

Toilets  
£25,000

### **St Mary's Church, Bloxham**

Kitchen and Toilets  
£50,000

### **St Dunstan's Church Hall, Canterbury**

Replacement Windows  
£31,429

### **Street End Cricket Club**

Practice Nets  
£36,790

### **Dulwich Sports Club, London**

Internal Improvements  
£50,000

### **St Etheldreda's Church, Fulham**

Lighting, Wiring and Sound  
£50,000

### **Leatherhead Bowls Club**

Installation of Solar Panels  
£8,160

### **Canterbury RUFC**

Floodlight Replacement  
£25,000

### **Trinity Hall, Stowmarket**

Flooring  
£13,330

### **St Mary and St Lambert Church, Stonham**

Aspal  
Toilet  
£41,794

### **St Mildred's Church, Canterbury**

Boiler  
£19,537

### **St Edward's Church, Mottingham**

Noticeboard and Access  
£6,311

### **Christ Church, Croydon**

Boilers and Controls  
£38,568

### **Bekesbourne Village Hall, Canterbury**

Equipment and Utensils  
£4,047

### **St Mary's Church, Clapham**

Heating  
£50,000

### **Piddington Village Hall**

Solar Panels  
£38,928

### **The Coddendam Centre**

Solar Panels  
£36,300

### **St Peter's Church Hall, Canterbury**

New Kitchen  
£12,771

### **Herne Bay Football Club**

Changing Rooms and Toilet Blocks  
£23,575

### **Stutton Community Hall, Ipswich**

Extension  
£75,000

## **SOUTH WEST** **COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

### **Cinema Paradiso, Bovey Tracey**

Atrium Roof  
£61,817

### **Paignton Bowling Club**

Car Park and Drainage  
£55,739

### **North Petherton Rugby Club**

Roof Refurbishment and Extension  
£68,333



**Shobrooke Playing Fields, Devon**

Play Equipment  
£10,000

**Wedmore Playing Fields Sports Pavilion**

Function Room  
£50,000

**Riverside Valley Park, Exeter**

Access Improvements  
£17,148

**Huish Tigers RFC, Taunton**

Changing Rooms and Services  
£20,000

**St George's Parish Centre, Wembdon**

Improvements  
£34,508

**Stokeinteignhead Village Hall**

Mortar and Cladding Repairs  
£8,374

**Mamhead Village Hall, Devon**

Restoration  
£33,378

**St Andrew's Church, Stokeinteignhead**

Shed Roof  
£1,950

**Paignton-Torbay Bowling Club**

Car Park Drainage and Resurfacing  
£26,821

**The Engine Room, Bridgwater**

Improvements  
£23,702

**Stoke Canon, Devon**

Outdoor Exercise Equipment  
£10,526

**The Alice Cross Centre, Teignmouth**

Kitchen Refurbishment  
£48,000

**Pinhoe Target Sports Club, Exeter**

PV Panels  
£46,690

**Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club, Devon**

Kitchen  
£50,000

**Bridgwater Lawn Tennis Club**

Courts Resurfacing  
£30,000

**East Huntspill Cricket Club**

Sight Screens  
£6,114

**Victoria Park, Buckfastleigh**

Filters and Pumps  
£36,345

**SOUTH WEST  
HERITAGE PROJECTS****St Michael's Church, Othery**

Repairs  
£43,730

**Holy Trinity Church, Blackford**

Roof and Exterior Painting  
£19,786

**SOUTH EAST  
HERITAGE PROJECTS****St Mary's Church, Great Bealings**

Window Refurbishment  
£7,000

**St Augustine's Church, Croydon**

Rainwater Goods  
£40,810

**St Andrew's Church, Ham**

Replacement of South Aisle Roof  
£50,000

# COMMUNITY - NORTH

## St Peter's Church, Bolton

This 19th century church has a 1980's community hall at the rear linked to the church by two corridors, one large, one small. More recently, these links had deteriorated and become unsafe and had to be boarded up. The church planned a £320k transformation that included upgrading the two links, and Valencia Communities Fund was approached to fund £100k towards the new corridors that would provide direct level access to the annexe building without going through the church.



The completed works provide level access to the community hall, with a good-sized entrance lobby and connection doors to hall and church, meaning that people with additional mobility needs can access the hall unhindered.







Link way



Inside view



New east glazed link



# COMMUNITY - NORTH

## Portico ARLC, St Helens

Portico Vine ARLFC was established in 1974 as a family club at the heart of its community. Fifteen years ago, the club bought some old buildings in Scholes Lane Playing Fields and brought them, and the park, back into community use. Since then, the club has outgrown the original facilities and did not have the space for club or community activities which have developed alongside the club, home to 11 teams and over 100 volunteers. To cater for this growing need, the club embarked on a £500k project to build a community room, kitchen, and WC's.

To help towards this project Valencia Communities Fund were asked to fund towards the carpark, windows, doors, and roller shutters.



Foundations



Steelwork

Angela Thomas, Treasurer of the club, said "The new clubhouse has had a hugely positive impact on the local community. We are able to host events and welcome guests on a scale that was simply not possible before this project. In addition to hosting rugby festivals, accommodating league matches for all of our teams, and being able to host fundraisers, presentation evenings and Christmas events, the club has also welcomed the Tongan national rugby league team for a celebration of Tongan culture and cuisine whilst they were based in St Helens during the Rugby League World Cup."



Old clubhouse - before



Roof



New exterior



Tongan team visit



# COMMUNITY - NORTH

## Kiveton Park Colliery Cricket Club, Sheffield

This popular club had struggled to retain junior players due to the unplayable condition of their old practice nets. The lane with the moveable cage had deteriorated and the other lane was dangerous with uneven bounce and unsafe bowlers' run-up. The club requested funding for a two-lane practice facility with run-ups and cage to help develop their teams and retain their young players. They currently have four senior sides and seven juniors and are hoping to field a girls/ladies' team.

The new two-lane practice wicket has made a huge difference already with senior teams, juniors and girls teams all using the facility. It has undoubtedly persuaded many members to stay who may have been thinking about leaving and the club is working hard to attract new members and improve the social side of the club.



Old lane



Old lane



Gap between old nets



Work in progress



New nets



New nets



# COMMUNITY - NORTH

## Bacup Cricket Club, Lancashire

The club had a dream to improve the function rooms and facilities to provide a better experience for hirers and visitors. The main issue was 25-year-old toilets, which were not up to modern standards. Other essential works were in the function rooms, which are used by members and the public for events and for various user groups. The flooring was worn and difficult to keep clean. The tables and chairs although superficially decent, were 10-12 years old and most of the tables 20-30 years old. The club requested funding from Valencia Communities Fund for all the elements.



Bacup exterior



Disabled and baby changing before

A total of nearly £43k was awarded and the improvements to the toilets and function rooms have been completed to a high standard. The interior has been transformed from an uninspiring space with dark carpets and old dark wood tables and chairs to a bright and modern area. These type of changes to the amenity attract more use and ensure the financial viability of the club.



Furniture before



Female toilets after



Male toilets after



Disabled and baby changing after



Furniture and carpet after



# COMMUNITY - SOUTH EAST

## St Dunstan's Church Hall, Canterbury

The hall was built in 1984 and has been maintained and modernised by the hall committee by self-funding improvement projects over the years. However, the windows and doors were a problem, with one window already replaced by the applicant. However, funding could not be found to complete the rest of the other rotten windows, as the hall income had been affected by the pandemic. As a requirement of planning permission, the style of the windows and doors, the profiles of the frames and the colour, had to be preserved. Valencia Communities Fund were approached for funding for these windows. The project was funded £31,429 and the windows and doors replaced.

John Shaw, Committee Member, said "The new windows and doors area are a vast improvement. The hall committee and the local community users are most grateful to Valencia Communities Fund for enabling the project, which is a great benefit to them and most importantly the vulnerable and disadvantaged who use the facility."



Front of hall



Window condition



Windowsill condition



Door condition





New door



New windows to front



New windows



New door and window



# COMMUNITY - SOUTH EAST

## Leatherhead Bowling Club

Leatherhead Bowling Club is a popular club with a rising membership. It has both social and indoor bowls membership. They undertook a complete rebuild of the clubhouse in 2018 at a cost of over £200,000, part-funded by Valencia Communities Fund, and had always planned to install solar panels in the original design but were omitted for cost. With rising energy bills, the club required the panels in order to mitigate the spiralling costs of energy. The applicant requested full funding from Valencia Communities Fund of £8,160 which was approved.

Terry Dickenson, Club President, said “The panels were installed quickly, and the anticipated recoup of electricity charges will be at least a third of the previous costs with surplus energy sold back to the grid to sustain the hall. We are grateful to Valencia Communities Fund for their support without which the project would still be on the drawing board.”





# COMMUNITY - SOUTH EAST

## St Laurence Church, Catford

St Laurence Church is a vibrant church and community centre housed in a striking grade-II listed 1968 building. In late 2019, the three large gas boilers that powered the heating for the building, all now over thirty years old, showed signs of failure, and by the Spring, only one had survived the winter.



Valencia Communities Fund was approached to provide funding that would install air source heat pumps to replace the old boilers. However, heat pumps must be fitted to the outside of a building, which was not possible due to the listed status of the church. The pumps had to be installed in the old boiler room and air pulled through into the room from outside. A complex engineering feat, which was eventually overcome.

The new heating was turned on in mid-December. Previous gas boilers generate an estimated 56,000kg CO2 yearly whereas the heat pumps are likely to generate 14,600kg CO2 per year – an annual saving of 41,400kg.

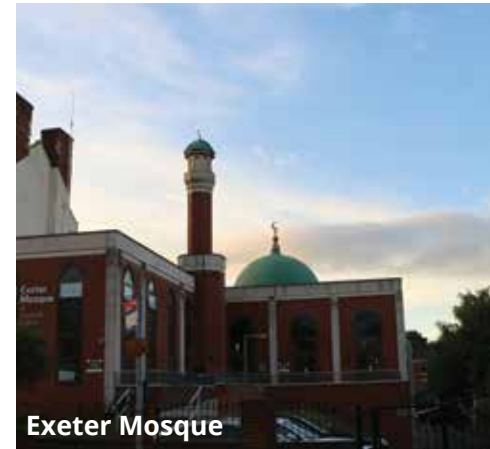




# COMMUNITY - SOUTH WEST

## Exeter Mosque

The Exeter Mosque has a large garden at the rear. It was well maintained until six years ago when the gardener passed, and it has been neglected since. However, the pandemic, social isolation and an increase in racism locally gave the Muslim community the idea of a peace garden to promote community relations. The Mosque has always been outward looking with 5,000 non-Muslim visitors per year and one or two school visits every week prior to the pandemic. Valencia Communities Fund was approached to help fund the majority of the costs.



The garden now has a large paved main area, with centre fountain and tiled surround with raised, planted beds at the corners. A separate space for picnic tables and chairs, and a large pergola-covered way, planted with olives and lavender, and approached via an access ramp. Beyond this is a pizza oven and barbeque area. At the far end, are a series of large wooden raised beds for vegetable growing and a small children's activity area with wooden steps and a tunnel.





Peace garden - groundworks



Tiled peace garden & water feature



Peace garden area with plinth



Raised flower bed and jasmine climber



Veg garden with greenhouse



## Brewham Village Hall

In 2018, Brewham Village Hall embarked on a two-phase programme of improvements, the first of which was the enabling works, completed in 2019, which removed the old cement pointing and the old asbestos ceiling in the main hall, part-funded by Valencia Communities Fund. Phase 2 planned to complete the external and internal renovation of the grade II-listed village hall: improve accessibility, insulation, heating, ventilation, repair toilet block roof, installing new toilets and kitchen. Finally, creation of a multi-purpose room opening onto a new terrace.



Before works



Before works



Before works



After

The project was just under £230,000 and Valencia Communities Fund awarded just under £100,000 towards the project.

The new kitchen has been installed, is working, and enables full use of the main hall. It has allowed a small secondary or meeting room to be created, separated from the main hall with a folding screen but also served by a hatch from the kitchen. New underfloor insulation has made an enormous difference and new heating has been installed. To the rear, a new raised terrace has been constructed, replacing the old access ramp.

Catherine Howard, Project Fundraiser, said "We are very grateful to Valencia Communities Fund for the funding which gave confidence to other funders to get on board."



After



After

## St Michael and All Angels' Church, Cadbury

The Church is the only community building in this small Devon village. The bells had not been rung properly since the 1960s, and in 2015, a friends group was formed to clean up the churchyard and the church. The bell tower was investigated, and a bell-ringing group was formed, and the bells were rung again. A specialist survey of the bells revealed that repairs and retuning were necessary for four of the bells. The total cost for this work was £42,000. The Church managed to fundraise nearly £13,000 of this total and approached Valencia Communities Fund for the remaining £29,000.



The bells were restored and rehung. New headstocks, new bell wheels, pulleys, boxes, and staples were all installed too.

Gordon Leigh, Tower Captain, said "Once the bells were back in the tower, The Bishop of Exeter came to rededicate the bells on the 23rd of November 2022. The service was attended by many of the bell ringing community as well as Cadbury villagers. Now that the bells are a pleasure to ring, we have had many members of other local Church ringing bands come to ring with us."





## **New Hill and Tannager, Somerton**

The New Hill and Tannager Nature Reserve in Somerton, Somerset covers an area of approximately 35 acres. It is comprised of a mix of grassland, wetland, and woodland habitats, and it is home to a variety of plant and animal species. Some of the bird species that can be found in the reserve include lapwings, skylarks, and reed buntings, among others. The reserve is also home to a variety of mammals, such as badgers, foxes, and hedgehogs.

Somerset Wildlife Trust approached Valencia Communities Fund with a bid for funding new fencing to enable the trust to implement an annual programme of grazing with livestock; the key management tool for restoring and maintaining this now species-rich grassland. For the first time in over a decade, ponies have grazed the grassland slopes over the winter months.

Mark Green, Reserve Manager, said “the new fencing has meant we can resume a successful grazing programme once again by sheep and ponies at our New Hill and Tannager reserve, helping to maintain this species rich grassland habitat. We look forward to seeing the benefits of this mixed grazing strategy and an increase in the number of wildflowers and insects attracted to the slopes this summer.”



**Fence line cleared ready for installation of new fence**

Somerset Wildlife Trust manages the reserve through a range of conservation measures, including the restoration of wetland habitats and the management of the grasslands to encourage wildflowers and other plant species. The reserve is open to visitors year-round, and there are several walking trails and observation points that allow visitors to observe the local wildlife in its natural habitat.

All photos by Mark Green



**Exmoor ponies on tannager**



**New fence in new hill**



**New gate in new hill**



## Boyton Marshes, Suffolk

Boyton Marshes is a nature reserve located in the English county of Suffolk. The reserve is managed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and covers an area of approximately 260 hectares.

Boyton Marshes is an important wetland habitat, consisting of saltmarsh, freshwater marsh, and intertidal mudflats. The reserve is home to a wide variety of plant and animal species, including wading birds such as avocets, redshanks, and curlews, as well as ducks, geese, and swans. Mammals that can be found in the reserve include otters and water voles, and the area is also home to a range of invertebrates, including butterflies and dragonflies.

The RSPB approached Valencia Communities Fund to massively expand the wetland through the creation of new lagoons in two phases, totalling £87,000. The resulting works contributed to the creation of 5.5ha of new freshwater marsh edges, water-control sluices, and new islands.





# THE SCOTTISH LANDFILL COMMUNITIES FUND



**Michael Cunningham**

Project Liaison Manager – Scotland

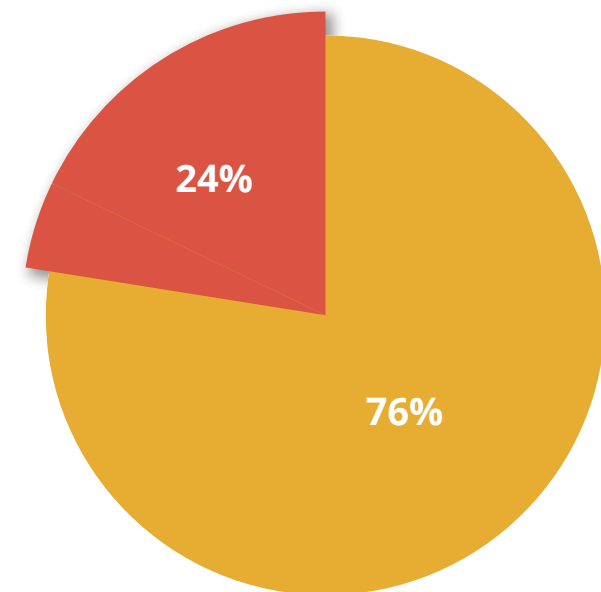
## INTRODUCTION

The Scottish Landfill Communities Fund (SLCF) is a tax credit scheme, linked to Scottish Landfill Tax, which encourages landfill site operators to provide contributions to Approved Bodies (Valencia Communities Fund is an Approved Body in Scotland), which can then pass the funds onto community, heritage, and environmental projects. The SLCF has now been in existence for seven years having replaced the UK scheme in Scotland in April 2015.

Valencia Communities Fund can consider applications from anywhere in Scotland that are within ten miles of an active landfill site or a transfer station. This allows the SLCF to fund even more projects than before. The rising cost of materials this financial year has provided a difficult backdrop for applicants obtaining quotes from tradespeople that were stable, a problem not unique to Scotland.

However, Valencia Communities Fund, funded £249,456 to 17 projects throughout Scotland in 2022/23. Funding of £188,481 was awarded between 14 projects to create, sustain, or develop a community facility. Funds of £60,975 were allocated to 3 projects to repair, preserve, or renovate places of historical or architectural interest or places of worship.

## Percentage of SLCF Funds per Object



- Heritage
- Community



# SLCF FUNDED PROJECTS

## **St Mary's Church, Whifflet**

New Boilers  
£15,580

## **Above Adventure, Kilmarnock**

Sensory Room  
£9,955

## **The Scottish Seabird Centre**

Wildlife Cameras  
£7,023

## **St David's Church and Hall, Plains**

Heating  
£11,882

## **St Bride's Hall, Motherwell**

Accessibility Improvements  
£9,600

## **Strathgryffe Tennis & Squash Club**

Roof Repairs  
£10,390

## **St Peter's Church Hall, Ardrossan**

Kitchen Refurbishment  
£13,950

## **Inch Park Community Sports Club, Edinburgh**

Shelter and Cricket Scoring Hut  
£5,650

## **St Athanasius' Church, Carluke**

Entrance  
£14,100

## **Langside Sports Club, Glasgow**

Floodlight LED Upgrade  
£14,924

## **Meadowmill Sports Centre**

Throws Cage  
£21,603

## **Montrose Tennis Club**

LED Floodlight Upgrade  
£21,603

## **Seagate Church, Troon**

Window Refurbishment  
£25,000

## **Belvidere Bowling Club, Glasgow**

Renewable Energy  
£8,350

## **St Boswell Lawn Tennis Club**

LED Floodlight Replacement  
£13,224

## **St Peter's Church, Hamilton**

Access  
£21,875

## **Fraserburgh Central Church**

Community Kitchen  
£25,000



# SCOTTISH LANDFILL COMMUNITIES FUND

## Hepburn Doocot

This B-listed doocot is one of the earliest surviving examples from the 16th century. These early doocots were intended solely for the purpose of farming pigeons for their meat. Pigeons were a highly desirable addition to the winter diet at a time when fresh meat was not available. The Scottish Flag Trust approached Valencia Communities Fund for £10,000 towards reharling; a rough-cast wall finish consisting of lime and aggregate, known for its rough texture. The overall cost of the restoration work was £33,614 and the work has stopped the deterioration of the popular doocot.

Photo credits to Scottish Flag Trust







Finished courts



Finished project



Opening ceremony gathering



# SCOTTISH LANDFILL COMMUNITIES FUND

## Rosewell Tennis Club

The overall project was to revive the old tennis courts in Rosewell Park. This included court resurfacing, installation of a SMART gate system and the upgrade of the existing broken floodlight system. Rosewell Tennis Club requested funding from Valencia Communities Fund of £25,000 towards the court resurfacing.

The Club opened its updated facilities in September 2022 and the future is bright for tennis in Rosewell. With the promotion of the sport via a series of roadshows. In February 2023, Rosewell was named as a shortlisted nominee for the LTA Park of the Year Award.

Photo credits: Rosewell Tennis Club



Finished courts



Before



Work in progress



Finished courts

# SCOTTISH LANDFILL COMMUNITIES FUND

## Loch Lomond

Greenland white-fronted geese are one of the UK's rarest wintering birds. Their global population is below 20,000 and declining rapidly, making them a red-listed, endangered subspecies of highest conservation concern. These geese are very site-loyal, returning to the same places year on year. However, their habitat requirements for grazing and roosting are very specific, so it is crucial to keep the sites they already use in good condition.



RSPB Scotland Loch Lomond nature reserve is home to a significant portion of the wintering population of these geese. However, parts of the reserve had become overgrown with rank vegetation, resulting in poor habitat conditions. With support from Valencia Communities Fund, RSPB Scotland was able to install new fencing so that vegetation can be grazed down, and purchase of a weed wiper machine for targeted vegetation management. This has helped to create ideal conditions to support a healthy, robust population of geese and promote the conservation of this globally threatened species to RSPB.







## THE BOARD

The objectives of the Valencia Communities Fund Board are the promotion of participation and partnership, as well as supporting environmentally-friendly projects with an emphasis on volunteering, sustainability, value for money, and proven need. The Board considers applications over £50,000, up to the value of £100,000.

The Board has welcomed Joe Parry, Commercial Director at Valencia as a member of the Board in January 2023.

*(left to right: David Robertson, Peter Renshaw (Chairman), Mary Prior CVO MBE, Simon Catford)*



## THE TEAM

Valencia Communities Fund team are all remote workers since the pandemic and the decision to close the office in Taunton. The working of the team has not been affected by this move from office to remote working.

Alison Salvador, General Manager, is responsible to the Board of Trustees for the leadership, strategic direction, and overall management of Valencia Communities Fund.

Gareth Williams, Operations Manager, is responsible for delivering the operational function of Valencia Communities Fund, including applications, compliance, and communications.

Gareth manages a team of three who work together to deliver funding to our applicants. All applications submitted to Valencia Communities Fund are managed by the Grants Officer, Tony Painter with the help of other team members. Applications are processed with the emphasis

on cooperation with the applicant and any enquiries are discussed with the applicants to ensure eligibility and compliance with the rules of the schemes.

The Project Liaison Officer in England, Dr Nick Berry and the Project Liaison Manager in Scotland, Michael Cunningham, will visit every project prior to consideration for funding and completion.

Finances are administered by Karen Chilcott who collaborates with the General Manager, Alison Salvador.

*(left to right: Nick Berry, Karen Chilcott, Alison Salvador, Gareth Williams, Tony Painter)*





**Valencia  
Communities  
Fund**

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