



**Helping families get  
their lives back  
on track**



## **HEART OF BUCKS APPEAL FOR DONATIONS TO THEIR FAMILY ANGELS CAMPAIGN**

**One unexpected event can be all it takes to cause significant disruption to a family. The aim of Family Angels is to give families who find themselves in a crisis a chance to get their lives back on track.**

The campaign helps Buckinghamshire-based families with dependent children who are in an immediate crisis. By providing one-off financial support to these families, the crisis situation can often be resolved before the problem escalates.

For one local family, the struggle began when their son was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. The child's mother had to give up work to care for him and the family could not afford the travel costs to hospital. Family Angels was able to support them by covering the cost of travelling regularly to Oxford for vital chemotherapy.

**The child's mother, who wishes to remain anonymous, said:** "Thank you so much to whoever is involved in helping my family at such a dire time in our lives. I cannot begin to tell you how it will take a bit of the pressure off so I can concentrate on finding the best care for my son. From the bottom of my heart, I am extremely thankful that you could help."

All donations to the Family Angels campaign will help to make a big difference and will be used in a multitude of ways to support those in need. From moving costs for someone fleeing domestic abuse, to household essentials, such as a cooker or washing machine for low-income families.

To ensure that the funding reaches those who need it most, all applications must come via a Community Advocate; these are local support providers who are already actively engaging with the family. This also ensures that other avenues, such as public services, have been explored first.

**Henry Allmand, CEO at Heart of Bucks, said:** "Family Angels is lifeline for local families during a time of crisis. Even a small amount of money donated can help to change someone's life. Through our partnership with Community Advocates across Buckinghamshire we help those who are genuinely in need of support. Please help us make a difference to local families and donate today."

If you are able to help, [please donate online](#) or by cheque made payable to 'Heart of Bucks' and sent to: Heart of Bucks Family Angels, Sunley House (4th floor), Oxford Road, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP19 8FQ.



# £1.5m

awarded in funding  
during 2020/21

**2020/21 will go down in history for most of us, for many different reasons. Here at Heart of Bucks it has been our biggest grant-making year ever – £1.5m in funding has been distributed across Buckinghamshire to a total of 694 charities, community groups and individuals.**

This is more than three times as much as we awarded in 2019/20 and an increase of over 400% on number of applications approved. This increase could not have been more needed. Our local communities, charities and voluntary organisations have seen dramatic reductions in income, while many have been at the forefront of the local emergency response and recovery efforts.

In addition to our usual grants programmes, a large proportion of funding was in direct response to the Coronavirus pandemic. Our COVID-19 emergency appeals raised over £250,000 from private donors and the general public at the height of the pandemic – we are so grateful to everyone who generously contributed to the local non-profit sector response to the crisis, in particular to the Mulberry Trust who generously provided the initial donation to launch our crisis appeal. It is also thanks to donations from the National Emergencies Trust, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Rothschild Foundation, National Lottery Community Fund, Buckinghamshire Council and a number of generous private donors and businesses that we were able to react quickly to the pandemic and make a critical impact on our local community at a time of great need.

In addition to the organisations mentioned above, we have also had the opportunity to work closely with the NHS, Buckinghamshire Business First, Leap and our network of UK Community Foundations to extend our local impact.

*"It has been a remarkable year for our Community Foundation, as we have surpassed £1m and reached £1.5m in funding during 12 months for the first time in our 20 year history. I am so grateful to our staff team, volunteers, and trustees who have worked extremely hard to provide swift, critical grants to the local community. And of course we could not have achieved this without our many generous donors and supporters, who have made contributions of all sizes throughout the year and helped us reach these important milestones in our journey. Our support for the community has never been more needed, so if you care deeply about Buckinghamshire, please get in touch to find out more about our work."*

– Henry Allmand, CEO

# £10m

awarded since our foundation  
was established in 2000

*Other key achievements for the year include:*

With the support of Buckinghamshire Council, **expanding our emergency funds** to support individuals and families who were in a crisis as a result of COVID-19. In total, £205,000 was awarded to local people, with £91,000 being used to provide essential food for families in need.

Awarding our **largest ever single grant of £73,000** in partnership with the Rothschild Foundation and The Clare Foundation. The Capacity Wellbeing Fund encouraged partnership working and went to a consortium led by the Oasis Partnership for their 'Listen, Learn and Adapt' project; a collaboration of five Buckinghamshire charities working with BAME communities.

**Chairing the 'Buckinghamshire Strategic Funding Group'.** This small group of local funding organisations has taken a collaborative approach to non-profit funding.

Awarding the **first grant from our 'Green Futures Bucks' initiative**, in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council.

Adapting our grants panels to run virtually – our dedicated grants panel members were meeting weekly at one point to enable us to process applications as quickly as possible. **Our fastest grant decision was less than 24 hours** from application receipt to payment!

Launching a '**Community Investor**' fund, **aimed specifically at the local business community**, and those businesses who want to give back to their local area. This was opened with our corporate partners Ashridge Group, B P Collins LLP, Buckinghamshire Building Society, Chandler Garvey, and Passageways.

*Thank you to all of our partners, donors and supporters, our Board of Trustees and the members of our panels and committees. Without these dedicated people, our work to support the Buckinghamshire community would not be possible.*



# AN INTERVIEW WITH JAMES FROST FROM THE MULBERRY TRUST

The partnership between The Mulberry Trust and Heart of Bucks started in September 2010, but James and his wife Elsie also attended the inauguration of Heart of Bucks some 10 years earlier. This marked the commencement of their interest in our community foundation. We recently caught up with James to talk about his philanthropic work and support for the local community.

*How long have you been involved in philanthropic and charitable work?*

It all started many, many years ago when, as a 10 year old boy scout, I was privileged to be chosen to sell souvenir programmes outside the main entrance to Westminster Abbey on 2 June 1953, which as many will know was the Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen. That day was the catalyst for my interest in other people, and the start of a very long and varied road to where I am today, nearly 70 years later. The Queen promised at her Coronation to devote her whole life to the interests of the people, that certainly struck a chord with me, and I certainly think now, if she can still keep her promise nearly 70 years later, then I should also keep doing my bit as well.

Of course, I had no idea that one day I would want, be able, or afford, to set up our own family charity.

*"Our earliest connection with Heart of Bucks started in 1999. We grew to like what we saw, a charity for the whole county, not a single track specific charity, but a charity to help and assist many charities and individuals in the county. This helped us, because we could contribute to many needs and not be restricted by a single charity focus."*

What would be the seed for The Mulberry Trust, although I did not know it then, was a proposal I listened to in our church in 1958 when I was 16 years old. The Vicar announced that the Parish was going to introduce a programme of Planned Giving. He explained that this would help the Church to budget better, and if an amount was covenanted, to reclaim tax relief. In those days, one had to enter into a Deed of Covenant for a minimum of three years in order to reclaim the tax. I made the conscious decision not to take part, as I considered my 10 shillings a week collection (50p) would not go very far. However, I also promised myself that one day, I would do something meaningful.

That opportunity came in 1991. I was in a final meeting before the re-listing of a company on the London Stock Exchange. I left home in the morning, and did not arrive back until 37 hours later, having had no sleep, very little food other than gallons of coffee, and a TV interview. That meeting was attended by lawyers, bankers, accountants, receivers, and me. The meeting went well and the banks were pleased. At the end of the meeting, the banks said that they wanted to offer me a bonus of £300,000 (a lot of money 30

years ago), but I refused to accept the money. Something clicked in my head, I said that I would donate that money to a charity to be set up as our family charity. I would do something meaningful – I had kept my promise, 33 years later.

Today, that charity is worth more than £7m and growing, funded entirely by Elsie and me. We have together managed the charity for 30 years, but we have to look to the future.

*Why did you choose to set up an endowment fund with Heart of Bucks?*

Our earliest connection with Heart of Bucks started in 1999. We grew to like what we saw, a charity for the whole county, not a single track specific charity, but a charity to help and assist many charities and individuals in the county. This helped us, because we could contribute to many needs and not be restricted by a single charity focus.



Pictured: James Frost with wife Elsie at Quainton Railway Museum

*What do you like most about having an endowment with a community foundation?*

By maintaining a fund with Heart of Bucks, we have the dual advantage of helping many, but with Heart of Bucks feeding us with ideas and undertaking a lot of the spade work. We continue to build up confidence, while retaining an involvement. At present, Heart of Bucks has part of our total funds, but as we become older, who knows, we may decide to grow our commitment.

*How do you see your fund supporting the local community in the future?*

I have been happy with my relationship with Heart of Bucks, it is a county-wide charity which allows us to continue supporting the many causes in Buckinghamshire where needs vary from time to time. It has been fulfilling, and we have had our say in how the money is spent. It is certainly something I believe other people would find of interest. If not now, then in their Wills. I have made provision in my Will for more giving, very largely, I must say, at the expense of the Government and not the other beneficiaries.

*What would you say to someone thinking about setting up an endowment?*

Did you know, that at present, if you give to a charity 10% of your chargeable estate, the tax rate on the remainder of your chargeable estate goes down by 10%? You can set up your own fund for the future, mainly at the expense of the Government – ask your solicitor or accountant. It certainly appeals to me.



# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



## Moving our Community Fund

Funding is available for new physical activity projects that will help our communities to recover from COVID or prevent problems from emerging or getting worse. Priority groups include lower socio-economic groups, BAME communities, People with disabilities and people with long term conditions.

**Application deadline:** 30th June



## Help Us, Help You: Improving Cancer Outcomes

Working in partnership with the NHS, this fund supports not-for-profits to develop and deliver innovative and creative solutions to improve cancer outcomes, particularly for groups that traditionally have poorer health outcomes.

Grants of £1,000 to £7,500 are available,

**This fund is currently ongoing and there is no application deadline.**



## Youth Bank

Buckinghamshire Youth Bank primarily funds activities and projects that benefit vulnerable young people aged 12-19 years (and up to 25 years for young people with disabilities). The fund aims to give young people a voice within the community and young people from a wide range of backgrounds have an opportunity to be part of this panel, which offers grants of up to £2,000.

**EOI deadline:** 9th June **Application deadline:** 30th June



## Flood Recovery & Awareness Fund

Grants can be used to support capital, revenue and project costs and expenditure must relate to flood damage/prevention or awareness in the form of training or education. Grants of up to £5,000 can be applied for by Bucks voluntary and community groups that are charitable in purpose and town/parish councils.

**EOI deadline:** 9th June **Application deadline:** 30th June



## Green Schools Fund

This fund is open to primary and secondary schools and awards grants to support environmental projects initiated by the school's students. Funding is for environmental improvement schemes or services which are designed to: Reduce waste, improve biodiversity, reduce litter, reduce energy consumption and/or enhance community transport.

**EOI deadline:** 9th June **Application deadline:** 30th June



## Green Community Fund

This fund is open to voluntary and community groups and awards grants for projects designed to improve the environment and/or public spaces for the benefit of residents. For example: educational projects, environmental improvement schemes, increasing biodiversity, reducing carbon footprint, improving sustainability and/or enhancing community transport.

**EOI deadline:** 9th June **Application deadline:** 30th June



## Kop Hill Climb

Heart of Bucks provides grant funding from the proceeds of the Kop Hill Climb Festival. Priorities include: Princes Risborough and surrounding areas; projects that demonstrate social inclusion or need; projects which are new, or existing projects looking to expand their reach.

Please note: The staging of the KHC Festival will be kept under close review according to Government guidelines. This application process will be conditional on the event taking place this year.

**EOI deadline:** 13th October **Application deadline:** 10th November



## Rectory Homes

Priorities for this fund are: Organisations that are working for the benefit of residents living within Aylesbury Vale, applications that demonstrate the organisation's ability to help those most in need within the community, applications where the grant makes up a minimum of 25% and maximum of 50% of the total cost of the project.

**EOI deadline:** 8th December **Application deadline:** 19th January

Click on the relevant fund logo above to view more information and apply

Click on the relevant fund logo above to view more information and apply



# BUCKS BUSINESSES JOIN TOGETHER TO FUND PROJECT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



**Heart of Bucks have awarded the first grant from their Community Investor fund to Wycombe Wanderers Sports and Education Trust.**

The Community Investor fund was established in November 2020 and enables businesses to join together to support the community where they work, safe in the knowledge that Heart of Bucks has the local expertise to maximise the funds and the impact that they make in Buckinghamshire.

The grant of £2,500 will be used towards 'Get Active'; a year-long physical activity project for people living with disabilities in the High Wycombe area.

**Paul Foley, Head of Wycombe Wanderers Sports and Education Trust, said:**

*"Thank you so much to Heart of Bucks and all of the organisations involved in the Community Investor fund. We are hugely honoured and appreciative that you selected us as the first recipients."*

The aim of the 'Get Active' project is to improve the physical and mental health of people living with disabilities, as well as encourage social interaction through weekly multi-skill sessions. The one-hour sessions will be free to participants and will include puzzle-based games, ball games, equipment free games and games that work on movements and coordination.

**Heart of Bucks CEO, Henry Allmand said:**

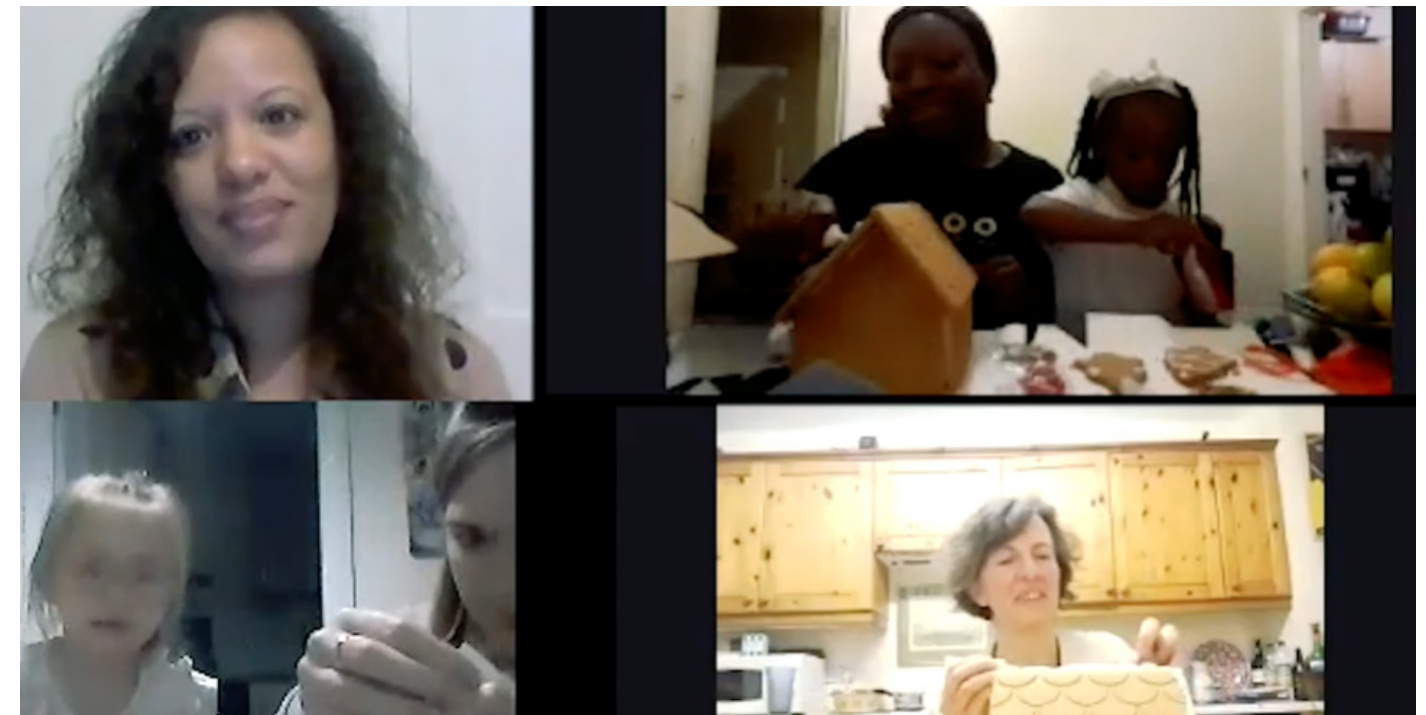
*"It's fantastic to see our first grant wholly funded by this collaboration of like-minded local businesses. It has been a challenging time for Bucks-based charities and community groups and this business fund is making a real difference to important local issues."*

When a business donates to the Community Investor fund, they will be helping the local community both immediately and in the future. All donations are divided into funds that can be used for immediate support and money that is invested. This means that one donation will make a positive impact both now and in years to come.

It is thanks to the generous donations from the following local businesses that Heart of Bucks have been able to award this grant within a few months of the fund's launch: Ashridge Group, Buckinghamshire Building Society, Buckinghamshire Business First, B P Collins LLP, Chandler Garvey, LP Motor Engineering, Passageways, RH Amar and Seymour Taylor.

**If you are interested in becoming a Community Investor and supporting local charities and community groups, please [click here to donate](#). Alternatively, you can contact Henry Allmand, CEO by emailing [henry@heartofbucks.org](mailto:henry@heartofbucks.org)**

# STARTUP DELIVER ONLINE PEER MENTORING FOR VULNERABLE WOMEN



**Project:** Peer mentoring response to COVID-19

**Grant:** £3,000

**Fund:** Bucks Coronavirus Response Appeal

**Impact category:** Reducing Isolation and Disadvantage

**Startup support women whose lives have come into contact with the Criminal Justice System as well as young women who are seriously disadvantaged by social, economic and family circumstances.**

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Startup maintained its commitment to support vulnerable young women whilst unable to meet in person. They ran Zoom training and workshops for those in their 'Breaking the Cycle' programme as well as other unemployed women facing challenges in their lives, with referrals from hostels, refuges and women's centres as well as other organisations in Buckinghamshire.

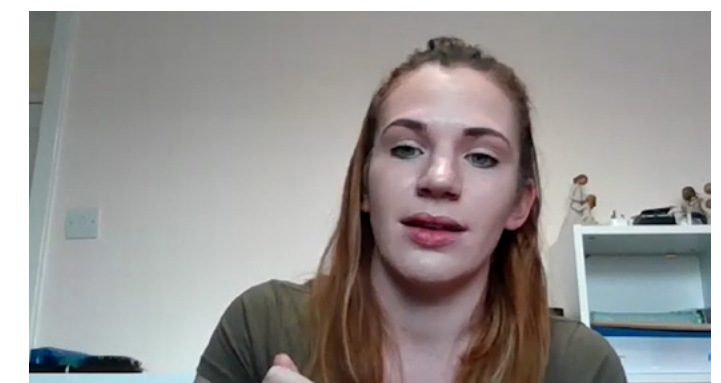
The project is Startup's response to support women in deprived communities, trying to come to terms with the impact of the coronavirus crisis. These women are experiencing isolation, increased mental health challenges with many concerned about their financial position and loss of contact with support networks and friends. Between May and November 2020 over 76 women from Bucks have been able to

access a range of virtual workshops, with this funding specifically supporting 30 local women.

A number of the Zoom workshops were tailored to the specific needs of certain groups, for example those seeing increased mental health challenges or domestic violence since COVID-19. Startup has been able to extend its reach to the most isolated and vulnerable women who have accessed the workshops via Zoom, which they haven't been able to in the community.

One of the women Startup have helped through their 'Breaking the Cycle' programme is Emily. The video below tells Emily's story of change.

**Click the image below to watch Emily's story.**



Emily Case Study (5mins)



# COUNTESS ELIZABETH HOWE STEPS DOWN AS CHAIR OF HEART OF BUCKS



Following her appointment as HM Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Countess Elizabeth Howe has stepped down as Chairman of Heart of Bucks.

Elizabeth said: "Having taken up the role of Lord-Lieutenant I am finding that there are just too many demands on my time to be able to do the Chairman role justice. My period of office as a trustee comes to an end in October when I will be stepping down from the Board, but I am delighted to say that I have been invited to become the charity's President, a post formerly held by Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher when he was Lord-Lieutenant. I shall therefore not be losing touch with Heart of Bucks but will be involved at a slightly longer arm's length!"

Moir Stewart, who has been a trustee with Heart of Bucks for over two years, will be stepping in as Interim Chairman to facilitate the finding of Elizabeth's successor.

Elizabeth has been a significant part of our foundation for many years and we would like to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt 'thank you' from all at Heart of Bucks for her tireless dedication and support.

## MEET OUR NEW TRUSTEES



*Pippa Kirkbride*

Pippa has enjoyed a successful career in food manufacturing and retail and as a Product Development Specialist has worked for United Biscuits, Grand Metropolitan, Northern Foods and Marks and Spencer. Since retiring Pippa has worked for Citizens Advice as a Money Advice Caseworker, as well as supporting Sense; the deafblindness charity. She has also been a governor of a number of schools, most recently the Beacon where she chaired the Admissions and Marketing Committee. Pippa is also the lead trustee for our fundraising programme.



*Gaurav Gang*

Gaurav has close to 25 years of corporate experience and founded LetsLocalise; a multi-sided digital platform that brings schools closer to the local communities and businesses for both financial and non-financial support. In his spare time, Gaurav enjoys writing and cricket.

# COMBATING ENERGY COSTS FOR THIRD SECTOR ORGANISATIONS







*Daniel Cope - Ambassador for the Environment*

Environmentalist or economically shrewd; two characteristics which are closer to one another than you may think. As part of their green strategy, The British Red Cross reduced their energy use by £657,200, whilst saving the planet in the process. Understandably, smaller charities, not-for-profits and clubs won't expect to see these levels of savings, but this does not mean the impact won't be significant. Below are a few things the third sector can do, right now, to reduce their monthly energy bills.

[Click here for more tips and to read Daniel's blog post in full >>](#)

## *Simple quick wins:*

-  Carry out an informal energy audit. Walk around your premises, considering appliances in each room. Switch lights, monitors, printers, heating off when not in use. Make this an addition to your locking-up process at the end of the day.
-  Set up your heating systems to minimise wastage out-of-hours. Thermostats usually have timed controls which can be pre-set, or a rudimentary option would be to ensure users switch on/off when leaving. Even better, smart thermostats allow users to monitor and change the temperature from a phone, any time or place!
-  Turning the heating off 30 minutes before close can result in substantial savings with no impact to comfort.
-  Draught proofing can be extremely cheap to install, but costly if ignored. It may just be you need a draught excluder for the base of your door (and will costs less than £20).

## *Switching energy provider*

This doesn't have to be a daunting task, comparison websites make it easy to switch and save money. You can also consider where your energy is coming from, with many providers now offering renewable tariffs.

## *VAT & Climate Change Levy*

Registered charities are entitled to a 5% VAT rate on gas and electric energy use (stipulations apply). Charities that are eligible for the reduced VAT rate are also exempt from the climate change levy.

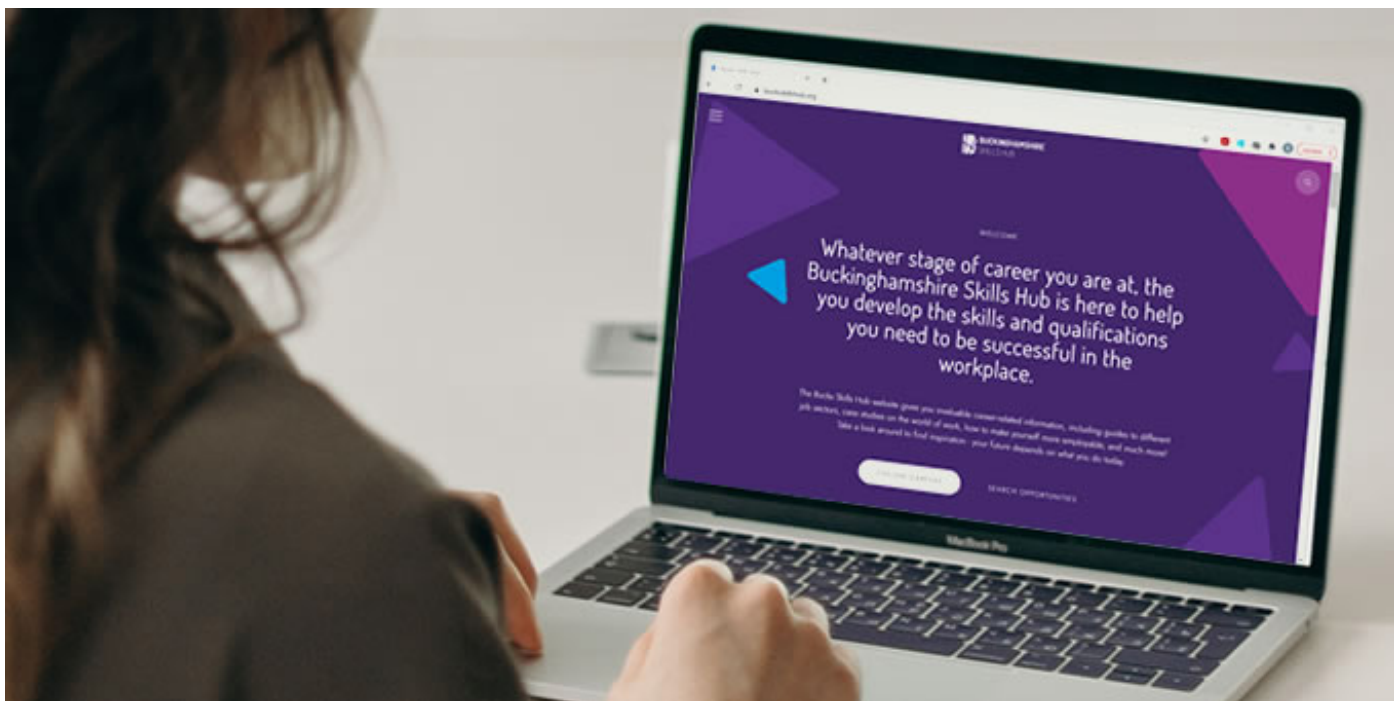


Low Carbon Workspaces offer enterprises in Buckinghamshire grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 to cover up to a third of the cost of making energy improvements. This could be anything from LEDs, insulation or even solar power. Whilst predominantly aimed at businesses, it's also a great opportunity for charities, non-profits and social clubs to carry out much needed improvements and lower energy costs. To be eligible at least half of your income must come from trading/revenue.

For example, Farnham Royal Village Hall used a grant of £3,500 to install two energy efficient boilers and smart controls resulting in savings of £650 per year.

[For more information on any of the above, please click here](#)

# NEW CAREERS AND SKILLS WEBSITE FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE IS LAUNCHED



**If you are finding it difficult to find work at the moment or are considering a career change, there's a great new website that has been launched by the Buckinghamshire Skills Hub to help job seekers find and succeed in work and to help businesses promote their job opportunities.**

The website – BucksSkillsHub.org – is a one-stop shop for all skills and career-related advice in Buckinghamshire and has been designed to inspire and support people looking for their first job, their next job or a complete career change.

If you are (or know someone who is) looking for work, whether it be full-time, part-time, an apprenticeship, work experience or anything else, this website is the place to turn for local vacancies and support. It is chock-full of advice on different jobs and sectors and how to become more employable, as well as inspiring success stories from people across a wide range of different career paths.

Businesses can also utilise the website to advertise their full and part-time job vacancies, and any work experience, apprenticeship and internship opportunities – all for free. Perfect for whether you are looking to reopen, grow and create new jobs or want to help young people into employment. The website is also full of useful resources and advice for businesses on recruitment, upskilling employees, hiring and inspiring young people, and redundancies.

All businesses need to do to post a vacancy is to upload it onto the Buckinghamshire Business First website and the advert will automatically be posted to the Bucks Skills Hub website too. Not only might you find your next team member, you'll also be helping people start, relaunch or boost their career journey, whatever stage of life and work they are at.

The Bucks Skills Hub works closely with schools, colleges and universities in Buckinghamshire, so is a particularly great organisation for businesses to get involved with if you are looking to offer apprenticeships, internships or work placements for young people. They can help you engage directly with the next generation of your team.

*Visit the new website:*

**[www.BucksSkillsHub.org](http://www.BucksSkillsHub.org)**

*Businesses can post vacancies at:*

**[www.bbf.uk.com](http://www.bbf.uk.com)**

*For more info on advertising vacancies:*

**call - 01494 927130**

**email - [info@bbf.uk.com](mailto:info@bbf.uk.com)**