Rampion Community Benefit Fund

Impact Report 2022
The Rampion Community Benefit Fund at Sussex Community Foundation was set up in 2017 and is worth £3.1m over a ten-year period. It supports organisations working for the benefit of people of Sussex within an area stretching from Littlehampton Harbour in the west to Beachy Head in the east and up to the A272 near Twineham in the north.

The Fund is now at the halfway point and in the last five years it has supported projects with a particular interest in the environment, ecology, climate change, energy and improved community facilities.
“The stories and details in this report speak for themselves. However, although the Rampion Fund is one of more than 100 funds run by the Sussex Community Foundation, at this half way point we should acknowledge the particular and profound affect that the Fund has had on our own work and thinking. Our strategy for 2022-2027 includes a commitment “to support local action to address climate change”. The many lessons learned from managing the Rampion Fund and its grants programme have given us the confidence to make that commitment. An added, if indirect, benefit from this important community fund. Thank you Rampion!”

Keith Hollis, Chair, Rampion Community Benefit Fund

“We are delighted that through the Rampion Community Benefit Fund, we can support some truly remarkable and vital local community projects. I was lucky to be able to visit one of the projects recently - ‘Harriett’s Press’ - and was inspired by their commitment to providing a free, low-energy, sustainable laundry service to those in need in their community. This is exactly the sort of project we are proud to support, with a focus on both environmental sustainability and community support.”

Katie Scanlan, Rampion Stakeholder & Visitor Centre Manager
Making an *Impact* in 2022.

£97,817

The fund has given out £97,817 in 2022 and over £1.8 million in grants since 2017 to 160 projects

16 projects

16 projects were supported in 2022

Number and type of projects supported:

- Community buildings and sporting facilities: 1 project
- Marine ecology, nature conservation and environmental improvements: 1 project
- Environmental engagement and education: 3 projects
- Onshore and offshore sports and recreation: 3 projects
- Sustainable transport: 2 projects
- Renewable energy and energy conservation: 5 projects
- Sustainability/awareness raising: 1 project
Projects funded across Sussex in 2022.
Quiet Down There

Quiet Down There provides opportunities for disadvantaged communities in Brighton to connect, tell their stories, be creative and improve their well-being. For the last twelve months, their new project, Harriett’s Press, has been offering free laundry facilities in their creative studio in the Open Market in Brighton. Inviting people to use the washer and dryer for free, stay for a cuppa and tell their stories and try out some creative activities.

Investing in triple A rated machines means addressing the climate crisis head on, increasing opportunities for users by 400% without using additional power. The dual purpose of the laundry space encourages people to try new creative activities which can help deal with stress, anxiety and promotes positivity.

The service impacts people’s lives in a myriad of ways: offering free laundry services to people who do not have access to affordable laundry, helping relieve poverty on an ongoing basis with people saving £15 per wash.

It gives adults back the dignity of affordable clean clothes and supports good mental health and resilience.

This new project was named after Harriet Cowley, a Brighton laundress who spent her life involved in community support and activism in the 1920’s.

“We are over the moon that the Rampion Community Benefit Fund supported us to purchase an energy efficient washing machine and heat pump tumble dryer for our creative laundry space.”

Harriett’s Press

“These new machines enabled us to offer 50% more slots each week and we have bought high quality creative materials for people to use while they wait. Supporting people facing hygiene poverty the dignity of clean clothes through a difficult winter is our passion and our privilege.”

Lucy Jefferies, Director

“Feeling inspired. Comforted that the washing has been done.”

User

“I liked everything, the space and being listened to.”

User

“Free Wash & Free Dry

Come and put a load of washing on, have a cuppa and try something creative while you wait.

Harriett’s Press is located at balcony studio 6, Brighton Open Market.

Open Tuesday - Friday 9:30am - 2pm

We have a washer and dryer in the studio that you can use for free.

Book a time at harriettspressyoucanbookme:

email: harriettspress@gmail.com

text: 07442955267”

User
Creative Heart CIC is a welcoming community hub and arts café in the centre of Littlehampton. A former Gas showroom, the building stood empty and semi derelict for many years before the Creative Heart team took over and developed it into the wonderful community space it is today. With the help of an army of volunteers, local businesses and a host of funders, the café and space offers a warm welcome for many local people, many of whom attend on a very regular basis.

Providing a warm space requires a huge amount of power and energy. The building is old, with many single glazed windows and high ceilings. Opportunities to conserve heat are limited. The focus of this project was energy generation from a vast array of 60 x 325w solar panels located on the roof.

The café will use around 18000 kWh of electricity per year, with around 34% of this supplied directly by the solar array. Another 20% will be supplied from the storage battery. The remaining 46% will be imported from the grid.

The inverter is a three-phase unit and can support power hungry appliances like the commercial dishwasher in the kitchen which is used several times per day.

It is clear that the system will make a massive difference to the cost of energy used by the café where the majority of activity takes place during the daytime.

“It is wonderful to be able to provide a safe, warm and inviting space for some very lonely and vulnerable people in our community. Thank you for providing the funds towards our solar energy generation system, which have really helped with our running costs, especially during this financial crisis.”

Claire Jones, Director
Seaford is the culmination of a series of community workshops led by SCIP that see participants learning about the marine environment as well as creating it in paper format. The exhibition at Seaford Environmental Alliance received over 3,000 visitors during the period. This threw a spotlight on natural heritage and ecology by connecting the local community and collaborating with others, using contemporary art as the catalyst.

Seaford Contemporary Illustrators and Printmakers (SCIP) want a society where contemporary visual arts are valued, and everyone feels confident to express themselves creatively.

In 2022, SCIP produced a bespoke, community based large immersive paper installation exploring the underwater landscape of Seaford Bay and beyond.

“Down in the Deep” worked with people from the community in a series of workshops for 100 children aged 5-10yrs and young people aged 11-18yrs in a three-week exhibition during the popular ArtWave Festival in the area. The paper-based installation in Seaford is the culmination of a series of community workshops led by SCIP that see participants learning about the marine environment as well as creating it in paper format.

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The ecosystem featured is the same one developing at the base of the Rampion Windfarm. The rocky inlets at the base of Seaford Head and the Sussex Kelp Forest were recreated, highlighting the importance of reducing CO2 levels and rebuilding the marine habitats destroyed by trawlers. This project was such a powerful way to speak to the public about the incredible natural heritage we have in Sussex. It was a joy to create the marine life with the community, and experience such an amazing level of skill sharing. We loved exploring the corals with kids as they hunted for plastics and talking to them about how to protect their beautiful coastline.

We were able to teach all generations about the amazing species we have in Sussex and how to be part of protecting them, about the artificial reef at Rampion and the amazing Kelp Restoration Projects. We felt this project was a huge success, and another incredible example of how art can help people learn about a huge variety of subjects in a creative and inclusive environment.

Alice Carter, SCIP Co-founder
Patcham Memorial Hall had three individual wall mounted gas fired heaters, on average they needed to be replaced, every seven to ten years costing £2,000 each. Annual gas safe inspections and maintenance added to operating costs.

Installing a modern Air Source Heat Pump at a cost of around £15,000 resulted in lower energy costs, despite the gas price spike, 2022’s energy costs were comparable with 2020, users enjoyed a healthier environment and a cleaner hall with a reduced hall carbon footprint.

Hugh Woodhouse, Treasurer

The Henfield Hall

£8,000 in 2021 to support the installation of a solar photovoltaic array and inverter system in The Henfield Hall, Horsham, Sussex.

"Individually, we were pleased to become the first “public use” building in Henfield to achieve a Solar installation, brought about by much hard work on our part but we are very cognizant that it would not have been achieved without the many generous Grants we obtained, with that from Rampion being the biggest and the first which thus set us on the path to realizing the project and for which we will always be grateful".

Patrick Thorpe, Treasurer

In 2023, the Fund has an additional focus on supporting capital projects that improve community buildings in terms of energy use, energy generation, storage and energy efficiency. The Fund hopes to support a number of projects that meet this criteria and some examples of previous projects are below.