

Chippenham Borough Lands Charity

Background Paper



This short paper has been prepared as a scene setter for the Town Centre Development Team to help them understand where the Charity fits within the Town, what it does for the local community, and the Charity might be able to contribute to the initiative.

Don Steele
Chair of Board of Trustees
Chippenham Borough Lands Charity

Dated 10th March 2022

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ORIGINS. The Chippenham Borough Lands Charity was first established in 1554 when Queen Mary granted a Royal Charter to Chippenham. She gave Crown Land to the Borough to generate income which was originally to be used to pay for two Members of Parliament and for the upkeep of the bridge over the River Avon. The Borough Lands Charity was reconstituted by the Charity Commissioners in 1990 and comprised of land in and around Chippenham, property (including the Jubilee Building formerly belonging to the Jubilee Charity) and a large sum of capital for investment.

The Charity's Objects require us to apply the net income to:

- The relief of the aged, sick, disabled or poor inhabitants of the Parish of Chippenham,
- The provision or assistance in the provision, for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Chippenham and its neighbourhood or any section of those inhabitants, of facilities for recreation or other leisure-time occupation,
- The advancement of education for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Chippenham,
- The promotion of any other charitable purpose for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Chippenham.

SCOPE. The Chippenham Borough Lands Charity is configured as a place based, grant making charity for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Chippenham. Our investments and rental income generate a budget for us to use to support local individuals and organisations in welfare, education, arts and community projects. The Borough Lands themselves consist of 70 acres of land in Chippenham which we maintain for community use.

PEOPLE & ORGANISATIONS. We help eligible individuals with aspects such as mobility aids, white goods, childcare costs, training courses, travel passes, transport costs, furniture and food vouchers. We also provide support to different non-profit organisations and community groups that provide a service that benefits local Chippenham residents.

WELFARE. We help individuals who have a financial need and organisations that support local residents. Individuals can apply for our help, providing they are currently living within the parish of Chippenham and have done so for over two years.

Organisations can only apply if their work benefits or will benefit people who live within the parish of Chippenham.

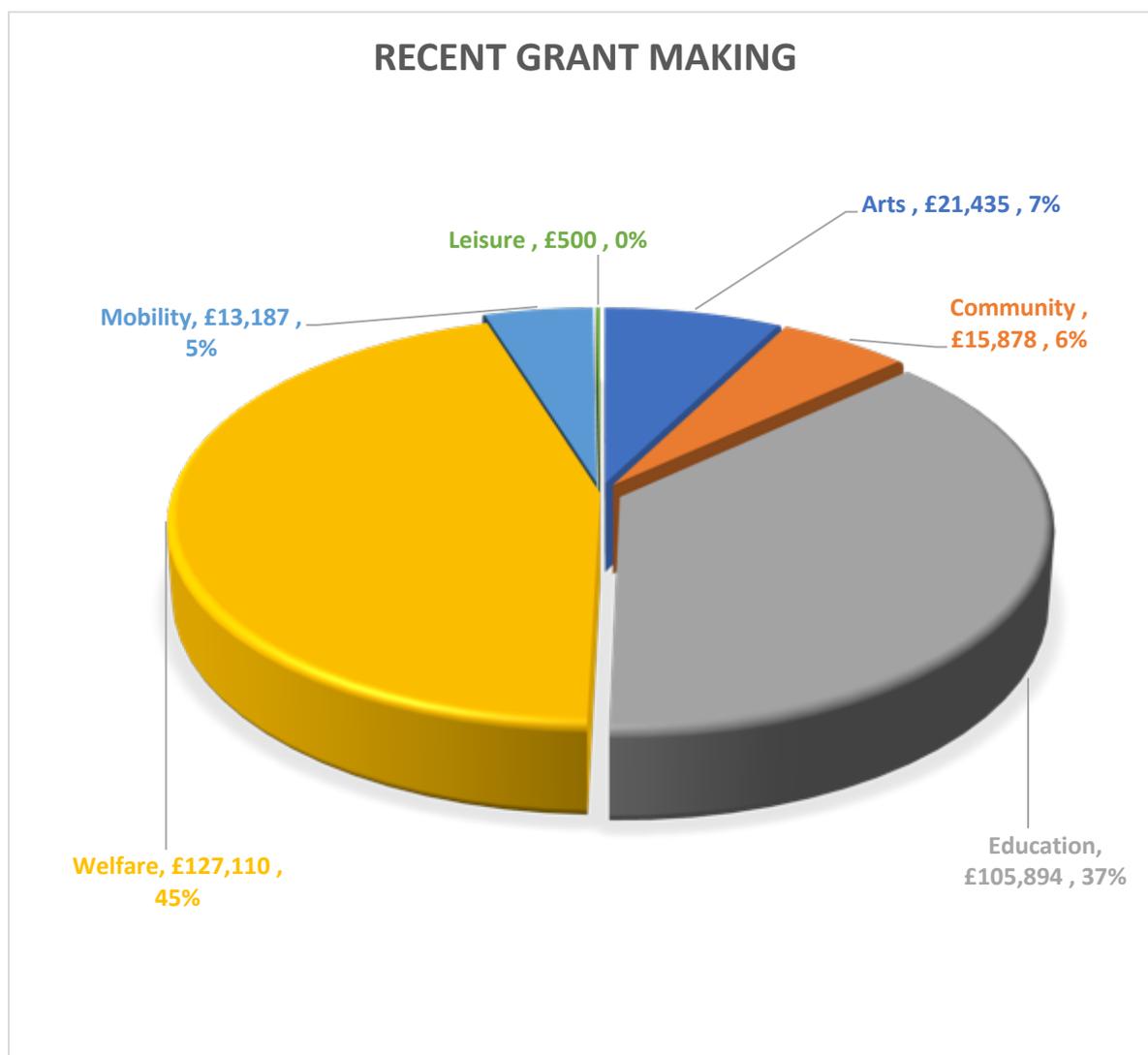
EDUCATION. We give yearly funding to our local college, schools and nurseries towards the enrichment and development of pupil's education based on pupil numbers. We can also help anyone who is currently living in Chippenham and has lived here for over 2 years with the cost of certain courses that advances their education. Much of our current provision is in support of mental health initiatives to support younger people.

ARTS. The Chippenham Arts & Cultural Exchange (ACE) group was set up by our Arts & Education Officer to help to build an arts community in Chippenham. The group provides support, training and networking opportunities together with events to encourage, support and celebrate local arts and culture groups, organisations and individuals. We run regular monthly ChAT (Chippenham Arts Team) meetings for Chippenham based Arts organisations, groups and individuals interested in developing community arts events in the town.

This is now our third year of providing funding towards & organising the Chippenham Fringe February festival following last year's Covid safe online event. The line-up for this year's Festival included live comedy, dance, theatre and music performances, along with a host of interactive fun and entertainment for the whole family to enjoy.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS. As well as building two Community Centres, the Charity has transformed the Westmead Open Space into a popular and welcoming amenity. The Arc, our new Climbing Centre and Skatepark for Chippenham, has recently been completed while we are also looking at the creation of a Hub to provide shared community facilities for a wide range of people and organisations.

FINANCES. Our assets are made up of £14M invested in stocks and shares as well as buildings, comprising of 2 community centres, 2 office buildings and the Arc climbing centre. Our investments give us an average income of about £600K a year, of which an average of £300K is given out in grants. The pie chart below is a breakdown for the last financial year 2020/21.



We are able to use some of our capital for larger projects and we have just delivered the Charity's largest project to date, the Arc climbing centre and skatepark which came in on budget at £2.9 M. This included the grant from Wiltshire Council for £200K towards the skate park and £100K from Sport England.

More information about our Grant Making and other activities is also available online:

- The CBLC website is at: <http://www.cblc.org.uk>
- Our Community website "One Chippenham" is at: <https://onechippenham.org.uk>
- Our Westmead website is at: <https://westmeadhub.org>

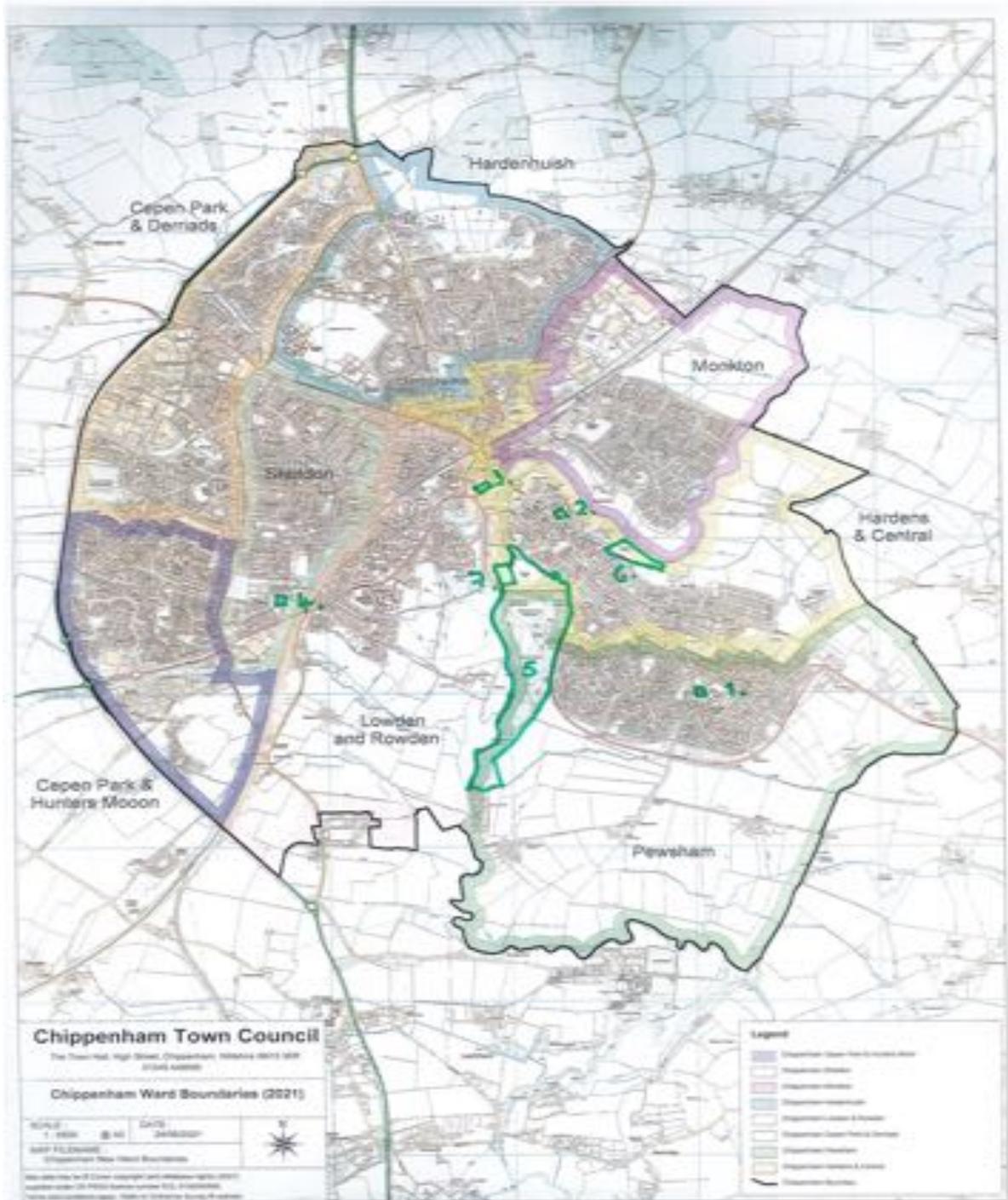
OTHER INITIATIVES:

Community Website. Prompted by the demise of the Chippenham BID, who had run a community information website, and by the pressing need for a focal point in the early stages of the COVID 19 Pandemic, we pressed on with the roll out of “One Chippenham”. This is designed to be a comprehensive one stop shop for the Town to post and find relevant information across a wide range of activities. It has grown considerably and is attracting more traffic every month.

Community Hub. The Charity has underpinned the salary of those running the Town’s new Community Hub for their first 2 years of operation until they can find a sustainable income stream.

Country Park. The Charity has embarked on the creation of a Country Park, based on the Westmead Open Space. The Woodland Sculpture Trail is an early step in this programme. We look forward to working with others to extend this green space through the town towards our other land at Baydon’s Meadow.

AREA OF OPERATION & LAND OWNED BY CBLC



1. Pewsham Community Centre
2. Jubilee Building
3. The Bank House
4. Kingsley Road Community Centre
5. Westmead Open Space/Country Park
6. Baydon's Meadow
7. The Arc Climbing Centre and Skate Park