

Community Chest Scheme

Grant Application Form



ABOUT YOUR GROUP/ORGANISATION

Applicant	Group/Organisation
Name: Chris Haworth	Name: Cresswell Village Hall
Address: 1 St Bartholomews Close Cresswell Morpeth Post code: NE61 5 JX	Address: 7 Southside Cresswell Morpeth Post code: NE61 5LD
Tel: 07535880830	Tel:
Email: cllrhaworthcpc@gmail.com	Email: juliechrishaworth@hotmail.com
Position: Cresswell Village Councillor	Web: cresswellvillagehall.com
Please give a brief description of your group/organisation.	
Cresswell Village Hall serves as the main community hub for residents of Cresswell and surrounding rural areas. It hosts community groups, social events, exercise classes, parish meetings, and serves as an emergency and information centre during adverse weather or coastal events. Towards the end of 2025 the village hall made contact with Northumberland Astro to explore using our site for the placement of an aurora camera for use by residents, visitors and wider organisations such as wild swimmers, local fishing groups. The Village Hall is run and managed by a small group of volunteers on behalf of Cresswell Village Council.	
What is the status of your group/organisation? (Tick all that apply)	
☒ Registered Charity Charity Number: 1173055.....	
☒ Community Group ☒ Voluntary Organisation ☐ Tenant Association	



Other, please specify:

ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

Please describe the project/activities that you plan to use your grant for.

The village Hall committee would like the grant to

- improving the quality and reliability of the internet within the village hall. The current speed is approximately 14.5 Mbps upload. Alongside the need to improve the broadband for all users the committee has recently joined forces with Northumberland Astro to facilitate a fixed external aurora camera to the village hall. All this equipment is currently on loan from Northumberland Astro.
- Improving the current ICT and camera facility to provide better quality outcomes for all users which is currently on loan.
- Provide **reliable, high-speed Wi-Fi** throughout the hall and meeting spaces. Current Wi-Fi upload speeds are 14.5 Mbps.
- Support **digital inclusion** by enabling residents to access online services, training, and information.
- Enable community groups to stream content, host hybrid meetings, and support youth and elderly digital skills sessions.
- Enhance **hall sustainability** by attracting new users (remote workers, local training sessions, small business workshops).
- Support parish resilience by ensuring connectivity for emergency coordination and visitor information.

The village hall committee have during 2025 formed a partnership with Northumberland Astro to provide an aurora Camera facility along Druridge Bay. Northumberland Astro has provided on loan a PC system and fixed camera to facilitate viewing the northern lights.

The village Hall committee would like the grant to

- Improve the current ICT and camera facility by upgrading the PC to provide better quality outcomes for all users.

Please tell us how you identified the need for this project/activity?

The village hall is fairly heavily used by both residents and the neighborhood for a range of activities. Currently the broadband grinds to a halt and has very little functionality when more than three metres from the internet point.

The Aurora camera has proved to be very popular by a wide range of users, some of which are from both wider national and international users. The streaming of this provision requires a greater broadband than we currently have to facilitate a growing number of users. The current subscribers to our web camera are 3,029 users with 148.1K views. Viewing time is currently around 5300 hours. The Cresswell camera is now the most popular and heavily used of all the Northumberland Astro cameras.

This facility is now very popular with:

- Wild swimmers to look at the sea conditions
- Northern lights viewing
- A number of our local fishing groups to review the sea conditions
- Residents wanting to see the general conditions along Druridge Bay.

It is hoped that this provision might help Cresswell become part of the darker skies initiative.

If your account balances exceed £10,000, please explain why you require external funding.

The village hall has a number of renovations to undertake to bring the fabric of the building up to date. There is a rolling programme of decorating and repairs being undertaken by volunteers from within the village. There has been an area of wood worm identified in the roof area. The kitchen area requires new cooking facilities including a built in oven. The external railing is in need of repair to the rear of the building. All of this is planned to be sourced from the Village Hall's current resources.

Please tell us the steps you have taken to generate or attract funding from other sources.

This is our first opportunity to secure some funding to expand our current provision outlined above.

I regularly search through the Northumberland County 4 Community funding alerts.

Who will be the main beneficiaries of the activity/project? Please give numbers, ages.

This project will enhance the experience of all our users to the Village Hall both as direct users of the facilities and as on line viewers using the Web cam facilities. The village hall is frequently booked for a range of events for activities and social events. Although not all require direct access to Wi-Fi throughout the event most have commented about inhibiting certain

activities. The on line access to the web camera is now in excess of 3000 users. Recently we have had 101000 views in 28 days. The age profile is difficult ascertain but there have been bookings across all ages and the Village Hall has no barriers. We have recently taken bookings for GCSE revision attended by small numbers of young people. The online facility is being accessed both nationally and internationally which is supporting the wider aspect of inclusion and bringing both Cresswell and Northumberland to the fore.

Where will the project/activity take place?

Access to the village hall is open to all who book through the website and we provide no limitations on the broadband access to those booking. With regard to the Aurora web camera this is available twenty four hours a day. Currently most of this user time is during the dark evenings aiming to see the northern lights.

Estimated Start date	ASAP	Estimated end date	No end date
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ABOUT YOUR GRANT

Please state how much money you need for your project and what it will be used for. If you can recover the Value Added Tax (VAT) you must only show the net amount. If you are including volunteer time this must be entered in both expenditure and funding.

Items of expenditure (include all costs of the project)	Cost
Broadband router & WiFi access points	200
Professional installation and cabling	400
First Year Broadband Subscription	720
Upgrade Web Camera	280
Upgrade Web Camera PC	900
Contingency 10%	250
Total	2750

Please list all contributions towards your costs, including any cash, grants, volunteered time, donations, and your own resources. This must amount to not less than 10% of eligible expenditure (those items eligible for funding). The 90% maximum will be applied on an item-by-item basis.

All sources of funding	Current Status (secured or pending)	Amount
Contribution from the Village Hall	Secured	300
Contribution from the Parish Council	Pending	150
Maintenance of camera and PC updates (volunteer)	Secured	0
Day to day running of Aurora Camera (N.Astro)	Secured	0
Uploading of on line streaming to U-tube (N.Astro)	Secured	0
Total		

Amount that you are requesting (must not exceed 90% of eligible costs)	2300
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I confirm that to the best of my knowledge and belief that all the information provided is true and correct. I understand that Northumberland County Council reserves the right to recover all or part of any grant award in the event of non-compliance with the terms of the grant.

I confirm that all relevant documentation has been provided and that the group/organisation is adequately covered for all liabilities from the running of the activity/project.

I accept that Northumberland County Council, its partners, agents or employees are not liable for any costs, losses or damages incurred as a direct result of the activity or project taking place.

SIGNATURE: C.Haworth.....**NAME** (Please print): Cllr Chris Haworth

DATE: 29/01/2026

General Data Protection Regulation 2018 Privacy Statement

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