

HOTHFIELD SOLAR FUNDING

The role of the solar funding in Hothfield Parish is to enrich and benefit the lives of the residents of the village.

The Parish Council is audited annually as to how the money is spent.

Hothfield Parish Council proposes that all funding aligns with the following Themes

Funding Criteria.

THEME/ {PRIORITY}	Examples of what might be covered under these themes
1. HOTHFIELD ROAD CONDITION AND SAFETY	Pedestrian crossings, potholes, signage, speed reduction, CCTV
2. HOTHFIELD VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT AND APPEARANCE	Litter bins, benches, public spaces, parking, Nature reserve, Dog Mess, Responsible pet ownership, fly tipping, bin collection, noise. housing
3. HOTHFIELD WELLBEING	Village Hall, Children's play area, facilities for children and young people, neighborhood cohesion, community involvement, prevent isolation, inclusion, safeguarding vulnerable adults and children, community health. Promote physical fitness and wellbeing of all ages.
4. HOTHFIELD SAFETY	Crime, feelings of safety in Hothfield, anti-social behaviour
5. HERITAGE AND CULTURAL	Support historical Hothfield record keeping and engagement within the community. Support to various community groups and faiths. Work closely with HEF.
6. VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT	Support to infrastructure development that provides demonstrable benefit to the residents of Hothfield e.g. East to West Hothfield path, new fencing on the green etc etc.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- **Benefit the Wider Community:** The initiative must have broad, tangible benefits for a wide section of the parish population. It should aim to address a clear community need.
- **Sustainability and Longevity:** Projects that can be maintained long-term with minimal future costs to the Parish Council, or those with sustainable funding sources.
- **Community Involvement:** Projects where residents are actively involved in planning, execution, or ongoing maintenance. This encourages a sense of ownership and long-term success.
- **Environmental Impact:** Preference will be given to projects that improve the village's environmental footprint or contribute to the sustainability goals of the parish.
- **Innovation and Creativity:** New ideas or creative approaches to village improvement or preservation of heritage will be considered favourably.

Ineligible Costs

The following costs will not be considered for funding:

- **Private or Profit-Making Ventures:** Projects primarily for individual profit or those not benefiting the wider community.
- **Ongoing Operational Costs:** Ongoing running costs such as salaries or regular maintenance (unless linked to the project's success and sustainability).
- **Personal or Domestic Projects:** Funding for individual homes or private property, unless it serves a wider community function (e.g., community-owned facilities)

Application requirements

Proposals for Funding should be made either verbally or in writing to Hothfield Parish Council and ensure that they outline how the funding criteria will be met, paying attention to the

- Project scope
- Value for money
- Timescale
- Priority alignment
- Proposed benefit.
- Measurement of success- which should be against the funding

criteria,

Decision making, due consideration and transparency.

Hothfield Parish Council, as a public body is responsible and accountable for managing public money transparently and to ensure that there is always value for money.

Proposals must be received within **two working weeks** of each Parish Council meeting to ensure that due care and consideration is given to the decision.

Rationale for all decisions will be minuted. Decisions will be voted upon by the Parish Council. In the event of a tied vote the Chairperson will have the casting vote.

Following the proposal the Parish council may decide to

- a) Fully fund the project
- b) Offer match funding (%) of project costs
- c) Refuse funding

Ultimate decisions on funding rest with Hothfield Parish Council.

Post project reporting requirements

Post project it is essential that we have communication of the project or purchase being made. This can take the following form:

- **Report.** A detailed report submitted to the Parish Council and published on the village website.
- **Article.** An article explaining the work that has been carried out and the overall community benefit.
- **Presentation.** A verbal presentation to the council on the work that has been carried out and the overall benefit to the community.

Recorded in HPC minutes.

At least one of the above methods must be employed when funding has been released.

Any Measurements of success must be included which could include value for money, impact and data. (Please see below)

Post project feedback will determine whether future funding will be allocated.

Measurement of success

On completion of the work/project the council and recipient will complete a short survey to ascertain the effectiveness of the funding as related to the six village priorities above. Each priority will be graded 1 to 5.

- ☐ **5:** The project exceeded the requirements of the priority.
- ☐ **4:** The project fully met the requirements of the priority.
- ☐ **3:** The project met the requirements of the priority
- ☐ **2:** The project Partially met the requirements of the priority
- ☐ **1:** The project did not meet the requirements of the priority

In addition to this it is encouraged that additional measures of success are included. These will be specific to each project e.g. reduced average vehicle speed on a specific bend for a traffic project or reduced rates of crime for a CCTV project etc.