

Holme Valley Parish Council

The Civic, Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth HD9 3AS

Email: clerk@holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 01484 687460



Grant Evaluation

- The Parish Council likes to hear how community groups have used the money awarded to them
- As the money awarded is public money, we also need to make sure that the money has been spent appropriately and as agreed

Name of Organisation	Holmfirth Tech
Amount of award	£ 1,500
Purpose for which the grant was awarded (Maximum 20 words)	Food and drink for Warm Spaces project

The Story of Your Project

- *Tell us what you did with the money awarded to you (Maximum 500 words)*
- *Attach a few photos*

The Warm Spaces project was originally scheduled to run from mid-November 2024 to 31 March 2025, providing a warm, welcoming environment three mornings per week (Tuesday–Thursday, 10.30am–12.30pm) for people in need of company, comfort, and a safe place to stay warm during the colder months.

Unfortunately, a burst pipe and internal flood on 29 November 2024 caused significant disruption to our building, resulting in a complete loss of central heating until 16 January 2025. This severely limited our ability to deliver sessions as originally planned. However, thanks to the flexibility of the funding and commitment of our team, we adapted quickly.

We ran a reduced service throughout December and early January, using portable heaters to run one session per week in smaller rooms where possible. Once heating was restored, we resumed full delivery and extended the project through to 30 April 2025 to ensure that participants received the full level of support originally intended.

The funding was used to cover the cost of room hire, heating, refreshments, volunteer expenses, and some small-scale activity materials. It also supported publicity, enabling us to promote the sessions across the Holme Valley through posters, word-of-mouth, and online community networks.

Throughout the delivery period, we created a consistent, reliable space that provided immediate practical benefits—warmth, refreshments, and shelter—as well as longer-term emotional and social value. Participants were able to build relationships, access informal peer support, and reconnect with their local community.

Despite the disruption, the funding enabled us to respond quickly and flexibly to local need.

The extra month of delivery in April helped us reach our original targets, maintain trust with participants, and ensure the space was consistently available when it was most needed.

Due to the flood and heating disruption, we delivered fewer sessions than originally planned.

In addition, we were fortunate to receive a great deal of in-kind support from our volunteers and wider community. Many food items were donated — with one of our wonderful volunteers, Brenda, regularly bringing in large homemade pies, lasagnes or pans of stew. Staff, tenants, and room hirers also contributed tea, coffee, milk and other supplies. As a result, our actual spend was significantly lower than anticipated — around £750 of the £1,500 awarded.

We would be grateful if the unspent balance could be retained to support a future Warm Spaces programme running from December 2025 to March 2026. We remain committed to providing this vital service and, with your support, could make an even bigger impact next winter.

What you achieved

What were the benefits of your project?
(Maximum 500 words)

The Warm Spaces project provided a lifeline for many local residents during the winter and early spring months, particularly in the wake of extreme weather and personal hardship. Though the flood and heating failure delayed full delivery, the space quickly regained its role as a vital part of the community once sessions resumed at scale.

The benefits were both immediate and lasting. Attendees were able to stay physically warm and safe, particularly during cold weather when energy costs remained a concern for many. Free refreshments and a friendly welcome created a sense of comfort and belonging. Several participants said the space gave them a reason to leave the house during difficult or isolating periods. The project also provided an opportunity for social connection. People who were isolated, bereaved, or struggling with their mental health could meet others, share stories, and receive informal encouragement. Many attended regularly as part of their weekly routine.

At Holmfirth Tech, we are more than just a space — we are a place “where everyone is welcome.” Whether it’s to find warmth, share a smile, or even break into song, our doors are open to bring people together in joy and support. One wonderful session captured this spirit beautifully: [Here is a link to the reel on our Facebook page](#), featuring Raymond and Abby, our Operations and Marketing Co-ordinator, playing piano and singing together. These joyful, spontaneous moments show the value of shared space and connection.

The project was open to anyone in the Holme Valley. We estimate that between 60 and 75 individuals accessed the project overall, with around 360 attendances across all sessions to benefit from the free warm food, hot drinks and cake, a safe and welcoming space, and the chance to take part in light-touch activities—such as crafts,

	<p>musical instruments, games, or simply sitting together and chatting. The focus was on warmth in every sense: physical, emotional, and social.</p> <p>Volunteers also gained a great deal from being part of the project. For some, it was their first opportunity to reconnect after illness or personal difficulty. One described it as “the highlight of my week.” Another key benefit was informal signposting. While not a formal advice service, we regularly helped people access support—whether it was information on benefits, local services, or help with energy bills. We signposted to organisations such as Community Plus, Safer Communities, and Carers Count.</p> <p>Thanks to the Parish Council for helping to fund this project, and to everyone who made moments like these possible. The extra month of delivery allowed us to recover from the initial disruption and offer meaningful support through the colder months—ensuring people not only stayed warm but felt seen, supported, and connected to their community.</p>
<p>Who benefited from the project? (Maximum 200 words)</p>	<p>The project primarily benefited people at risk of loneliness, poor mental health, or food/fuel poverty. Most participants were older adults, many of whom live alone and reported struggling to heat their homes consistently over the winter. We also welcomed a number of younger adults, particularly those facing long-term health conditions, unemployment, or housing insecurity.</p> <p>Some participants were carers in need of a short break and social interaction. Others were people grieving recent loss or adjusting to life changes such as retirement, illness, or moving into the area without local connections.</p> <p>The sessions attracted both regular attendees and occasional drop-ins. While some people attended regularly, others joined occasionally when they felt up to it or when they needed a bit of warmth or company. We made sure the environment remained friendly, flexible, and welcoming to all.</p> <p>Volunteers also benefited significantly. For some, it was a chance to build confidence, gain experience, or simply feel useful again after retirement or personal challenges. The sessions helped build connections between participants and volunteers, creating a shared sense of community and mutual support. The project offered warmth, not just in temperature, but in human connection.</p>
<p>How many people benefited? (Maximum 200 words)</p>	<p>We delivered approximately 36 Warm Spaces sessions between mid-November 2024 and end of April 2025. Each session typically welcomed around 10 participants, resulting in approximately 360 attendances across the project.</p> <p>Some people attended only once or twice, while others came regularly, often attending all three sessions per week once the full programme resumed. Based on our participation records and regular volunteer observation, we estimate that between 60 and 75 individuals accessed the project overall.</p> <p>This included both consistent attendees and more occasional users who may have dropped in during particularly cold weather or times of personal need. Attendance built steadily once the heating was restored and sessions could run at full capacity.</p>

	<p>It's also worth noting that the impact of the project extended beyond those present in the room. Several participants mentioned sharing information about the Warm Space with neighbours, friends or family members who were struggling. In this way, the reach and influence of the project exceeded the basic numbers, contributing to wider community wellbeing.</p> <p>The consistent turnout demonstrated both the need and the value of providing a warm, welcoming place during the colder months, especially for those who might otherwise be isolated.</p>
<p>Was the project inclusive?</p> <p>How were marginalised groups (elderly, disabled, young people etc) able to participate?</p>	<p>Yes — inclusivity was central to the project's design and delivery. The Warm Spaces sessions were open to all, free of charge, with no referral process and no requirement to share personal details. This helped reduce barriers for those who may feel uncomfortable engaging with formal services. People could drop in as and when they wished, stay as long as they liked, and engage at their own pace.</p> <p>We specifically aimed to support groups at risk of marginalisation, including older adults, people living alone, carers, those with long-term health conditions, vulnerable people, and individuals facing financial hardship. Many attendees were older people struggling to heat their homes or cope with isolation. A number of disabled participants joined with support workers or carers. Some attendees were neurodivergent, and a few younger adults came along after being signposted by local agencies.</p> <p>Our building is fully accessible, with level access, automatic doors, and accessible toilets. We ensured furniture was arranged flexibly to suit mobility needs and offered quieter spaces for those who preferred calm environments. Volunteers were trained in active listening and safeguarding, and were encouraged to be sensitive to diverse needs and lived experiences.</p> <p>We promoted the sessions through a range of accessible channels, including printed posters, word-of-mouth, community networks, and social media. Care was taken to use welcoming, inclusive language and images.</p> <p>Activities were optional and designed to be inclusive and low-pressure — from simply sharing a hot drink and conversation, to joining in crafts, games, or music. One participant said, "It doesn't matter who you are — you always get a warm welcome."</p> <p>The project also supported social mixing across different backgrounds, encouraging new friendships and mutual understanding. Volunteers and participants alike commented on the sense of belonging created over time.</p> <p>While we didn't target young people directly (as the project focused mainly on adults), younger adults in vulnerable circumstances did attend, and we hope to explore more intergenerational activities in future sessions.</p> <p>Overall, the project provided a genuinely inclusive environment where everyone — regardless of age, ability, background or circumstance — was treated with dignity, kindness and warmth.</p>
Reflecting on climate	<p>While the Warm Spaces project was not specifically designed to address the climate emergency, it was unavoidably shaped by it. A</p>

<p>change, did the project address any aspects of the climate emergency? How?</p>	<p>burst pipe and internal flood in late November 2024 — likely linked to extreme weather — forced us to suspend normal activity for several weeks and highlighted the vulnerability of older buildings to climate-related events. This experience has strengthened our awareness of the need for future climate resilience.</p> <p>During the recovery period, we took practical steps to reduce energy use, such as using smaller, better-insulated rooms, switching off unused areas, and relying on portable heaters only when necessary. Refreshments were low-waste, and we used reusable mugs and crockery to reduce single-use items.</p> <p>Although informal, the project also encouraged behaviour that supports sustainability — such as shared transport to the venue, staying warm in a communal space rather than heating individual homes, and conversations around energy-saving at home.</p> <p>In future, we aim to integrate low-carbon living themes into our warm space activities, including exploring draught-proofing measures, running repair or swap events, and offering carbon literacy workshops for staff and volunteers.</p> <p>The project demonstrated how community responses to hardship can also support environmentally responsible practices.</p>
<p>Did you achieve what you were trying to do?</p> <p>(Maximum 200 words)</p>	<p>Yes — despite the unexpected disruption caused by flooding and loss of heating, we achieved the core aim of the project: to provide a warm, welcoming, and inclusive space for people who needed comfort, company, and support during the winter months.</p> <p>Although we had to scale back delivery temporarily in December and early January, we adapted quickly and extended the project by a month to ensure we could still offer the intended level of support. By April, we had delivered around 36 sessions and welcomed an estimated 60-75 individuals, with around 360 attendances overall.</p> <p>People came to stay warm, meet others, and take part in gentle, low-pressure activities. Many told us the sessions gave them something to look forward to and made them feel less alone. Volunteers also benefited from a sense of purpose and connection.</p> <p>While the circumstances changed, the project's impact remained strong. We successfully created a space that met immediate practical needs — warmth and refreshments — while also reducing loneliness, encouraging community connection, and signposting people to further help where needed.</p> <p>We're proud of what we achieved and grateful for the support that made it possible.</p>

Finance and Expenditure

We ask groups to retain their receipts and invoices, and to keep a record of what they've spent for auditing purposes

Grant awarded		£ 1,500
Date	Description of expenditure (use another sheet if necessary)	Amount

	See attached summary spreadsheet	£ 746.82
		£
		£
		£
		£
		£
		£
		£
		£
		£
		£
	Total expenditure	£ 746.82
	Amount of grant remaining (if any)	£ 753.18

Any amount of the award unspent may have to be returned to the Parish Council

Person completing this form		Date	29/7/25
Position in organisation	Manager		

Send the completed application form, together with all supporting documentation, preferably in PDF format to: clerk@holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can send the paperwork to: Holme Valley Parish Council, The Civic, Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth, HD9 3AS.

Have you considered inviting a Member of the Parish Council to come and see your project and how your grant money has been spent? Why not give the Parish Council a ring and arrange a visit 01484 687460?

Restricted Funds - Revenue Projects - Year to 31 Mar 2025					Last updated 30 Jul 2025			
Holme Valley Parish Council (HVPC) - Warm Spaces project (food/refreshments) - Winter 2024-25								
Details for Monitoring and Evaluation Report								
Date Payment Received	Details of work carried out/required	Contractor/ Supplier	Invoice Ref	Cost of Work	Funding Received	Balance		
14/11/2024	Holme Valley Parish Council (HVPC) - Warm Spaces project from 2/12/24 to 31/3/25				£1,500.00			
14/11/2024	Food	Lidl	See receipt	£13.04				
22/11/2024	Coffee	Co-op	See receipt	£13.00				
28/11/2025	Food	Co-op	See receipt	£10.20				
04/12/2024	Food	Lidl	See receipt	£53.85				
09/12/2024	Food	Co-op	See receipt	£16.10				
13/12/2024	Food	Co-op	See receipt	£6.90				
17/12/2024	Cakes etc.	N Holmes	See receipt	£73.20				
18/12/2024	Food	Lidl	See receipt	£19.72				
19/12/2024	Food	Co-op	See receipt	£14.50				
19/12/2024	Food	Co-op	See receipt	£1.50				
03/01/2025	Food	Lidl	See receipt	£17.03				
08/01/2025	Food	Lidl	See receipt	£59.75				
16/01/2025	Food	Co-op	See receipt	£13.80				
23/01/2025	Food	Lidl	See receipt	£19.82				
06/02/2025	Food	Lidl	See receipt	£6.15				
08/02/2025	Food	Lidl	See receipt	£33.62				
11/02/2025	Food	Co-op	See receipt	£18.70				
13/02/2025	Food	Lidl	See receipt	£1.38				
13/02/2025	Food	Lidl	See receipt	£3.67				
15/02/2025	Cakes etc.	N Holmes	See receipt	£72.14				
15/02/2025	Food	Lidl	See receipt	£17.79				
25/02/2025	Food	Co-op	See receipt	£1.35				
28/02/2025	Food	Co-op	See receipt	£25.25				

04/03/2025	Food	Co-op	See receipt	£1.50				
05/03/2025	Food	Co-op	See receipt	£19.85				
05/03/2025	Food	Co-op	See receipt	£15.33				
05/03/2025	Food	Budgens						
		Honley	See receipt	£22.28				
12/03/2025	Food	Co-op	See receipt	£10.50				
19/03/2025	Food	Co-op	See receipt	£12.80				
20/03/2025	Food	Lidl	See receipt	£8.63				
20/03/2025	Food	Lidl	See receipt	£1.49				
21/03/2025	Food	Co-op	See receipt	£76.86				
03/04/2025	Food	Co-op	See receipt	£19.77				
17/04/2025	Food	Co-op	See receipt	£19.85				
24/04/2025	Food	Co-op	See receipt	£15.00				
29/04/2025	Food	Co-op	See receipt	£10.50				
			TOTAL	£746.82				

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