**First round of Bassetlaw Community Grants announced for local projects**

Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service (BCVS), in partnership with Bassetlaw District Council, is pleased to confirm the first round of projects funded through Bassetlaw Community Grants and funded by the Government’s United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

Following a rigorous selection process earlier this year, BCVS was appointed to develop, manage and administer the ‘Community and Voluntary Grant Programme’, which will run until March 2025 on behalf of Bassetlaw District Council and will distribute £337,250 until March 2025.

Assessed and selected by a local volunteer community grants panel, the first six projects funded will make a difference in their local neighbourhoods and support the Shared Prosperity Fund priority of Communities and Place.

Cllr Julie Leigh, Cabinet Member for Identity and Place at Bassetlaw District Council said: “Voluntary and community groups do a tremendous amount of good work in Bassetlaw and this funding is essential to them being able to make a real difference across a number of different sectors.

“We are pleased to be working with BCVS to distribute Bassetlaw’s share of UKSPF funding and are confident that their expertise in the volunteer and community sector will prove a valuable insight and help to support the organisations who have already received funding.”

Stephanie Henry, BCVS Community Grants Programme Manager, added:

“We have been delighted with the number and quality of applications received. The involvement of BCVS will also enable support for organisations that were not successful to develop and resubmit or identify alternative funding where appropriate and we know this will make a big difference to local groups and people the fund aims to support.”

Among the funded initiatives is Volunteer It Yourself, who have been funded to develop a project that will support a group of volunteers to refurbish the Carlton Youth Centre. Through the project participants will gain valuable trade skills creating value for both the volunteers and the local community.

Katie Booth, Programme Manager for the East Midlands from Volunteer It Yourself, said "It's been great to see our VIY mission expand across Nottinghamshire thanks to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, boosting more local community spaces and places, whilst helping more local young people on this project here in Bassetlaw to learn trade and employability skills with hands-on experience, gaining City & Guilds accreditations too. We look forward to hosting our next project."

Other grant recipients include Bassetlaw Action Centre (BAC), which will receive support for the costs of employing a volunteer coordinator role. This funding will enable BAC to expand their community outreach efforts, encouraging more individuals to get involved in BAC volunteering.

The Bassetlaw Food Bank has secured funding for a ‘Grow It Fix It’ project, with a focus on supporting veterans via a new Bassetlaw Veterans Hub. This initiative also encourages community members to volunteer and learn valuable skills in growing produce, woodwork and beekeeping.

The Trinity Methodist Circuit has received funding for the ‘Enabling Volunteering’ project, with plans to launch new groups in Retford. The project aims to tackle loneliness and encourage community members to volunteer at the new groups, creating a stronger sense of community connection.

Finally, DH Community Sports CIC has been awarded funding to train community leaders in sports providing them with the skills to volunteer at local sports clubs. This initiative both promotes physical wellbeing and offers coaching skills to future community leaders.

If you are involved in a Bassetlaw voluntary and community groups that would like to apply to the next round in the Bassetlaw Community Grants Fund, please visit [www.bcvs.org.uk/community-grants-bassetlaw](http://www.bcvs.org.uk/community-grants-bassetlaw)

Or for more information, please contact:

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