

Welcome.

Hunts Grove Parish Council Chairman's Report 2023

Annual Parish Meeting
15 May 2023



Your Council Team.



Julie Shirley

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Statutory duties and functions required by law of a local authority, including serving statutory notifications, advising Council and implementing decisions.



Cllr Kevin Thorne

Kevin was co-opted to the council in October 2022 and has been leading work on developing strategy on sustainable travel options for the village.



Cllr Sandra Meecham

Finance, community groups champion, Queen's platinum jubilee celebration lead, Hunts Grove Wombles coordinator



Cllr Mark Andrew Ryder

Chairman of the Council

Planning lead, highways liaison, communications, website



Cllr Demelza Turner-Wilkes

Vice-Chair of the Council

Finance, safety inspections, sports group champion, business liaison



Cllr Adam Hampson

Trees & ecology lead, footpaths and rights-of-way, open spaces, neighbourhood warden liaison



What Has Your Council Been Doing?

Hunts Grove is a very small Parish Council in its third year of operation. We have no buildings, no land, no responsibilities for maintenance.

Meanwhile, we are extremely busy and have applied to increase from five councillor seats to nine from May 2024.

Guiding Mission.

Our priorities change all the time and will always be driven by the needs of our residents.
Three core themes have guided us from the start.

01 Representation

To listen to residents and represent their needs and objectives with all key stakeholders, District Council, County Council, Management Company, Police, Developers and Community Organisations.

02 One Hunts Grove

To resolve the current fragmentation between different phases of development. To eliminate service charges, deliver local control of maintenance and best value for residents.

All residents treated equally, contributing equally, and with equal access to all village amenities.

03 Vibrant Hunts Grove

A village that is fit-for-purpose, developed with character, quality open spaces, sports facilities and community amenities.

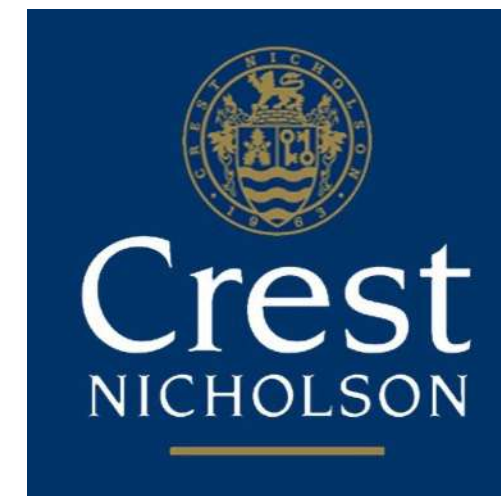
We will work with the local planning department, landowners and developers to build and execute a shared vision for our residents.



Sanctuary



Gloucestershire Constabulary



Colethrop Farm Limited



Vistry Group



Forging Relationships

As a Parish Council, there is little we can achieve on our own.

To be effective for our residents, we need to forge strong relationships with other levels of government, our Member of Parliament, housing associations, developers, landowners, neighbouring parishes, Police, community organisations and many more besides.

Community Minded.

Councillors have spent a lot of their free time with the monthly maintenance reports whilst the community had issues with the state of the village and lack of maintenance by the developers.

The Parish Council is not currently responsible for any maintenance at Hunts Grove, however sometimes you see something that needs doing and take the initiative!

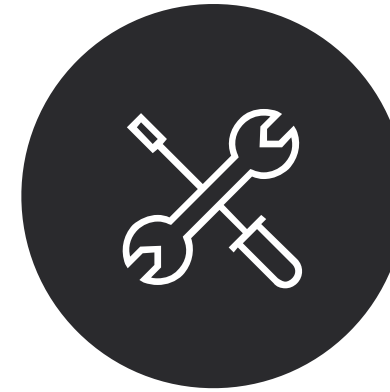


Priorities.



Management Company

We have made progress in 2022-2023 with the support of the landowner, Stroud District Council, and our MP Siobhan Bailee. Talks continue with Crest Nicholson



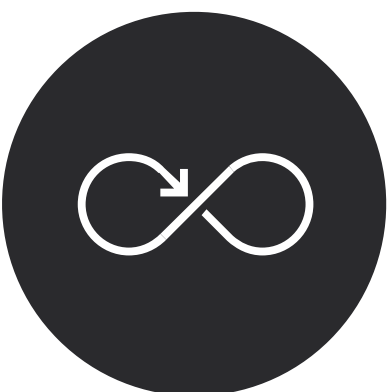
Business Plan

We have launched a business plan team to consider how the council will grow in size and responsibilities over the next 5-10 years.



Community Events

Events for our new village are a great way of bringing the community together. With help from sponsors, we have been able to hold family music festivals, and events at Easter and Christmas.



Phase 1 Adoption

We have been in constant stakeholder meetings with Crest Nicholson and Stroud District Council every 3-6 weeks to progress with adoption of Phase 1.



Finding a Home Base

Our objective has always been to be able to hold our monthly meetings in Hunts Grove instead of the Holiday Inn. After Covid-19 we made the move to the school and we are now working on securing a council office in the farmhouse or community building.



Residents Consultations

Village maintenance and the management company were hot topics in 2022. The Parish launched consultations on planning applications such as the Farmhouse Triangle extension, allotments and more.



Highways & Transport

Safety around the Harrier Way / Hunts Grove Drive junction continues to be an issue due to the undersized junction layout. Working with the County Highways Department & Crest, changes have been approved. Work also started on our sustainable travel plan.



Planning Engagement

Delivery of promised facilities and amenities has been severely delayed. Plans for the Community Building and Neighbourhood Centre have been on hold with planning for more than three years now. The Parish Council is working at all levels to try and get things moving.



Tree Strategy & Hunts Grove Woods

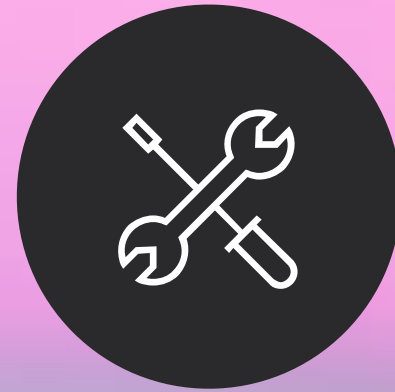
Trees and woodland are a great asset to Hunts Grove and must be protected and maintained. We have raised concerns at the state of maintenance over the past five years and have also looked at the future of Hunts Grove woods.

Active Travel Strategy.



Infrastructure

Although Hunts Grove has good walking routes and mostly consists of quiet residential roads suitable for most cyclists, there may be improvements to this infrastructure that could be made (likely after adoption of roads by GCC).



So Far

Attended SDC events, developed initial thinking, identifying three strands of Infrastructure, Connections and Removing Barriers.

Researched how potential spine route could come through or near Hunts Grove and engaged with Crest's Travel Consultants and developers of the Quadrant Land on Davy Way.



Connections

Understanding and potentially improving Hunts Grove connections to neighbouring areas and to destinations further afield. Making use of GCC's proposed cycle spine route between Gloucester and Stroud.



Next

Continue to work with Crest's travel consultants
Engage with spine route consultations
Explore potential actions for Encourage/Barriers strand



Remove Barriers

This is about positively encouraging active travel and understanding what stops people cycling or walking so barriers can be removed. This strand provides the easiest and quickest opportunities but they will be less successful in isolation.



Potential

This is about positively encouraging active travel and understanding what stops people cycling or walking so barriers can be removed. This strand provides the easiest and quickest opportunities but they will be less successful in isolation.

Youth Strategy.



PROVIDE

We will deliver activities and services where these cannot be provided by others, including those that would not be viable, or where it is not appropriate for them to be provided by others.



INVOLVE

We will involve young people in decisions affecting them and will create opportunities for young people to get involved in the work of the council and in the community.



PROMOTE

We will increase awareness of existing offerings from providers including charities, sports clubs, specialist providers, public authorities and others.



SUPPORT

We will support providers of activities seeking to start or expand offerings in and around Hunts Grove.



OPEN GARDENS
HUNTS GROVE
SUNDAY 11th JUNE
From 10 am - 4 pm

KEEP AN EYE ON THE
 HG PARISH WEBSITE AND
 FACEBOOK FOR DETAILS

Several different style gardens will be open for you and your family to visit and enjoy (no entrance charge)

- Get ideas how to improve your garden
- Better use and enjoyment
- Encourage wildlife
- Problem solving (drainage/pests)
- Tips on plant and lawn health
- Recommended /trees/shrubs/plants

If you are interested in also showing your garden, please contact:
 Sandra.meecham@huntsgrove-pc.gov.uk



HUNTS GROVE
HG PC
 PARISH COUNCIL

COME ALONG TO A FAMILY TEDDY BEARS PICNIC
MEET AT THE PICNIC TABLES ON THE COMMON

Saturday
 August 27th at
 1.00 pm - 3pm

Bring your favourite bear!

Bring your own picnic
 (no BBQ's allowed)

FREE EVENT | Roney Castle Music and Games (Raffle)
 Free hot drinks (for Adults)

HG PC HUNTS GROVE PARISH COUNCIL PRESENT.....

HUNTS GROOVE MUSIC FESTIVAL

SAVE THE DATE

FEATURING SOLO ARTIST, IAN OLIVER, THE WHITESHILLBILLIES & FUNKY MOJOS

HUNTS GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL
 CELEBRATING THE QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE!

JUNE 3RD
 2.30PM 'TILL 9PM

FOOD VENDORS, ICE CREAM VAN & FACE PAINTING,
 LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE

Hunts Grove Primary Academy PTA Christmas Fayre

STARTS @ 12.00

Small gifts and treats

MEET SANTA

Saturday the 3rd DECEMBER

Post your letters/drawings to Santa in the grotto

SPONSORED BY HG PC

HUNTS GROOVE FAMILY MUSIC DAY

SUNDAY 7TH MAY
 12.00 TO 5.00 PM
 HELD AT HUNTS GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

FEATURING:
 SHY TEDS
 FUNKY MOJO'S
 FEATURING THEIR ABBA TRIBUTE
 DEBBIE HANBY FROM THE VIRGO DANCE SCHOOL
 & COLLIE THE MAGICIAN

FOOD VENDORS
 BRING YOUR OWN DRINK
 NO GLASS

Scan to book your FREE tickets

SPONSORED BY: HG PC & COMMUNITY FUND

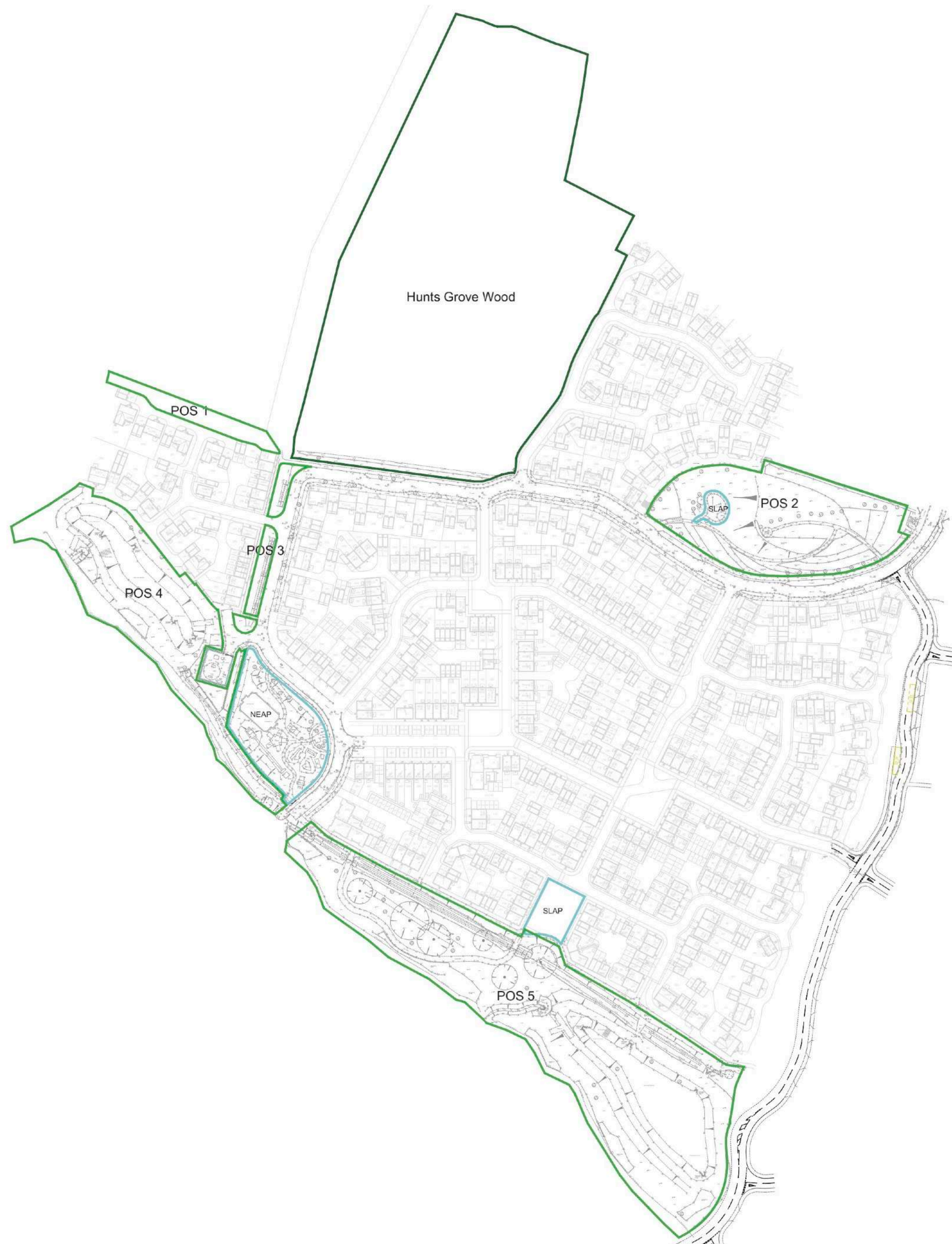
Easter Community Day

SATURDAY 1st APRIL
 12.00 TO 3.00 PM

Face Painting
 FREE ENTRY
 Climbing Wall

Sponsored By:
HG PC
FOOD MUSIC GAMES RACES

HELD AT:
 HUNTS GROVE PRIMARY ACADEMY



Phase 1 Adoption.

Considerable work has been put in over 2022 to expedite the adoption of Phase 1 from Crest Nicholson, especially considering the lack of maintenance and issues previously.

Thankfully, by working with Crest, we have been able to improve the maintenance over 2022 to an acceptable standard, although much of the area does need work to bring it up to an adoptable standard.

The Parish is working together with the District Council to handover all areas as part of a back-to-back agreement so that maintenance will be under local control within the Parish Council.

The **handover has been delayed** as the Parish Council feels it is unfair for residents if we adopt Phase 1 without reaching an agreement on the future of the management company.

In addition there are currently unresolved questions over the drainage ponds (SuDS) and the commuted sums due on transfer.

Budget 2023-24

Key facts:

- Low spend over previous years means we have built up a reserve;
- Preparing the Council for adoption of Phase 1;
- Legal fund for specialist legal advice for the management company negotiations;
- Fund for youth provision;
- Hosting events for Hunts Grove residents



HUNTS GROVE PARISH COUNCIL
BALANCE SHEET



	Year ended 31 March 2023	Year ended 31 March 2022
Receipts		
Precept	£53,000.00	£24,160.00
Grants	£10,944.94	£3,490.00
CIL	£17,044.01	£0.00
VAT Reclaim / Other	£302.97	£0.00
	<u>£81,291.92</u>	<u>£27,650.00</u>
Payments		
VAT	£4,138.15	£302.97
Staff costs	£6,850.78	£6,085.56
General Admin	£2,535.87	£2,558.88
Subscriptions	£0.00	£896.77
Events	£6,590.51	£520.00
Insurance	£742.60	£476.44
Donations	£0.00	£0.00
IT	£3,102.20	
Training	£25.00	£310.00
Newsletter/Website	£423.41	£589.91
New equipment	£12,080.09	£254.71
Professional Fees	£3,532.50	£0.00
	<u>£40,021.11</u>	<u>£11,995.24</u>
Excess Receipts/(Payments)	<u>£41,270.81</u>	<u>£15,654.76</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022

Opening Reserves	£34,973.53	£19,318.77
Excess Receipts	£41,270.81	£15,654.76
	<u>£76,244.34</u>	<u>£34,973.53</u>

Represented by:

Bank Balances		
Unity Trust Current Account	£76,244.34	£34,973.53
Unity Trust Savings Account	£0.00	
Unpresented debits	£18.00	0
	<u>£76,262.34</u>	<u>£34,973.53</u>

Balance Sheet.

Annual returns and audit reports may be downloaded from our website:

<https://www.huntsgrove-pc.gov.uk/finance.php>



Sponsorship & CLIL Funding.

So far we have applied for and attracted over **£66,000** extra funding for Hunts Grove.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



**COMMUNITY
FUND**



OPCC
Office of the Police &
Crime Commissioner
for Gloucestershire

