

Farnborough Airport Community Environmental Fund

Alison Nicholls
Grants and Administration Officer
Rushmoor Borough Council

17th June 2021

Outline

- ▶ Background to the fund - how it was established
- ▶ Criteria
- ▶ Process - who makes the decisions
- ▶ Promotion of the fund
- ▶ Number and type of applications awarded

Background



2000

Planning permission for business flying at Farnborough Airport included a clause establishing a fund for local environmental improvement projects



2001

Contributions commenced



2009

Grant process with criteria was established

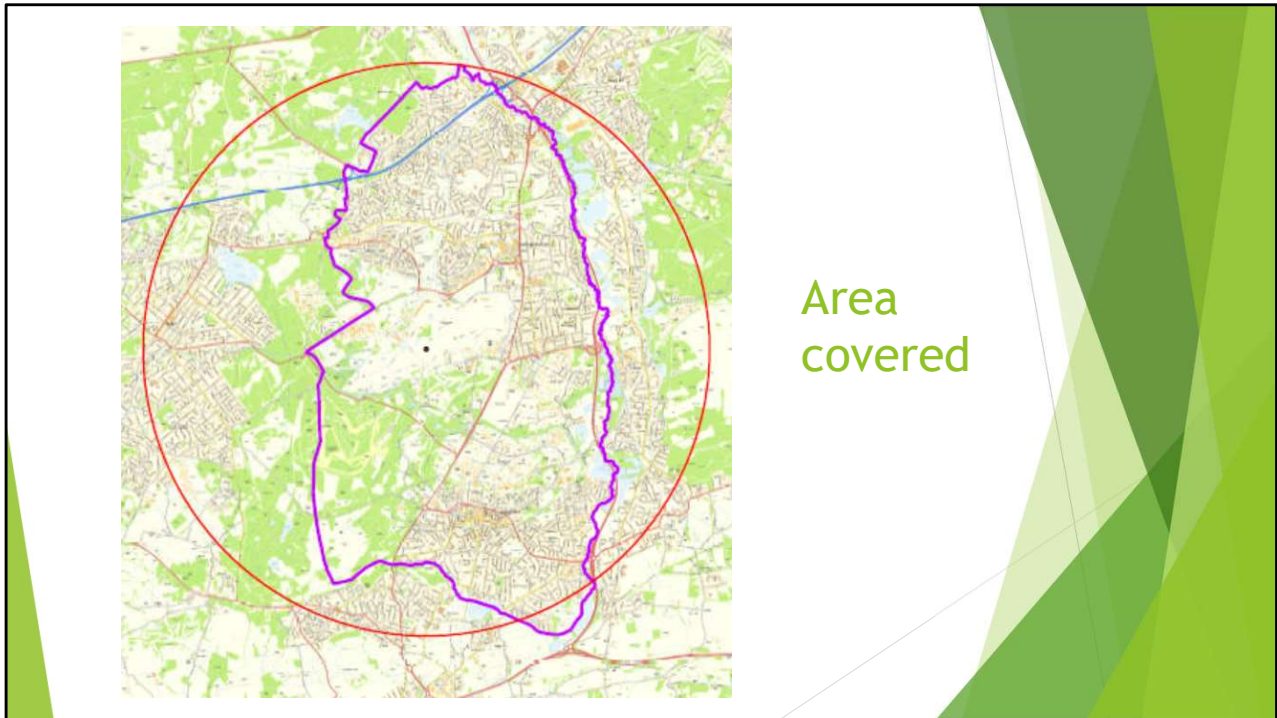
- The planning consent for business flying stated that the community environmental fund was to be levied on Business Aviation movements at a rate of £2 per aircraft movement or £5 per aircraft movement if the aircraft was a Boeing Business Jet or an Airbus A319 Corporate Jet. This would be paid annually to the Council and used for environmental enhancement projects within the areas surrounding the airport.
- In the early days, the fund was used for a few projects including the relaying of part of the towpath along the Basingstoke Canal, refurbishment of the Farnborough Community Centre pond and a series of improvements at Fleet Pond.
- Decisions on how the funding was used were made by Cabinet. In 2009, the grant process was established with a set of criteria against which applications would be judged before being considered by Cabinet for approval.

Criteria

	Be located within three miles (five kilometres) of the centre of Farnborough airport (taken to be halfway down the main runway)
	Be demonstrably and regularly affected by aircraft travelling to and from Farnborough airport
	Result in the improvement or provision of an outdoor facility or area that is accessible to the public and able to be enjoyed by the community as a whole
	Be a community or environment-based bid

An application form was developed in which applicants are asked to detail the community environmental benefits of their project.

Each application is considered on its merits, how it meets the criteria and its contribution to the local community.



One of the criteria is that the project must be located within three miles of the centre of the airport – this is represented by the black dot on this map

The area covered by the fund is within the red circle –

- Rushmoor is marked in purple
- The area in Hart includes Ancell’s Farm up to the junction of Fleet Road and Reading Road South and then taking in a large part of Church Crookham up to the junction of Gally Hill and Aldershot Roads
- In Surrey Heath – Ash Vale, Mytchett, parts of Frimley and Frimley Green are covered
- and In Waverley – Heath End and Weybourne are included

Process

- ▶ Online application form
- ▶ Applications are processed as they are received
- ▶ The Portfolio Holder for Democracy, Strategy & Partnerships decides which projects to fund
- ▶ Record of Executive Decision Published
- ▶ FAL and FACC notified of awards
- ▶ A feedback report is provided on completion of the project

- Originally applications were considered 3 or 4 times a year, but now they are considered on an ongoing basis as they are received.
- Applications are measured against the criteria and environmental value.
- The portfolio holder for Democracy, Strategy & Partnerships makes the award decisions.
- These are published as Record of Executive Decisions and added to the list of awards on the Fund webpage. It's at this stage that I notify Farnborough Airport of awards.
- Applicants provide details of the expenditure and a feedback report at the end of the project.

Promotion

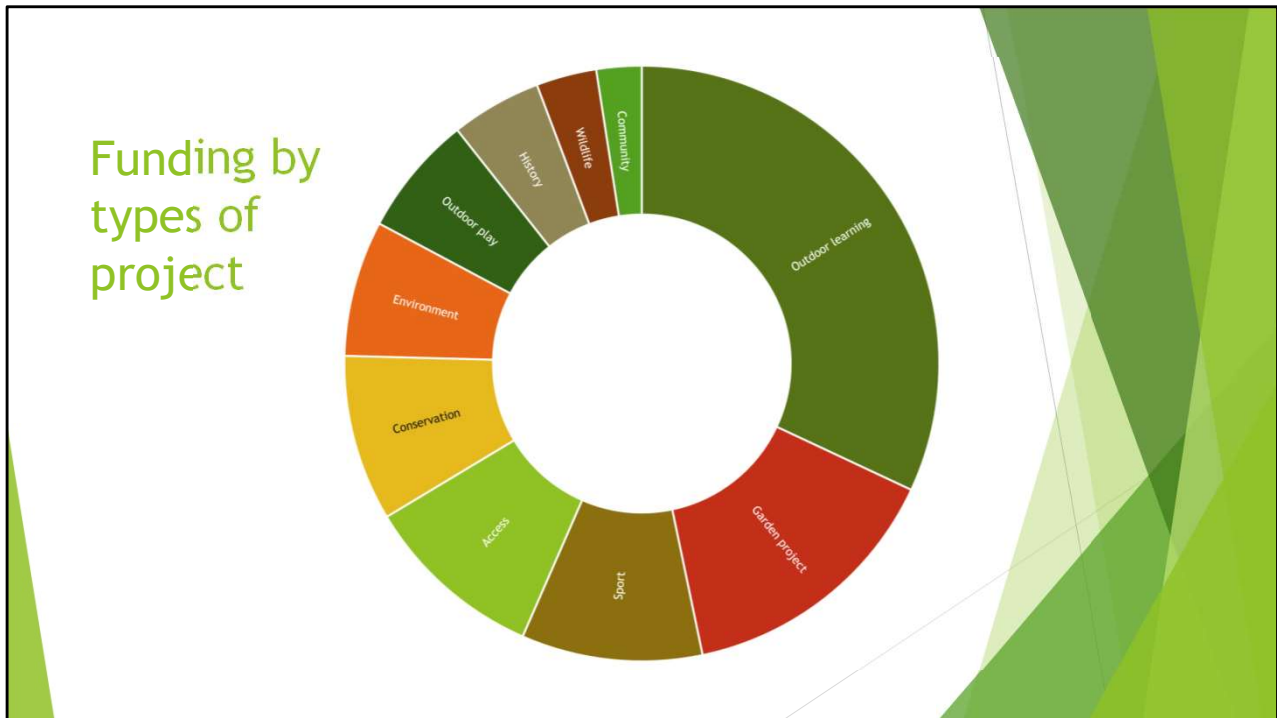
- ▶ Arena magazine
- ▶ Rushmoor Voluntary Services
- ▶ Rushmoor & Hart Supporting Families newsletter
- ▶ Social media posts of awards made at Cabinet

As you can see, promotion of the fund has mainly been within the Rushmoor area. However, going forward I would like to widen the reach and to encourage climate change projects.

120 grants totaling £718,149 awarded since 2010

Year	Amount awarded	No of awards
2015	£51,071	9
2016	£57,736	13
2017	£50,091	8
2018	£55,265	10
2019	£67,995	9
2020	£63,269	11

- Over 10 years, £718,149 has been awarded in grants from this fund, with the average grant being around £5,800.
- The majority of applications come from within Rushmoor – with 84% of the awards and 16% to projects in Hart and Surrey Heath.



I thought it would be interesting to see the types of projects supported by the fund. I've put each award into a category. Examples from the categories –

- **Outdoor learning** – outdoor classrooms and a campfire circle at Runways End
- **Garden projects** – community gardens; allotment projects such as the Farnborough Rotary allotment for disabled and vulnerable groups at Cove Green; and wildflower meadows
- **Sport** – archery range, bowling greens, multi-use games area
- **Access** – tow path refurbishment and new signage for Basingstoke Canal; and bridge replacements at Fleet Pond
- **Conservation** – restoring the Balmoral balancing pond; and biodiversity on the Rushmoor Heathland
- **Outdoor play** – play equipment at Basingbourne Park; and trim trail surface replacement
- **Environment** – recycled computers and bicycle projects;
- **History** – WW2 assault course at Aldershot Military Museum and signage for the Aldershot Heritage Trails
- **Wildlife** – dipping platform at Fleet Pond; and a community bee & training apiary
- **Community** – benches in the community



Here are some of the completed projects, clockwise from top left:

- A dipping platform at Fleet Pond
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight WildlifeTrust’s Butterfly Project at Foxlease Meadows
- Planting by the Friends of Ancells Farm
- Fleet & District Beekeepers Association’s community bee and training apiary
- A shade and shelter hut at Tweseldown Infant School
- The Wavell School’s Grow well, feel great project
- The Blooming Marvellous supported gardening programme
- The Land Trust’s Brass rubbing posts at Wellesley Woodlands
- The Species Recovery Trust’s conservation of the rare heathland plants of the Farnborough Heaths (*Marsh Clubmoss*)
- A replica WW2 assault course at Aldershot Military Museum; and In the middle
- Farnborough SANDS’ memorial garden at Aldershot Crematorium (*Stillbirth & neonatal death charity*)

2020 Awards

Organisation	Project	Amount
Basingstoke Canal Society	Signage for the Basingstoke Canal	£5,000
Farnborough Grange Nursery and Infant Community School	Forest School	£4,140
Friends of Aldershot Military Museum	Heritage trails signage	£5,000
Greater Rushmoor Nepali Community	Integrated community garden in Aldershot	£5,000
Guillemont Junior School	Guillemont Biodiversity Project	£4,700
Parkside	Garden Project	£1,200
Prospect Estate Big Local	PEBL benches	£6,812
Rushmoor Voluntary Service	Blooming Marvellous supported gardening programme	£6,000
Species Recovery Trust	Conserving the rare heathland plants of the Farnborough heaths	£3,000
The Wavell School	Community/Year 7 garden	£12,387
Tower Hill Primary School	Environmental classroom	£10,000

Finally, here is the list of grants awarded last year.

There has been one award so far this year (*Parsonage Farm Nursery & Infant School - £7,500 for resurfacing 'the Mound' – an unsafe area of the outdoor space*)

There is currently £45,519 available.

Questions

www.rushmoor.gov.uk/airportfund

alison.nicholls@rushmoor.gov.uk
01252 398766

