

Press release: More funding to boost services in village pubs and bring communities together

- Government awards £70,000 to support Pub is The Hub to deliver additional village services
- Call on pub companies to match government support and help village locals across the country

More than 30 rural communities are set to benefit from new or expanded village services from libraries, shops to post offices all delivered by their local pub, Community Pubs Minister Jake Berry announced today (13 September 2018).

The government has confirmed a further £70,000 of funding for 'Pub is The Hub' to support their work in encouraging rural pubs to widen their 'offer' beyond food and drink that not only helps pubs to thrive but also helps to bring communities together.

Community Pubs Minister Jake Berry MP said:

Our great British pubs are not only places for local people to get together over a pint, being at the heart of their communities they are perfectly placed to deliver valuable services, especially in rural areas.

From postal facilities to community playgrounds, Pub is The Hub provides fantastic support to licensees wishing to diversify, ensuring their pubs are both thriving and firmly rooted in their local communities.

Government funding since 2012 for Pub is The Hub now totals £390,000, including provision for its Community Services Fund to inspire and help local pub licensees understand what locals want for their pubs and deliver these.

This new funding is expected to deliver 36 projects which will help revamp local pubs with services ranging from village shops, libraries, and allotments, post offices to community cafes and cinemas. This will create an estimated 30 full time and 59 part-time/voluntary jobs; benefiting 31,400 local users.

Jake Berry also welcomed £30,000 of additional funding to 'Pub is The Hub' from Heineken UK and called on the major players in the pubs and drinks industry, to offer their support to help village locals up and down the country.

John Longden, Chief Executive of Pub is The Hub said:

The government's support for the Community Services Fund has been essential to ensure that we can get much needed investment and support to just some of the thriving pubs and their community-minded licensees that want to go the extra mile to support their communities.

We are always grateful for the faith the government has shown in our initiative but even more so for the amazing small enterprises who take the plunge into diversification to support their neighbourhoods.

Case studies of pubs that have benefited from Pub is The Hub

Swan Inn, Carleton in Craven, North Yorkshire

The licensee at the Swan was keen to create a community space within the pub where villagers and visitors of all ages can enjoy hot drinks and snacks, find local information, access the internet and a printer and meet regularly. Through its Community Services Fund, Pub is The Hub was able to provide advice and funds towards equipment to help provide IT training, adult learning sessions including local history and ancestry as well as a café to host a weekly over 60's coffee morning.

Saracen's Head, Shirley, Derbyshire

This long established and highly successful pub/restaurant in the village of Shirley created an essential new service for the village and the surrounding area with a newly incorporated Deli filled with specialist foods including local fruit and vegetables and dairy items, together with home baked goods such as bread, cakes and pastries.

Further information

Pub is the Hub was set up in 2001 with the support of HRH the Prince of Wales, to help improve community services and activities in primarily rural areas.

The organisation is staffed mostly by volunteers and has worked with pub licensees, local authorities, local communities and industry partners to help hundreds of pubs across the country provide a wide range of services and facilities for their local communities.

The government has supported Pub is The Hub with £390,000 of funding since 2013.

For more information on Pub is The Hub and how to access support for your

local visit www.pubisthehub.org.uk.

[Press release: Sir Alan Duncan statement on adoption of United National Security Council Resolution on Colombia](#)



The Rt Hon Sir Alan Duncan MP, Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said:

Colombia has come a long way in the last year towards consolidating the peace process. This is clearly evident in the transition of the FARC to political party and the passing of the safest elections in decades. The approval of UN Security Council resolution 2435 demonstrates that Colombia has global support for its work to a safer, more stable and prosperous future for all citizens.

The UN Political Mission in Colombia has played a vital role in maintaining cooperation by all parties, encouraging them to work together to first end the violence and to go on building the peace. I welcome the UN Security Council's response to this request, made on behalf of both the Colombian Government and the FARC, to extend the UN Political Missions presence.

The UK is privileged to have worked closely with Colombia and with partners in the UN Security Council to ensure continued international support to Colombia's peace process, which continues to inspire others globally.

Further information

[News story: Cyclists in Buckinghamshire set to benefit from new cycleway](#)

Cyclists and pedestrians are set to benefit from a new traffic-free route, connecting Aylesbury Station and the National Trust's Waddesdon Manor.

The Greenway Trail, funded by the Department for Transport, will allow cyclists and walkers to travel across beautiful countryside in a safe and vehicle-free environment.

This £1 million investment given to Buckinghamshire County Council – provided through the department's '[Cycling and walking investment strategy](#)' – will add to the hundreds of miles of cycle paths across England already paid for through the strategy.

Cycling and walking minister Jesse Norman said:

This kind of initiative is exactly why we launched our £1.2 billion cycling and walking investment strategy last year – a safe and easy way to get people on their bikes.

And why wouldn't they – this stunning route intersects the rich Buckinghamshire countryside and lands at the historical Waddesdon Manor.

Cycling is becoming a popular activity for people of all ages – the last cycling statistics from the national travel survey show that number of cycling trips is currently 17 per person, per year.

The government's 'Cycling and walking investment strategy' outlines the government's ambition to make cycling and walking a natural choice for shorter journeys, or as part of longer journeys by 2040.

This project is the first one of its kind run by the cycle-rail working group as part of station 'community links pilot project'.

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[News story: Celebrating 100 years of forestry at the UK's biggest forestry](#)

show



The Forestry Commission's marquee at the 2016 show

The APF is the UK's largest woodland and forestry related show and takes place between 20-22 September 2018 at the Ragley Estate in Warwickshire.

The Forestry Commission England marquee will celebrate 100 years of the Forestry Act and the Forestry Commission. Experts will be on hand to:

- provide advice and support to the forestry sector and landowners who are looking to create and manage woodland
- explore the benefits to people, wildlife and timber of the public forest estate
- provide information on tree pests and diseases and how to reduce the threat of them
- showcase Forest Research's innovative science and research

Forestry Skills

The Forestry Commission, Royal Forestry Society and representatives from the new Forestry Apprenticeship Trailblazer group will also be in the Forest Workers' Zone of APF to talk career development and how to break into the industry.

Seminars

An in-depth Forestry Commission seminar programme will run over the three day event, covering topics including future incentives, timber markets, woodland creation and plant health challenges.

More information about the APF can be found on the [APF Exhibition website](#).

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