**Crowdfund Kent**

*Enabling projects across our communities to springboard a locally led recovery and to enhance our local areas.*

KCC is launching #CrowdFund Kent working with the Crowdfunding platform Spacehive.

#CrowdFundKent is focused on giving local organisations and groups the opportunity to take forward projects and ideas to improve their local area.

We have seen an incredible response from our communities over the last year and we know the importance of those local connections and groups to improving resilience and wellbeing. As we start to emerge from the crisis, we hope this programme will enable recovery to be locally led and provide that much needed support to the innovation driven by local groups and networks, which make our communities.

Kent County Council is the driving force behind this programme. However, groups have the ability to attract funding from local businesses, communities and foundations.

#CrowdFund Kent will look to support projects that meet the following criteria:

* Supporting community action in Kent particularly activities that are focused on supporting people who are facing financial difficulties or who are isolated as a result of Covid.
* Supporting community assets and venues in Kent, that contribute to our local communities and local connections, improving wellbeing.
* Helping to maintain the volunteering offer/social action we have seen during the pandemic post Covid 19.

There will be two funding rounds per year, with the first this Spring.

There are a number of ways for businesses and organisations to support the programme as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility, or simply to support amazing local projects. This can range from creating a supporting fund, promoting to your networks, or encouraging others to pledge.

A launch event will be held in March where more details will be provided to potential backers and project creators. Details to be sent out shortly.