

## Action in rural Sussex



### **“New Big Lottery Fund grant programme for Community Buildings announced”:**

The Big Lottery Fund have announced that its Reaching Communities programme will continue for the next five years. As part of this “In the pipeline” for this autumn is “a new dedicated capital stream offering funding within the familiar Reaching Communities application process to respond to the high, unmet demand for funding for community buildings” which is “likely to fund medium sized refurbishments, new builds or extensions to community centres, village halls or other community use buildings meeting local community needs and aspirations.” As the Reaching Programme is an open programme (which means that applications do not need to be submitted to particular deadlines) this new programme is likely to be run in a similar way, which would be a huge improvement over the last grant programme. Reaching Communities will have a two stage application process for larger bids, and those projects invited to the second stage will have a higher likelihood of success “making work on completing a full application more worthwhile”. ACRE expects to be involved in discussions about application processes, grant levels, partnership funding requirements etc. as part of a stakeholder group so it may be some months before further details become available.

This is excellent news for those villages which have been working hard to raise funds for improvement projects, throughout the country as well as in Sussex. AirS would like to say on their behalf a big “Thank you” to all of you who kindly signed the petition on the Downing Street website or wrote to MPs calling for a new funding programme.”

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