

St Mary Hoo Parish Council
SSE Thermal Medway Community Fund

Question and guidance	SMH answer
Please give a summary of the project or activity you are requesting a grant towards. The description should be no more than 25 words.	To improve and maintain footpaths and roadway signage by clearing obstructions and undertaking repairs, delivering safer, more accessible and attractive routes for the community.
Please provide a postcode that best represents the project's delivery location. The geographic area the project will be delivered in.	ME3 8RB St Marys Cottages / Fenn Street ME3 8RE Newlands Farm Road ME3 8RF St Mary Hoo area ME3 8RG Moat Farm Road ME3 8RH The Street ME3 8RJ Ratcliffe Highway / Barn Street ME3 8RN Ratcliffe Highway ME3 8RP Cuckolds Green Road ME3 8RS Shakespeare Farm Road ME3 8RT Bellwood Court ME3 8RW Hall Road ME3 8QT Fenn Street / Forge Cottages
Please provide a description of the project (maximum 3000 characters). We suggest you cover: • What you want to do. • How you will do this – e.g. the activities you will deliver, where/ when/ how often you will deliver them, how you will reach those you are seeking to benefit, any equipment needed, and how it will be used • How the community has been and/or will be involved in developing and delivering the project	The project will improve safety, accessibility and the appearance of St Mary Hoo by clearing and maintaining key footpaths and improving roadway and directional signage throughout the village. Activities will include clearing overgrown vegetation and obstructions from public footpaths and commonly used walking routes, improving their condition and accessibility, and installing or replacing clear, visible signs where needed. The project will focus on areas identified by local residents and regular users of the footpaths and roads. Work will be carried out over an agreed programme, with priority given to locations where improvements will provide the greatest benefit to pedestrians, older residents, families and visitors. The project will be developed with input from the local community.

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• Who will lead the project – their role(s), skills and experience • How you will monitor and evaluate the success of the project • The proposed start and end dates for the project.	Residents will be encouraged to identify problem areas, suggest priorities and, where appropriate, support practical activities through volunteering and community involvement. Information will be shared locally to ensure that those who use the routes have an opportunity to contribute. The project will be led by Cllr Nick Craddy of St Mary Hoo Parish Council, supported by volunteers and local community members. The project team will oversee planning, coordination, health and safety, purchasing of any necessary equipment and materials, and delivery of the planned improvements. Equipment may include tools for vegetation clearance, safety equipment, signage and materials required for repairs and installation. Success will be monitored by recording the locations improved, activities completed, volunteer involvement and community feedback. Before-and-after photographs and feedback from residents and users will help demonstrate the difference the project has made. The proposed project will start on [START DATE] and be completed by [END DATE], with progress reviewed regularly to ensure the project remains on schedule and delivers the intended benefits to the St Mary Hoo community.
How will you maintain / sustain your project after the period of our grant funding is finished? (maximum 3000 characters) • If the project will continue beyond the period for which you are seeking grant funding, please let us know how you intend to continue it, including how you will secure any funding, volunteers, or	The improvements made through this project will provide a lasting benefit to the St Mary Hoo community beyond the period of grant funding. Once the initial clearance, repairs and signage improvements have been completed, we intend to maintain the improved areas through ongoing community involvement and regular monitoring. Local residents and volunteers will be encouraged to report overgrown areas, damaged signage or other issues so that problems can be identified and addressed at an early stage.

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other resources needed to do so. • Please also include relevant details if the project will help to make your organisation more self-sustaining.	Where practical and appropriate, volunteers will assist with minor maintenance and seasonal clearance, reducing the need for ongoing external expenditure. The project will also establish a clearer understanding of the condition and priorities of local footpaths and signage. This will allow future maintenance to be planned more effectively and help the community demonstrate continued need when applying for additional grants or seeking support from relevant local organisations and authorities. Following completion of the funded project, we will explore further grant opportunities, local sponsorship and other appropriate sources of funding to support larger maintenance or improvement works that cannot be undertaken through volunteer activity alone. We will also continue to work with residents and community groups to encourage participation and identify future priorities. The project will therefore create an ongoing cycle of community involvement, monitoring and maintenance rather than being a one-off activity. By improving the condition of the footpaths and signage now and establishing a sustainable approach to their future care, the grant investment will continue to benefit residents, pedestrians and visitors to St Mary Hoo for years to come.
How have you identified a need for this project within the local area? (maximum 2000 characters) • Your project should address a current need and gap in local provision. • Where possible please provide relevant local data that demonstrates this e.g. from a local	The project is intended to create a lasting improvement for the St Mary Hoo community beyond the period of grant funding. The initial grant will enable us to address priority areas, improve footpaths and signage, and establish a clear baseline for ongoing maintenance. Following completion of the project, the improved areas will be regularly monitored by local residents and volunteers.

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community plan, survey of your intended beneficiaries, labour market statistics, and/or neighbourhood statistics.	Any overgrown vegetation, damaged signage or other issues will be identified and reported promptly, allowing minor problems to be addressed before they become more costly or difficult to resolve. Where practical, volunteers will undertake suitable minor clearance and maintenance activities. The project will also help us develop a better understanding of local footpath and signage requirements, enabling future maintenance to be prioritised and planned more effectively. We will maintain records of completed work and future requirements, providing useful evidence when seeking additional funding. Where further investment is required, we will seek additional grants, local sponsorship and support from relevant organisations and authorities. We will also continue to encourage local residents to participate in identifying priorities and supporting appropriate community activities. The project will therefore provide a sustainable approach to maintaining and improving the local environment. The grant funding will be used to deliver improvements that remain in place after the funding period, while community involvement, regular monitoring and future funding applications will help ensure that the benefits continue for residents, pedestrians and visitors to St Mary Hoo.
How many people will benefit from the project? (maximum 1200 characters) Only include those who will benefit directly from the project. This may include any volunteers involved in delivering it. Please ensure the number you give is realistic.	We estimate that approximately 150 people will benefit directly from the project. This figure is based on the residents of St Mary Hoo who regularly use the local footpaths, roads and signage, together with local volunteers who will be involved in identifying priority areas, monitoring the improvements and supporting ongoing maintenance. The project is focused specifically on improving routes and signage within the St Mary Hoo

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Please tell us how you arrived at this figure.	community, so the figure does not include wider visitors or people who may benefit indirectly. The estimate is intended to be realistic and reflects the relatively small rural community covered by the project. Residents will benefit through safer, clearer and more accessible walking routes, improved visibility of roadway and directional signs, and a cleaner and better-maintained local environment. Volunteers will also benefit through opportunities to contribute directly to improving their community and helping to maintain the improvements after the grant-funded work is completed.
Will any jobs be supported by the project? If yes, we will ask how many.	Yes. The project is expected to support local employment through paid contractors or workers undertaking specialist or practical activities such as vegetation clearance, footpath maintenance, repairs and the installation or replacement of roadway and directional signage. The project will also provide opportunities for local volunteers to contribute to the delivery and ongoing maintenance of the improvements.
Will any community assets (e.g. community hall, footpath) be built and/or improved as part of the project? If yes, we will ask how many.	Yes. The project will improve existing community assets within St Mary Hoo, specifically local public footpaths and roadway/directional signage. The works will include clearing overgrown vegetation and obstructions, improving the condition and accessibility of footpaths, and repairing, replacing or improving signage where required. These improvements will make the existing routes safer, clearer and more accessible for local residents, pedestrians and visitors, while helping to preserve and maintain important community infrastructure for future use.

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Will this project help improve energy efficiency or climate change? If yes, please provide details of the energy generation or carbon reduction potential of the project, where you know this.	Yes. While the project does not involve energy generation or a specific energy-efficiency installation, it will make a positive contribution to climate change objectives by improving and encouraging the use of local walking routes. By clearing and improving footpaths and providing clearer, more accessible signage, the project will encourage residents and visitors to walk for shorter local journeys rather than using vehicles where practical. This has the potential to reduce local vehicle use, associated fuel consumption and carbon emissions. The project will also improve the condition and longevity of existing community infrastructure, reducing the need for unnecessary replacement or reconstruction. Where possible, existing materials and infrastructure will be retained, repaired and maintained rather than replaced, supporting a more sustainable approach. No specific carbon reduction or energy generation figure has been calculated, as this would not be meaningful for the scale and nature of the project. The principal climate benefit will be encouraging active travel and reducing reliance on vehicles for local journeys.
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