

The Somerton Resilience Fund – Policy Statement

Purpose

The Somerton Resilience Fund (the 'SRF') was established as a response to the pandemic outbreak of Coronavirus in 2020. Its purpose is to assist Somerton residents who may face genuine hardship as a consequence of economic, social and health (both physical and mental) difficulties as well as bringing the community together to foster general resilience during challenging times.

To facilitate this assistance Somerton has an established group of neighbourhood volunteers who provide practical assistance to those in need. The SRF operates as an adjunct to this group in order to provide a cohesive community-based response.

Governance

The SRF has been established under the auspices of the Somerton Parish Council ('SPC') and as such operates in a manner consistent with the general policies of the SPC. The SPC has, however, established a small group consisting of local residents, as shown below, who are responsible for overseeing the SRF and making recommendations as to its distribution to the SPC for decision. This group will provide a written report to the SPC on at least an annual basis.

This policy statement will be reviewed by the Parish Council at least once a year. In order to aid transparency key documents relating to the operation of the SRF will be made available on the Somerton Village website (somertonvillage.org).

Process

Applications for assistance, using a form provided (available on the Somerton Village website or on request from the Parish Clerk), are to be made to the Parish Clerk but will be considered by the responsible group on an **anonymous and confidential basis**.

Areas of Support

It is impractical to provide an exhaustive list of the areas where assistance may be given but the following are by way of example:

- IT/communication related costs associated with isolation
- Supporting the physical and mental well-being of residents
- Supporting delivery of food to shielding/vulnerable and isolated residents
- Medically related costs including hospital visits
- Minor home repairs and modifications
- Security related costs and pendant alarms for the housebound
- Assistance with school trips and travel to assist a young person's development
- Paid support and advice
- Supporting projects that foster community spirit and resilience

Grants will in general be for sums up to £100 although larger payments may be considered in exceptional circumstances. Should it not possible to meet the full cost of any specific request a contribution may be made. Where contribution is for the purchase of a specific item proof of costing and purchase will generally be requested. Only one application will be considered from each household and grants will not in general be made towards expenditures of a recurring nature.

Funding

The SRF is being funded by way of grants and general fund raising; if you would like to know more, please contact the Parish Clerk. Should the SRF no longer be needed for purposes linked to Covid-19 any funds remaining will be utilised for the purposes of more general community support and cohesion.

Somerton Residents

The group considering applications consists of the following Somerton residents.

Alison Smith (Chair of the Parish Council)

Helen Holman

Sue Muir

Public contact details: Cathy Fleet, parishclerk.somerton@gmail.com

NB In 2022 Peter Clake and Nicholas Rowe left the village and resigned from the Trustees