

County and District Council Report for November 2023 from Kathy and Tom Wells

Applications open for Round Two of Malvern Hills Rural Fund

Rural businesses and communities can now apply for up to £25,000 worth of funding with the return of the Malvern Hills Rural Fund.

Round two of the fund is now available to support new small or micro businesses in rural areas, including helping farmers to diversify into other sectors, and growing tourism.

The money can only be used to fund physical projects such as new buildings or renovations and not for staff or day-to-day running costs.

Individual grants of between £2,500 and £25,000 are on offer, but businesses will be expected to match 50 per cent of the total cost of a project.

Expressions of interest must be submitted through the MHDC website using the online form by 13 November 2023. Shortlisted bids will then be invited to work up a full application.

The funding comes from the Government's Rural England Prosperity Fund and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

More information about the qualifying criteria for the fund and how to apply can be found on [the website here](#).

Street Link

StreetLink, the digital rough sleeping platform, has officially relaunched with a new website now live to make alerts.

StreetLink is still a vital service in helping end rough sleeping and its purpose remains the same – to enable members of the public to connect people sleeping rough in England and Wales to local support that meets their needs.

You can access the platform from the new website link: www.thestreetlink.org.uk

If you're worried about someone sleeping rough, you can help connect them to local support services by making an alert.

Your alert can make a difference, by helping local authorities and outreach teams locate a person sleeping rough quickly and provide them with the support they need.