

Cllr Barbara Jones-Williams March 2023

Funding boost proposed for the district

A series of projects to enhance town centres, as well as support tourism and businesses across the Malvern Hills District are set to receive a funding boost.

The funding proposal was approved by Executive Committee on Tuesday, 14 February, and the money will be allocated from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Further projects include £220,000 for the delivery of tourism development and promotion, through effective marketing campaigns and development of the tourism attractions. As well as £145,000 for the delivery of a Malvern Hills business grants programme to provide start up, growth, green and innovation grants to local businesses.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025.

The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills. Find out more about business support on our website.

Community Renewal Fund success

Last year the Economic Development team were successful in securing £283,000 from the UK Government through the UK Community Renewal Fund. This enabled the delivery of the Malvern Hills and Wychavon Upskilling Project providing a range of activities designed to boost skills, help businesses grow their staff skills and support people into work.

Overall, we supported 39 Malvern Hills businesses to which 56 grants were paid out and 41 apprentices were supported with training incentive payments with 27 of these claiming further bursary support for equipment, work clothing and travel.

These grants allowed businesses to take on and train new staff as well as supported apprentices and trainees through their education. Following the success of this scheme the Upskilling grants will continue to be offered - find out more [here](#).

The project also delivered the Skills Survey and age friendly support with Helen Astill from HR Solutions.

To read more about our Community Renewal Fund Project and headlines from its evaluation visit Malvern Hills and Wychavon Upskilling Project - Malvern Hills District Council.

Voter ID deadline

Residents are being reminded to check they have an accepted form of photo ID ahead of polling day on Thursday, 4 May to make sure they can cast their vote.

The full list of accepted photo ID can be found on the Electoral Commission website.

If they don't have photo ID, the deadline to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate is 5pm on 25 April 2023, residents are being urged to apply early if they need to.

People will need to be registered to vote first before they apply. This can be done online following the links on our elections page.

Visit www.malvernhills.gov.uk/voting-and-elections for more information or contact the elections team elections@malvernhills.gov.uk or call 01684 862200.

Malvern Jobs Fair

I am happy to be supporting another Jobs Fair at Great Malvern Library in collaboration with Malvern Job Centre. The fair takes place on Wednesday 22 March 2023 from 10am until 1pm.

This year refreshments will be provided from the new café in the library, and there will be private rooms available to conduct interviews on the day.

Jobseekers can drop in and chat to a wide range of employers looking for new staff, as well as find out about other options including training, apprenticeships and self-employment options.

Businesses interested in having a stall are encouraged to contact Charmaine Gaitskell on 07899 114838 or charmaine.gaitskell@dwp.gov.uk

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