

Mark Rochell

From: Harriet Brabazon
Sent: 17 February 2026 13:50
To: Martin Groom; Mark Rochell
Subject: Fw: Bembridge Parish Council - projects, bid writing and help

Dear Martin, Dear Mark

I rang Community Action today to see whether they could help me get hold of the woman who ran the bid writing seminar I went to last year. Happily, Joel answered the call. I explained our 3 projects and my feeling that we could do with some expert help on grant funding - maybe share someone with another Council. Please see his helpful response below.

I think a meeting with him would be helpful when Mark is back in the office?

Have a happy time off, Mark.

H

Sent from Samsung Mobile on O2

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 12:35:17 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Bembridge Parish Council - projects, bid writing and help

Hi Harriet,

Great to speak with you earlier, and thank you for your follow-up email.

At Community Action IW we have extensive experience in community and project development, as well as direct community-level delivery across a range of services – including youth work, a voluntary car service, and more.

We've recently agreed bespoke community development support with two parish/town councils. In recent years we've worked with four councils on youth-specific provision, are currently supporting a couple with housing needs surveys and related issues, and have significant experience around village halls – including the legal and operational complexities that can arise. Overall, we're well versed across a broad range of local challenges.

In simple terms, you could commission two days per week of community development support. For 15 hours per week from April 2026, the total salary, pension and NI cost would be £15,588.30. Estimated organisational on-costs would be approximately £2,000, plus a modest working budget for expenses and minor purchases (around £500).

This would bring the total to £18,088.30 for 2026/27.

That said, the type of support you're describing feels somewhat different from the community development model we're implementing elsewhere (for example, in Sandown). In Bembridge, the

focus appears more aligned with project development, fundraising strategy, and facilitation around complex local issues.

The Steyne Park proposals sound excellent. However, in the current funding climate, securing significant external grant funding may prove challenging. While we do have links with Sport England and the Football Foundation, attracting major investment into Bembridge may be a longer-term ambition rather than an immediate prospect and looking at sustained local fund raising will give you a level of control over the project, that grant funding wont.

Initial short-term actions could include:

- Developing a staged delivery plan following your survey findings
- Establishing a long-term local fundraising strategy
- Exploring a bid to the Island Roads Foundation (e.g. £10–15k for capital works)
- Considering the feasibility of a Public Works Loan

In relation to the village hall, we could certainly help untangle the current situation. However, in our experience, liability often ultimately rests with the Parish Council. Situations where a council attempts to shift responsibility to a local charitable group can become difficult and counterproductive.

Similarly, with the Youth and Community Centre, clarity and agreement around responsibilities are essential, but collaboration in seeking solutions is usually the most productive route forward.

You could, therefore, commission us to provide dedicated capacity to progress work across your three priority areas. As you noted, this is a significant ask for volunteer councillors and the Clerk, who already carries substantial responsibilities.

In summary, this would be less traditional “community development” and more focused on project development, fundraising planning, and facilitated problem-solving, with targeted grant applications where viable opportunities arise.

Happy to discuss further. Also happy to visit, I live in Brading and have family in Bembridge, so know the area well.

All the very best,

Joel

Joel Bateman

I work part time and not always on the same day of the week. Please be assured I will get back to you.



 www.communityactionisleofwight.org.uk

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