

**NEWS RELEASE from**

**devon renaissance**  
working for rural prosperity



**5 March 2008**

**Fund helps Devon's rural communities**

A Devon Renaissance programme to help communities tackle deprivation in rural areas because of poor access to services has helped 21 projects across the county.

The Community Boost Fund was set up with £225,000 of available grant funding by the rural regeneration partnership organisation to provide an opportunity for community organisations to bid for predominantly capital funding of between £5,000 and £15,000 which can often be crucial to the delivery of projects. The fund helped to draw in a further £1.28m of other funding; often providing the backbone of the community's funding package and sometimes just that final piece that would enable a project to happen

The fund has helped projects right across the county, from Croyde and Appledore in the North, to Broadclyst and Branscombe in the East, Strete and Loddiswell in the South, and Lamerton and Lydford in the West.

Projects included the building or refurbishing of community facilities like village halls and combining Post Offices and shops, so that essential services such as education and healthcare, together with personal and business banking, can be provided.

The projects supported are:

- Extension and refurbishment of Newton Ferrers Post Office and Shop
- Establishing and fitting out Welcombe Community Shop and Post Office
- Replacing Beaford Village Hall Roof
- Supporting the development of the Moor Trees sustainability charity
- Setting up the office base and staffing for Okehampton Moving Pictures
- Improvements to access of Branscombe village hall
- Improvements to the kitchen at Lamerton sports and community centre
- Extending Sandford community shop and post office
- Building a new village hall for Bridestowe
- Down Thomas post office and community room
- Improved accessibility to Strete parish hall
- Upgrade to kitchen and meeting room at Lydford Nicholls hall
- Loddiswell pavilion
- Burlescombe and Westleigh community hall
- Belstone village hall
- Sydenham Damerel Methodist church
- Improvements to the entrance of Broadclyst victory hall
- Extension to Croyde village hall
- New roof for Meeth village hall

- Floor restoration at St Mary's community hall
- Extension to catering wing at Harbertonford village hall

Matt Parkins, Community Boost Fund project officer, said; "So far, projects have been completed in Lamerton where £5,000 was given towards the total cost of improving the sport and community centre, St Marys Hall in Appledore where £8,264 was provided to help restore the floor in the community hall, and Branscombe where £5,028 was provided in order to help improve access to the village hall. Many more projects are still being carried out in communities throughout Devon."

Liz Abell, programme co-ordinator added "The Community Boost Fund has been a real success and has benefitted many rural communities. There is a huge demand for this type of funding which ensures rural communities are able to access otherwise unavailable services. We are delighted to have helped so many communities in rural Devon, which are among the most rural in the country, and the most deprived in terms of their ability to access essential services.

Ends

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Devon Renaissance is the rural regeneration partnership organisation for the county. It is a not for profit partnership of the private sector, local authorities and community-based organisations. The organisation is funded by the South West of England Regional Development Agency, Devon County Council, and North Devon, Torridge, West Devon, South Hams, East Devon and Teignbridge district and borough councils. Devon Renaissance provides grant funding and works with projects to help create prosperity and jobs and improve access to services in rural areas. It has funding of £7 million over three years which is estimated to be worth £25 million to the Devon economy with match funding.

[www.ruraldevon.org](http://www.ruraldevon.org)

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For further information contact John Taynton of pr dogs on 01822 600100 or 07843 436526 (mobile) or email [john.taynton@prdogs.com](mailto:john.taynton@prdogs.com)