

Connecting Our Community: Digital Enhancement Grant Application, October 2026

Project Description

Sherfield English Village Hall Trust are seeking a grant of £300 towards a project cost of around £600 to purchase and install a 4G Wi-Fi router and support the first year of a data plan.

As the main community hub in our rural parish, the village hall serves as a vital meeting place for local residents, clubs, and support groups. This project will help bridge the digital divide.

- A dedicated 4G Wi-Fi connection ensures that the hall can better function as an emergency hub with reliable communication lines during power outages (we have off grid power capacity, solar with batteries)
- Education & digital inclusion – by improving facilities on offer to the community
- Local businesses, remote workers, and regional organisations would benefit because they require internet access for presentations, training days, and meetings. This would increase the hall's revenue and long-term sustainability
- Financial Sustainability and Operational Efficiency by attracting more hirers and enabling use of remote controls

Project Budget

- Commercial-grade 4G LTE Router: £160.00 approx
- 12-Month Unlimited 4G Data Contract: £300 approx
- High-gain External 4G Antenna & Cabling: £80.00
- Installation and Setup: £60

Total Project Cost: about £600

The Village Hall Trust will contribute from our own reserves to cover the remaining balance and commits to funding the ongoing monthly data subscription from future hall hire revenues.

Following the initial grant-funded year, the ongoing cost of the 4G data subscription will hopefully be integrated into the village hall's operating budget. It is hoped that an increase in hall bookings from commercial and private hirers who require Wi-Fi will cover the ongoing cost such that the project will be self-sustaining into the future.