



Wellingborough Homes Community Grants Fund 2017/19

Criteria and Introduction

What is the Community Grants Fund?

At Wellingborough Homes, we are committed to improving social, environmental and economic wellbeing and working in partnership with our customers, other providers and the local authority to achieve this.

We are now offering community organisations and local people the opportunity to apply for a share of our Community Grants Fund.

We have identified a grant fund of £20,000 per year to be allocated to projects which improve the quality of life in accordance with our strategic objectives for our customers and neighbourhoods.

What kind of projects or initiatives will be considered?

We will be focussing on activities, projects and initiatives which will have the greatest impact on our customers and in neighbourhoods where the majority of our customers live.

We will focus on three themes that best fit with our Customer Involvement and Community Investment strategy whilst also responding to community needs in the current political and social climate.

As we are looking to invest more in our own customers; each application must show how their project will engage at least 80% of our customers.

Projects relating to the themes below will have the highest chance of success.

Financial Inclusion

Activities which seek to promote financial inclusion, ensuring residents have the ability to access appropriate financial products and services. A resident unable to access these products or services, such as bank accounts, or loans at affordable rates, may be financially excluded and forced to pay what is known as 'poverty premium' – higher charges due to perceived higher risk. This term refers to activities which contribute to the local economy, activities which seek to increase household income and reduce expenditure for the household.

Employment, skills and training

We recognise the value of investing in our communities; we want to help improve the range of opportunities to our communities particularly around employability. Organisations or individuals that have an innovative idea or a successful track record relating to training and or education and employment can apply.

Digital Inclusion

The government's own Digital Inclusion Strategy (*Cabinet Office 4th Dec 14*) has identified the 4 challenges people can face for getting online – these are Access, Skill, Motivation, and Trust.

How can we overcome these barriers?

Examples of projects that could be funded include:

- Offer taster sessions > focus on what may be of interest on the internet and let people try them out
- Find cheaper solutions > mini PCs, recycled PCs, deals with local IT companies, deals with broadband companies, mobile Wi-Fi café
- Improving basic digital skills > one to ones, mentoring, local volunteers, recommended starter bundles, install and start with them

Who can apply?

- Wellingborough Homes customers (can apply direct for a small grant but they must with a work with a community organisation who would hold the funds on their behalf and be the accountable body).
- Charity, voluntary or community groups who carry out activities that are 'not for profit'
- Groups based in the borough of Wellingborough or whose activities are able to demonstrate benefits to our customers living within the borough. Priority will be given to Wellingborough based organisations.

Looking to the future

We are looking for projects to be financially sustainable where this is realistic, be accessible to all and have the support of the local community and demonstrate a commitment to our Values:

- **Respect** - We will treat each other and anyone who deals with us with respect and recognise everyone as an individual.
- **Trust** - We will be open and honest with our colleagues, customers and external partners and we will deliver on the commitments that we make.
- **One Team** - We will be one team, working collaboratively, listening and communicating clearly with our customers, to deliver great services.
- **Efficient & Effective** - We will work efficiently and effectively, continuously looking for ways to improve and deliver value for money.
- **Empowered** - We will be bold, progressive, seek to empower our customers and be confident in the decisions we make

Priorities

Projects or initiatives will be given higher priority if they are match funded from other services / organisations. If you are unsure what this means do not worry as we will help with this.

What we will not fund

It is not possible to list everything that we are unable to fund but below are some examples:

- Anything that has already been bought or paid for. e.g. an event, project or activity that has already happened
- Insurances
- Projects or items that are for the sole benefit of individuals, for example, trophies and medals, professional qualifications that are not relevant to achieving the agreed outcomes



- Activities or projects of a political or exclusively religious nature
- Contribution towards salaries of permanent staff
- Sponsorship or training
- Purely commercial ventures

How much can I apply for?

Any organisation can apply for up to £5000

How do I apply?

You can apply for a share of the funding by filling in a simple application form with details of your proposal. You will be asked to give as much information as possible to support your funding bid and show how it meets the criteria above.

If you need support with the application form or would like to discuss please let us know. Contact us via email on Nikki.glazebrook@whomes.org or by phone on 01933 234481