

INTRODUCTION

1. This document sets out the potential funding available to community and voluntary organisations for community green space initiatives. The aim is to identify the different grant schemes open to local groups, green spaces, allotment organisations or trusts, and also where to go to get help when looking for funding.
2. The government expects local authorities to empower their communities and maintain strong links with the voluntary and community groups. The current Localism Act 2011 includes new community Rights designed to enable local people to play a major part in shaping and helping to manage green spaces where they live.
3. This document serves only as a guide and may not cover all the sources of funding available as grant schemes come and go and criteria change all the time. However, we do aim to keep this document as up to date as possible on an on-going basis.
4. There are different schemes for different purposes with different criteria. It is important that anyone looking for grants considers their objectives and project planning alongside the criteria for grant schemes to optimise their eligibility.
5. Making an application for funding requires you to inspire confidence in your ability to handle money and to calculate your costs before completing your grant application.

Chapter 1: Grant schemes relevant to community green spaces initiative

Big Lottery Fund

6. Every year BIG Lottery Fund gives millions of pounds from the National Lottery to good causes. Their money goes to community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment. The following are examples of programmes for which community green space projects may qualify:

Awards for All

7. Awards for All is a lottery grants programme aimed at local communities throughout the UK. Grants of between £300 and £10,000 are available to support participation in art, sport, heritage and community activities, and projects that promote education, the environment and health in the local community. Applications can be made at any time, the application form is short and simple, and the outcome is given to the applicant within eight weeks. <http://www.awardsforall.org.uk>

Parks for People

8. The Parks for People programme is a joint initiative between the Big Lottery Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund. BIG have allocated up to £5million from their grants budget in each of the next two financial years, from 2011/12 – 2012/13, to provide further funding for Parks in England. This will be added to the £24m that HLF are committing each year for parks across the UK. Parks for People builds on the two Lottery Funds' shared commitment to bring real improvements to local communities by improving historic spaces to make a lasting impact on the lives of local people and the places where they live. For more information, visit BIG at http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_parks_people?regioncode=-uk

Reaching Communities: England

9. The Reaching Communities programme has two strands:
 - Reaching Communities revenue and small capital – funding from £10,000 to £500,000 for revenue projects and/or smaller capital projects up to £50,000
 - Reaching Communities buildings – funding of between £100,000 and £500,000 for large capital projects.
10. Reaching Communities funds projects that help people and communities most in need. Projects can be new or existing, or be the core work of your organisation. You can apply for funding for a revenue or smaller capital

project if you're a voluntary and or community organisation, school, local authority, not for profit organisation or social enterprise.

http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_reaching_communities

Fair Share

11. Some parts of the UK missed out on Lottery funding in the past. The Fair Share programme has been helping to change that. The Fair Share Trust is a £50 million trust providing sustained funding in Fair Share Areas until 2013 (2009 in Scotland). The Community Foundation Network is the sole UK trustee and has appointed delivery agents in each of the Fair Share areas. Selected neighbourhoods in each area are receiving targeted support from these agents, and local people are getting the opportunity to make decisions on where the funding goes.

http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_fairshare_uk

12. The BIG Lottery Fund also runs programmes specific to Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. These aren't published here but you can find more information on BIG's web site.

<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/>

Heritage Lottery Fund

13. Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund gives grants to sustain and transform our heritage from parks, gardens, buildings, museums, archaeology, wildlife habitats and cultural traditions. As the largest dedicated funder of the UK's heritage, with around £375 million a year to invest in new projects, the Heritage Lottery Fund has developed a considerable body of knowledge and project evaluation over 15 years. They are also a leading advocate for the value of heritage to modern life. The Heritage Lottery Fund has supported more than 33,900 projects allocating £4.4billion across the UK.

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

Parks for People – grants from £100,000 to £5 million

14. This programme supports investment in the UK's public parks. Heritage Lottery Fund is committed to running this joint programme with Big Lottery until 2018. To date over £600 million has been invested in over 500 of the UK's public parks.

Your Heritage – grants from £10,000 to £100,000

15. This small grants programme offers grants to all types of heritage. It is a flexible programme, particularly designed for voluntary and community groups and first time applicants.

Heritage Grants – grants from £100,000 and over

16. This is Heritage Lottery Fund's main programme for grants above £100,000 for all kinds of heritage including gardens, habitats and landscapes. It is open to all not-for-profit organisations.

Young Roots – grants from £3,000 to £50,000

17. This programme is for projects led by young people. It aims to involve 11-25 year-olds in finding out about their heritage, developing skills, building confidence and promoting community involvement. Visit their website to see their funding programmes and how to apply
<http://www.hlf.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

Community Development Foundation

Community First

18. Community First is an £80m government-funded programme that will run for four years, until March 2015. It will help communities come together through new and existing community groups, to identify their strengths and local priorities, plan for their future and become more resilient.

Big Local

19. Big Local is a ten year programme working with and supporting communities, in up to 150 selected areas, to make where they live and work a better place now and in the future.
<http://www.cdf.org.uk/>

Capital Growth

20. A partnership initiative between London Food Link, the Mayor of London and the Big Lottery's Local Food Fund, championed by the Chair of the London Food Board. The partnership aims to create 2012 new community food growing spaces across London by the end of 2012. Capital Growth offers practical help, grants, training and support to groups wanting to establish community food growing projects as well as advice to landowners.
<http://www.capitalgrowth.org>

Green Places Fund

21. The Green Places Fund, developed by national parks charity GreenSpace with Birmingham and Nottingham has been launched to safeguard the future of public green spaces by allowing community groups and philanthropists to give and influence locally. The Green Places Fund concept is supported by Nottingham City Council, Birmingham Open Spaces Forum and Birmingham City Council.
<http://www.green-space.org.uk/GreenPlacesFund/index.php>

Sport England

22. Sport England provides funding for various sporting projects including those connected to protecting playing fields.
<http://www.sportengland.org/>

The Landfill Tax Credit Scheme

23. The Landfill Tax Credit Scheme is a scheme for the distribution of funds generated from Landfill Tax in the UK. The Landfill Tax Credit Scheme was designed to help mitigate the effects of landfill upon local communities. It encourages partnerships between landfill operators, their local communities and the voluntary and public sectors.
24. Landfill Operators must pay a tax to the Government on every ton of waste they dispose of in a landfill site. The Landfill Communities Fund allows landfill operators to 'offset' a percentage of the landfill tax and give a proportion of it to organisations who deliver environmental objectives, instead of paying it as tax to Government.
25. There are two methods of receiving funding through the Landfill Communities Fund. These could be either:
- from an organisation that distributes the monies on a landfill operator's behalf. These are commonly known as **Distributive Environmental Bodies**. You are far more likely to receive money via a Distributive Environmental Body than you are directly from a waste management company; or
 - directly from a **Landfill Operator**.
26. If you seek to obtain money via Distributive Environmental Bodies you may need to enrol with ENTRUST, we strongly recommend that you check with the Distributive Environmental Bodies first whether they are willing to fund your proposed work before contacting ENTRUST
<http://www.entrust.org.uk/home/lcf/about/entrust>

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation

27. The aim of the foundation is to improve the quality of life throughout the UK. Their primary interests are in the cultural life of the UK, education and learning, the natural environment and enabling disadvantaged people to participate more fully in society.
28. The foundation have funded the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens giving money towards the core costs of running the Allotments Regeneration Initiative as well as contributing to the core costs of the Federations plans to increase allotment use.
<http://www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk/>

Age UK

29. Age UK formally Age Concern grants are for organisations working with people in later life. Their grants help organisations that make life better for older people, by addressing people's immediate needs or tackling the root causes of problems they are experiencing. Organisations receiving their grants must be independent, not for profit and accessible to all people in later life.
30. Age UK give out several million pounds each year in grants. Their grant funds are built up from donations by individuals, charitable trusts and companies. They also receive government and lottery funding to be given to local projects. They do not give grants to individuals.
31. For further information on grant programmes currently open to applications, please contact them, or call Age UK free on **0800 169 8787**.
<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/professional-resources-home/grants/>

Lloyds TSB Foundation

32. The TSB scheme aims to support charities that help disadvantaged people play a fuller role in the community by delivering lasting changes and benefits for their users/beneficiaries. TSB funding is needs-driven and their portfolio of grant making programmes is designed to fund issues that affect individuals as well as multiple communities.
<http://www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk>

The Co-operative Group

33. The Community Fund is a grant scheme designed to help local communities throughout the UK. Members of the Co-operative Group who want to help improve the lives of others, donate part or all of their share of the profits. These members have already raised millions of pounds each year for all kinds of community projects.
<http://www.co-operative.coop/communityfund>

The Country Land and Business Association Charitable Trust

34. A fund, operating in England and Wales, to provide facilities for the disabled and disadvantaged to take part in recreation and education in the countryside. The trust is supported by the Country Land and Business Association
http://www.cla.org.uk/About_the_CLA/Charitable_Trust_Introduction/

Community Foundations

35. Community Foundations are charities across the UK dedicated to strengthening local communities, creating opportunities and tackling disadvantage and exclusion issues.
36. Community Foundations target grants that make a genuine difference to the lives of local people. They manage funds donated by individuals and organisations, building endowment and acting as the vital link between donors and local needs, connecting people with causes, and enabling clients to achieve far more than they ever could by themselves.
<http://www.communityfoundations.org.uk/>

Grants from companies and local businesses

37. Numerous companies and local businesses are now giving various grants to community and voluntary groups in their areas to promote the benefits of green spaces and community engagement. This is often as part of their policy on corporate aid responsibility.
38. Organisations that maybe able to advise on potential sources of funding are listed in section 2. A good example of this is UnLtd a charity which supports social entrepreneurs - people with vision, drive, commitment and passion who want to change the world for the better. They do this by providing a complete package of funding and support, to help these individuals make their ideas a reality. UnLtd is one of the UK organisations to provide an individually tailored combination of cash funding, practical support and networking opportunities. They provide several levels of awards ranging from £500 to £60k. A number <http://www.unltd.org.uk/>

Big Tree Plant

39. The Big Tree Plant is a £4 million Forestry Commission funding scheme supporting community groups to plant trees in towns, cities and residential areas throughout England. Over 100 projects from a wide range of community groups have so far been offered £3.1 million funding as part of the scheme. Groups have identified over £5.5 million of matched funding. These projects aim to plant an additional 720,000 trees over the coming four years and the Big Tree plant wants to plant at least one million trees. Further information on how to get involved in the scheme is available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/bigtreeplant/>

Forestry Commission

40. The English Woodland Grant Scheme provides grant support for landowners wanting to create new woodland and carry out sustainable woodland management, particularly where it protects and enhances the woodland's environmental or social value. The Forestry Commission's English Woodland Grant Scheme consists of 6 main grants:

- **Woodland Planning Grant** (to produce a woodland management plan);
- **Woodland Assessment Grant** (to collect information that assists management decision);
- **Woodland Improvement Grant** (to carry out capital projects in woodlands such as access tracks, uneconomic thinning, coppicing, rhododendron clearance and public access facilities);
- **Woodland Regeneration Grant** (to re-establish trees after felling);
- **Woodland Management Grant** (to carry out regular work such as ride management and pest control).
- **Woodland Creation Grant** (to create new woodland).
<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs>

Biffa Awards

41. Biffaward is a multi-million pound fund that helps to build communities and transform lives through awarding grants to communities and transform lives through awarding grants to community and environmental projects across the UK. It supports projects that will be of lasting environmental benefit, increase or maintain biodiversity, improve quality of life and foster vibrant communities. Funding is directed to projects that provide and improve public amenities for communities within 10 miles of a Biffa operation. Three types of grants are available:

- Community (for projects that provide and improve community facilities);
- Biodiversity (for projects that conserve wildlife species and habitats); and
- Small Grants (for projects that enable communities to improve local amenities and to conserve wildlife).

<http://www.biffaward.org/>

Ernest Cook Trust

42. The Ernest Cook Trust is one of the UK's leading educational charities. Rooted in the conservation and management of the countryside, the Trust actively encourages children and young people to learn from the land through hands-on educational opportunities on its estates and by offering grants. The Trust gives grants to registered charities, schools and not for profit organisations wishing to encourage young people's interest in the countryside, the environment or the arts (in the broadest sense).
<http://www.ernestcooktrust.org.uk/grants/index.html>

Tudor Trust

43. The Tudor Trust is an independent grant making trust supporting both voluntary and community groups working in UK. Tudor Trust grants help smaller, community-led groups which are supporting people at the margins of society.
<http://tudortrust.org.uk/what-we-do/about-our-grants/>

Chapter 2: Organisations to contact for further information about grants.

44. In the search for grants, it is recommended that you contact organisations that might be able to offer professional advice and expertise. There are organisations who can assist with the completion of application forms or who know up to date information about grants available. Talking to people who have succeeded in obtaining funds can also be useful. Examples of organisations that can provide help in this respect are listed below:

National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NAVCA)

45. NAVCA is the national voice of local support and development organisations in England. The organisation champions and strengthens voluntary and community action by supporting our members in their work with over 160,000 local charities and community groups.

46. NAVCA believes voluntary and community action offers solutions to the challenges we face. Action rooted in communities brings local people together to campaign, volunteer and provide services. Uniquely, NAVCA is a national membership organisation with a grassroots view. Their membership network of over 400 local support and development charities, such as Councils for Voluntary Service and Voluntary Actions keeps them in touch with the views of local charities and community groups across the whole of England.

<http://www.navca.org.uk>

Council for Voluntary Services

47. A Council for Voluntary Services is a voluntary organisation set up, owned and run by local groups to support, promote and develop local voluntary action. Council for Voluntary Services provide their members with a range of services and are a voice for the local voluntary sector.

48. Usually funded by the local authority and other statutory agencies, there is a Council for Voluntary Services working in almost every district and city. Each Council for Voluntary Services differs in character and size, although they usually work to the same geographical boundaries as the local authority. They also differ in name. Many are called Council for Voluntary Services, while others might be called Voluntary Action or Voluntary Sector Councils.

49. All Council for Voluntary Services will be able to provide fundraising advice. The support available varies but can include training courses. Funding surgeries to help you complete grant application forms, funding news in newsletters or email bulletins and access to directories or databases of local and national funding opportunities. There is also a lot of grant-funding information on their website.
50. Some services may be available to non-members, but usually associations will need to join the Council for Voluntary Services to benefit fully from the range of services available. Membership conditions and charges vary but membership represents excellent value for money.

Funding Central

51. Funding central is a free website for all voluntary and social enterprise schemes including community groups, providing access to thousands of funding and finance opportunities.
52. The site contains a support and advice page providing funding advice for voluntary, community or social enterprise organisations in need of funding advice with specific information on grants, contracts, loans and finance.
<http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk/Default.aspx>

Directory of Social Change

53. The Directory of Social Change is an independent charity with a vision of an independent voluntary sector at the heart of social change. They achieve this by providing essential information and training to the voluntary sector. Since they started in 1974, they have been running courses and have published charity and voluntary sector books on fundraising, management, organisational and personal development, communication, finance and law.
<http://www.dsc.org.uk>
54. The following are the products of the Directory of Social Change:

- www.trustfunding.org.uk
- www.companygiving.org.uk
- www.governmentfunding.org.uk
- www.grantsforindividuals.org.uk

Please note that you may need to subscribe to some of these websites to have access to them.

Grantfinder

55. Grantfinder is the UK's leading grants and funding information provider. Their database includes details in excess of 6,000 funding opportunities. Please note this is a subscription service
<http://www.grantfinder.co.uk>

Environmental Funders' Network

57. The Environmental Funders Network is an informal network of trust foundations and individuals making Environmental Funders' Network grants on environmental and conservation issues.

58. Please note that the Environmental Funders' Network is a funder-to-funder network and is not open to grant seeking organisations. Its main purpose is to allow peer group contact between environmental grant-makers, and provide a forum in which issues of common concern can be discussed.

59. It might be useful to check the list of funders featured on their website. This contains lists of different trusts and foundations involved in the Environmental Funders' Network since it was launched. Funders have diverse interests, including the protection of individual species and landscapes, production of local food etc. The Environmental Funders' Network has also published a document showing where Green grants funding has been allocated across Britain and Northern Ireland.

<http://www.greenfunders.org/>