

Guidance notes for Community Chest ~~18/19~~19/20

What is the Community Chest?

The Community Chest is grant funding available to voluntary and community sector groups, charities and public sector bodies wishing to further improve quality of life in South Cambridgeshire.

Who can apply?

Applicants must:

- Be a non-profit group or organisation based in South Cambridgeshire or benefiting South Cambridgeshire residents OR a public sector body with a demonstrable community focus (individuals, ~~and~~ businesses ~~and~~ Political parties/activities are not eligible)
- Be a Parish Council or Parish Meeting with fewer than 160 registered electors*
~~(a) Parish Councils and Parish Meetings with more than one settlement, as long as the settlement they are applying for has less than 160 registered electors;~~
~~OR~~
~~(b) Parish Councils and Parish Meetings, where they have more than 160 registered electors, who can demonstrate special circumstances.~~
 - Have a written constitution or mission statement
 - Have an elected committee or representative steering group
 - Be able to provide an up to date copy of their accounts and any relevant protection policies

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If you have questions about these criteria, please contact us using the details at the end of these guidance notes below.

If your organisation does not have a written constitution, mission statement and/or relevant protection policies please contact Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service for advice in meeting these requirements. Please call 01223 464696 or email enquiries@cambridgecvs.org.uk

*** Please note:** The Committee reserves the right to supersede this clause should the PC or PM show good cause, for example:

(a) The PC or PM have multiple settlements and the application pertains to any one of these which satisfies the 160 elector threshold; or

(b) Registered electors are within 10% of threshold.

What must the project deliver?

The community activity or project must:

- Help us deliver one or more of the following aims:
 - Promote healthy and active communities
 - Enable inclusive communities
 - Develop skills
 - Enhance the natural environment
- Meet local need and leave a legacy for the community

- Ensure equality of access

What can be funded?

The community activity or project should be one of the following:

- Improvements to community buildings and spaces (i.e. village halls/pavilions/play areas etc)
- Repairs to Historic Buildings/Monuments/Memorials
- Equipment/Capital Purchase
- Materials
- 'Start-up' costs (may include training of staff/volunteers, hall hire and other revenue costs)

~~Applications for projects that are considered more suitable for the Community Energy Grant will be transferred for consideration under that scheme rather than the Community Chest—additional questions may need to be asked.~~

What cannot be funded?

- On-going revenue costs or overheads (e.g. salaries, rent, advertising, promotional materials)
- Projects that replace funding by other public sector bodies, including parish councils (e.g. youth services, highways)
- Costs associated with preparing/printing Parish Plans
- Costs associated with Neighbourhood Watch schemes
- Costs associated with Community Speedwatch schemes or other traffic initiatives
- Costs associated with purchasing defibrillators
- Items that would only benefit 'individuals' and not the group ~~(e.g. sports kits)~~
- Projects that have previously received Community Chest funding in the same financial year

How much can be applied for?

The maximum award is £1,000 in any single financial year (April-March) and can be for 100% of the project's costs. ~~unless Where the initiative seeks to upgrade a Parish Council asset, there is an expectation that the PC will match-fund the project up to the £1000 limit (except where the PC/Parish Meeting qualifies due to its size). the initiative is on parish council land, in which case a 50% contribution from the parish council is expected.~~

If there is high demand for funding it may mean that the Council is only able to make a contribution to your project. The Council reserves the right to prioritise based on funding available, size of electorate, parish precept, indices of deprivation, number and type of applications received at any given time, priorities for the financial year and value for money. Eligibility does not guarantee grant funding.

When can groups apply?

The Community Chest opens in April and October each year, with 50% of the annual budget released at each point. Groups can apply at any time during the financial year until the funding is fully allocated for that period.

What supporting documentation is required?

- A copy of your organisation's constitution or mission statement
- A copy of your latest accounts (audited if available)
- A quote for the community activity or project

In addition the following will be required if relevant to the project:

- Appropriate protection policies: children, young people, vulnerable adults
- Public Rights of Way consent from landowner
- Any other relevant material that would support your application

How will the grant be paid?

If successful, the applicant will receive the grant payment once we have received acknowledgement of the grant offer and acceptance of the terms and conditions.

What are the conditions of funding?

Groups that are awarded a grant will be expected to comply with the following conditions as a minimum:

- Funding must only be used for the agreed purpose and spent within 12-months of the award being made (unless otherwise agreed in writing)
- Any publicity must acknowledge the award provided
- Unused grant must be returned to South Cambridgeshire District Council
- An end of project evaluation must be submitted to South Cambridgeshire District Council within 3-months of project completion. Details about this are available on the SCDC website

Any award will not be means tested but applicants will be expected to have sought other means of local funding, especially from the parish council who may have funds available through planning developments (S106) or through its precept (S137).

For further information please go to:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/communitychest>

Contact Details: duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk , 01954 713070