

Guide to Funders

For Village Halls and
Community Groups
2023 - 2024



ACTion
with communities
in cumbria

ACTion with Communities in Cumbria (ACT) supports the volunteers who manage village halls, community buildings and other community groups with guidance on: Governance, Funding & Project Planning, and People Skills.

Introduction

There are lots of different ways of raising money:

- Holding events that people will pay to attend (i.e. a ceilidh) or where they will spend money (i.e. a cake sale)
- Asking for sponsorship for taking part in a challenge (i.e. marathon or long-distance swim)
- Selling something; village halls 'sell' or hire out space but might also sell goods such as calendars or tea towels to raise money
- Requesting donations from local residents or companies towards to cost of a new piece of equipment or upgrading facilities
- Applying for grants

In this guide we're focusing on applying for grants. Funders, or grant makers, exist to give money to organisations which provide solutions to the problems they want to fix. If a funder is interested in fixing the problem of rural isolation then a village hall or a community group which provides services and activities that reduce isolation, could offer them a solution.

Who makes grants?

- The National Lottery; there are different lottery grant making bodies which make grants according to their area of interest i.e. National Lottery Community Fund, Sport England, National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Charitable Trusts; charities that are set up to give money away. Sometimes they've been established by a wealthy benefactor or are the charitable arm of a large company. They may raise money annually through holding events or requesting donations such as Children in Need or Comic Relief
- Public organisations such as Local councils or National Park authorities

The Basics

There are some fundamental questions to ask before you start to consider who to approach for funding. Without asking these questions, your project, and therefore your funding applications, won't stand up to scrutiny:

- Why are you doing this project?
- What difference will it make to people in your community?
- Is there really a need for it?
- If there is a need, how do you know? What evidence do you have?

The most common mistake we see groups make when they apply for funding is to focus on the immediate problem "*the roof is leaking; it needs fixing*" rather than explaining the difference that a comfortable, watertight village hall/community building will make to local people.

How do you know there is a need for your Hall or community project?

You will have to provide some sort of evidence that people need your Village Hall or the service you provide. Try consulting 'user groups'; the groups of people that use the hall or service already, as well as local residents who may not use it. ACT has examples of survey forms that you can use.

See what other information exists to support your case. ACT has Parish Profiles for nearly every parish in Cumbria on our website which could give you background information and statistics about your area to support your application: www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/resources/parish-profiles

If your parish or community has produced a 'Community Led Plan' or 'Parish Plan' it's possible that people will have been questioned about the village hall or community facilities as part of the consultation.

Completed Community Led Plans are also on the ACT website: www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/resources/community-led-plans and, if your area has one, it should be on your Parish Council website too. If your Community Led Plan is more than five years old the consultation is likely to be out of date

What to put in an application

Many grant makers have application forms that you fill in. By answering the questions on the form you should have given them the information they need to decide whether to fund your project.

Ensure you read any guidance notes provided and answer the questions being asked. It can be tempting to copy and paste answers you've given in another grant application but if you do this, ensure it actually fits the question being asked.

Some funders don't have application forms, or any guidelines about how to apply, so you need to write them a letter which contains all the information they need.

These letters will be read by trustees who need to understand very quickly what your project is and how much money you need. Your letter should be clear and concise (ideally no more than two sides of A4 paper).

If there's little information about a Trust you're interested in applying to, search for the charity on the Charity Commission website and look at their annual accounts:
register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk

Their accounts should give contact details and may give an indication of the size of grant they make. You might need to address your letter to the Chair, the Secretary or a named contact or 'correspondent' whose role it is to sift through applications.

If you use the following structure for your letter or application then you should have provided the trustees with all the information they need:

- **A summary** - A few lines that summarises everything in the letter. Write this last. This could be the only part of your application a busy board of trustees will see.
- **A brief introduction about your organisation** - Whether it's a charity (include the charity number), how it's managed, how long it's been in existence for.

- **The problem you want to solve** - i.e. *older people in xxxx parish are becoming increasingly isolated due to loss of services.*
- **What you want to do about the problem** - i.e. *we want to create opportunities to bring people together and encourage different ages to mix.*
- **How we will do this** - i.e. *we will hold a volunteer-run community café once per week.* State whether your project is financially sustainable; after you've covered the set-up costs will it pay for itself? If it won't, how will you cover the running costs in the future?
- **Monitoring and evaluating the project** - How will you track the numbers/type of people using your project and assess whether it's worked? i.e. *we will record the numbers of people who use the community café and survey users about possible improvements once every six months.*

For more information on monitoring and evaluating projects take a look at the ACT Guidance Sheet on this subject available on our website here: www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/ResourcesPublications/GuidanceSheets

- **The budget** - What will you need to spend money on and how much funding are you looking for? How much money do you already have and where are you going to get the remaining money from?

Some funders will be happy to fund the whole of your project, but others will only want to contribute part of it and will want to see 'match funding' with some of the funds coming from other sources. They may want you to have raised some of it through community fundraising i.e. local fundraising from holding events etc.

Other funders will make grants for 'capital' projects such as equipment, building work, furniture, and others will want to make grants for 'revenue' projects such as salaries and running costs.

Finally, funders don't generally want to fund projects which have already started (retrospective funding), so please get all the funding you need in place before you get your project underway or commit to any spending. If necessary, break it down into smaller stages/phases and fund each stage as a separate project.

The Grant Makers

The grant makers listed in this guide *may* be interested in giving you a grant but you will need to take a careful look at them before you apply.

They are likely to have specific criteria about what they will fund and your project might not fit. Others may have very broad aims but will have many more applicants than they can possibly fund and so the percentage of successful applicants will be small.

Information goes out of date quickly and they may have new deadlines for applications or change their priorities so always find out as much information as you can about them before you apply.

Finally, this list isn't exhaustive but it is a starting point. You can do your own search for funding by using databases like [my funding central](#) which is free to subscribe to for organisations with an annual income of less than £30,000 and a sliding scale of charges for organisations with a larger turnovers. Another one to try is [Get Grants](#) which has free resources.

If you can make contact with funders before you apply than this can help to build a relationship with them. You can meet local funders at the Funding Fairs organised by Cumbria CVS who also run funding training courses and offer funding advice.

Tel: 01768 800350

Email: info@cumbriacvs.org.uk

Website: www.cumbriacvs.org.uk

ACRE Rural Community Buildings Loan Fund

The Rural Community Buildings Loan Fund helps community buildings fill temporary gaps in funding, either for specific projects or for urgent work connected with the building. The fund is managed by ACRE on behalf of Defra. ACT is also involved and will support you with your application.

Read: acre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Rural-Community-Buildings-Loan-Fund-Leaflet-2022.pdf

Awards for All England (National Lottery Community Fund)

- Grants of between £300 and £10,000 in any one year period. (Increasing to £20,000 over two years, from 15 November 2023.)
- Community groups, not for profit groups, parish or town council, health body, or schools are eligible. You do not need to be a registered charity to apply.

Tel: 03454 102030

Email: general.enquiries@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk

Web: www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england

Baywind Energy Community Trust

- Charitable Trust supporting renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable communities.
- Grants of between £100 to £5,000.
- Not-for-profits, schools, Charities, SMEs (Small or Medium sized Enterprise)

Tel: [01229 821028](tel:01229821028)

Web: www.bwect.org.uk (online application form)

Bernard Sunley Foundation

The Foundation gives grants in the following categories: Community; Education; Health; Social Welfare. Under the 'community' category they will fund: new build, refurbishment and improvements of village halls, community centres and similar. This often includes disabled access, modernising kitchens, new storage space and updating toilets. The applicant needs to be a registered charity.

Capital funding only e.g. building project or equipment, not revenue e.g. salaries or running costs.

Details of what they won't fund: bernardsunley.org/grants/what-we-dont-fund

Email: office@bernardsunley.org

Web: www.bernardsunley.org

Charity Bank

Loans of a minimum of £50,000 for charities, social enterprises and other organisations where the loan is being used for a social purpose.

Contact - Tel: 01732 441919 Web: www.charitybank.org

Copeland Community Fund

Copeland Community Fund 2022-2025 'Local Communities Fund' offers support for projects seeking funding in the borough.

There are 4 areas (themes) in which a project may focus:

- Local Communities Fund (Large £25K+): Submit applications by 17:00 on 19th April 2023, 21st June 2023, 20th October 2023, or 24th January 2024
- Local Communities Fund (Small £5K - £25K): Submit applications by 17:00 on 19th April 2023, 21st June 2023, 20th October 2023, or 24th January 2024
- Community Resilience Fund: Rolling Application process
- Enabling Fund: Rolling Application process

To make an initial enquiry, contact the Fund by phone or via their online enquiry form:
Tel: 07833048986 Web: www.copelandcommunityfund.co.uk

The Craven Trust

A grant-making charity supporting community projects in the Craven area (parts of North and West Yorkshire, Cumbria and Lancashire, which make up the northern part of the former West Riding of Yorkshire) In Cumbria, this is the Sedbergh area. Grants are generally £100 to £1,500. For more information contact administrator Rowena Garton.

Tel: 07954 803327, Email: enquiries@craventrust.org.uk, Web: www.craventrust.org.uk/

Cumbria Community Foundation

Community foundations offer a variety of grant-making programmes funded by donations from individuals, families, businesses as well as grants from local authorities and Government.

Cumbria Community Foundation makes grants to a wide range of organisations. They are particularly keen to help grassroots community groups and small-to-medium-sized voluntary organisations. You do not have to be a registered charity to apply, but the work you ask the Foundation to support must be legally charitable.

Tel: 01900 825760, Email: enquiries@cumbriafoundation.org, Web: www.cumbriafoundation.org

Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust (CWMET)

This grant maker will fund community projects but one of the main criteria is that your project must be within a 10 mile radius of either Hespin Wood (CA6 4BJ) or Flusco Pike (CA11 0JB) landfill site.

A quick telephone call to their office will help you decide if your project is eligible under this rule. Consideration will be given to projects within a 10 to 15 mile radius of Hespin Wood or Flusco Pike if there is a second fee paying landfill site within 10 miles of the project.

The grants are open to all Parish Councils, Community Groups or organisations which are non-profit distributing bodies and not under Local Authority Control.

Tel: 01228 822106 Email: enquiries@cwmet.org.uk Web: www.cwmet.org.uk

Frieda Scott Charitable Trust

The Trust makes grants in the area which is currently covered by South Lakeland and Eden District Councils. Trustees award around 50 grants a year, of up to £20,000. The average grant is around £15,000. Grant applications for over £4,500 are considered at meetings in March, July and November, and for under £4,500 by the Small Grants Committee in April, August and December. Potential applicants are asked to phone the office before putting in an application to check the eligibility of their organisation and project. All village halls are considered by the Small Grants Committee, so the maximum award will be £4,500.

Contact: Celia Forsyth: Tel: 01539 742608, Email: celia@fcsct.org.uk Web: www.friedascott.org.uk

FCC Communities Foundation

The Foundation is the Landfill Tax Fund for FCC Environment and can fund capital projects located within 10 miles of the Bennett Bank Landfill Site near Barrow in Furness and the Lillyhall landfill site at Workington. There are a number of restrictions on what can be funded. Visit the website for more information: fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk/

Furness Community Awards Scheme

Donations of £150 to community groups can be applied for from Furness Building Society. Apply online at: www.furnessbs.co.uk/furness-community-awards

Garfield Weston Foundation

The Foundation supports a broad range of organisations and activities that share a commitment to making a positive impact to the lives of the communities in which they work, and that are driven by a desire to achieve excellence. There is a one stage application process and applications will be accepted at any time, there are no deadlines. Applicants should allow four months for a final outcome. Major Grants are £100,000 and above, Regular Grants range from £1,000 to £99,999.

For more information contact: Tel: 020 7399 6565 or visit: www.garfieldweston.org

Hadfield Trust

Priorities include social needs; youth and employment; older people; the arts; the environment. They make grants to Cumbrian organisations of up to £5,000 but most are between £1,500 to £3,000. Application deadlines are 1st February, 1st June and 1st October.

Contact - Ms Susan Berriman, Tel: 01539 823112, Email: admin@hadfieldtrust.org.uk The application form is available on their website www.hadfieldtrust.org.uk

Harold and Alice Bridges Charity

The Harold and Alice Bridges Charity provides grants for capital projects and village halls. The primary geographical area covered is Lancashire and South Cumbria, particularly the River Ribble area and northwards, the Blackburn area, and South Lakes. The application deadlines are 15th January, 15th May, and 15th September each year.

There's an application form on their website: www.haroldandalicebridgescharity.co.uk

Lake District Foundation

The Foundation offers grants to projects which deliver their goal that the Lake District and Cumbria will be an inspirational example of sustainable development in action, and a place where a prosperous economy, world-class visitor experiences and vibrant communities come together to sustain its spectacular landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage.

Email: info@lakedistrictfoundation.org, Tel: 07880811891, Web: www.lakedistrictfoundation.org

Magic Little Grants

Together with Postcode Community Trust, Localgiving is offering charitable organisations grants of £500 for projects which deliver any of the following:

Improving mental wellbeing; Enabling community participation in the arts; Preventing or reducing the impact of poverty; Supporting marginalised groups and promoting equality; Improving biodiversity and green spaces; Enabling participation in physical activity; Responding to the climate emergency and promoting sustainability; Increasing community access to outdoor space.

Email: help@localgiving.org

Web: localgiving.org/magic-little-grants

Morrisons Foundation

The Morrisons Foundation supports charities making a positive difference in local communities. Grant funding applications have a limit of £25,000 and must be submitted for fully-funded projects only. The Morrisons Foundation does not support part-funded projects. www.morrisonsfoundation.com

National Lottery Community Fund - Reaching Communities Grants

Village halls seeking National Lottery Reaching Communities Grants need to contact ACT for further information and support. Tel: 01768 425 666 or Email info@cumbriaaction.org.uk

Reaching Communities grants are for over £10,000 in England and support projects that enable communities to thrive. The grants are awarded to voluntary and community organisations or social enterprises for up to five years; funding project activities, operating costs, organisational development and capital costs.

Web: www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/reaching-communities-england

Tel: 0345 4 10 20 30

Email: general.enquiries@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk

NFU Mutual Charitable Trust

The NFU Mutual Charitable Trust supports charities working in agriculture, rural development and insurance. The Trustees are particularly interested in initiatives in the areas of education of young people in rural areas and relief of poverty within rural areas. Grants are available between £1000 and £50,000 with larger grants being reserved for projects which would have national significance.

Application deadlines in May and October. Visit: www.nfumutual.co.uk/about-us/charitable-trust

Postcode Neighbourhood Trust

The Trust supports smaller charities and good causes in the north of England under these themes: Improving mental wellbeing; Enabling community participation in the arts; Preventing or reducing the impact of poverty; Supporting marginalised groups and promoting equality; Improving biodiversity & green spaces; Enabling participation in physical activity; Responding to the climate emergency & promoting sustainability; Increasing community access to outdoor space.

There are monthly funding rounds and an online application form:

www.postcodeneighbourhoodtrust.org.uk

Prince's Countryside Fund

The Fund supports activity that results in a long-term positive impact on rural communities by helping the people that live and work in the countryside. The 'Supporting Rural Communities Grant' funds projects that enhance the viability and sustainability of rural communities.

Visit: www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk

Screwfix Foundation

The Screwfix Foundation currently offers local registered charities and not for profit organisations funding of up to £5,000. Applications are assessed in February, May, August and November.

Projects need to meet the following criteria:

- Applicants are registered charities or not for profit organisations.
- Projects help those in need by reason of financial hardship, sickness, disability, distress or other disadvantage in the UK.
- Projects relate to the repair, maintenance, improvement or construction of homes, community buildings and other buildings.

For information and to apply, search '*Screwfix foundation*' on their website: www.screwfix.com

Sir John Fisher Foundation

The Foundation supports charitable causes and projects in six main categories. These are:

Maritime; Medical and Disability; Arts; Education; Music; Community. The Foundation gives priority to projects and causes based in Barrow-in-Furness and the Furness Peninsula. Exceptionally, occasional community projects from the remainder of Cumbria and North Lancashire will be considered.

For more information visit: www.sirjohnfisherfoundation.org.uk

Suez Communities Trust

Suez Communities Trust provides funds to not-for-profit organisations to undertake work that is eligible under the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF). They support projects that make physical improvements at sites located in funding zones around qualifying sites owned by, SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK.

In Cumbria, this is the area around Kendal Fell quarry but eligibility can be checked via their website www.suezcommunitiestrust.org.uk

The Allen Lane Foundation

The Foundation focuses on funding 'unpopular causes'. Funding programmes are: Asylum seekers and refugees; Gypsies and Traveller communities; Offenders and ex-offenders; Older people; People experiencing mental health problems; People experiencing violence or abuse; and Young People (those experiencing or may have already suffered significant issues within their lives.)

Activities considered under the older people category include: befriending schemes, handyman services, intergenerational projects, access to transport and other services. Also advice services that help alleviate pensioner and fuel poverty, advocacy services and support that protect the elderly from any form of abuse. Lunch clubs and social activities will still be considered where it meets the criteria in this category.

Tel: 01904 613223

Email: info@allenlane.org.uk

Web: allenlane.org.uk

Walney Extension Community Fund

Ørsted has committed to a Fund worth approximately £600K a year for the lifetime of the project to construct an extension to the operational Walney offshore wind farm. Grants of between £500 and £50,000 are available to organisations in Barrow and specified coastal parts of Copeland and South Lakeland. Visit the website to check eligibility and apply online.

Web: grantscape.org.uk/fund/walney-extension-community-fund

Local Government Reorganisation

On 1 April 2023 local government in Cumbria changed. The six borough, city and district councils, along with Cumbria County Council, have been replaced by two new 'unitary' councils.

- **Cumberland Council:** www.cumberland.gov.uk
(Allerdale, Carlisle, Copeland)
- **Westmorland & Furness Council:** www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk
(Barrow, Eden, South Lakeland)

During the new authorities' first year, it is expected that grant funding will continue to be administered in the same areas and in the same way as it has been previously. If you have any queries, please contact the new Councils for more information.

ACT Community Buildings Service

ACT's Community Buildings Service offers the following throughout Cumbria:

- Telephone/Email support from an ACT Officer
- Free Community Buildings Events and Workshops
- Free ACT guidance sheets, case studies and other resources
- Free national ACRE village hall information sheets (on request only)
- Free entry on the Cumbria Community Buildings Directory
- Free ACT newsletter with community buildings news
- A voice for issues affecting community buildings and village halls at a national level, via Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)
- Bespoke support for individual groups at £50 per hour - additional free support may also be available if ACT has funding to work in your area, contact us for details.

ACTion with communities in cumbria champions community and rural issues



**For more information please contact ACTion with Communities in Cumbria on
Tel: 01768 425666 or visit our website: www.cumbriaaction.org.uk**

ACT champions community and rural issues

ACTion with Communities in Cumbria, Office Q Skirsgill Business Park, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 0FA

T: 01768 425666 | www.cumbriaaction.org.uk | info@cumbriaaction.org.uk | Follow us @ACTCumbria
Registered in England as Voluntary Action Cumbria | Charity Registration Number 1080875 | Company Number 3957858



©ACT 2023. This publication may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium provided that it is reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as ACTion with Communities in Cumbria copyright and the title of the publication specified.