

Central Scotland Green Network Community Project Fund 2017 Guidelines

Purpose

This year's CSGN Community Project Fund (CPF) is focused on supporting small-scale, community led projects that will increase community involvement in maintaining and enhancing the environment for local communities. CSGN is once again pleased to be working in partnership with Greggs Foundation. The Foundation has provided funding to support the CPF in 2017 from the carrier bag charges in Greggs shops across Scotland.

The fund is open to small community groups. All groups must be open membership groups, be constituted and have a bank account in their own name.

Funding is available for a wide range of activities such as enhancement, engagement and enjoyment of community greenspaces. Projects that contribute to biodiversity are particularly welcome.

Eligibility

Your Organisation

Organisations who wish to deliver a project within the CSGN area are invited to apply for funding. Groups must be able to demonstrate that they represent a community within the CSGN area and give a full description of how their project will be delivered, the difference it will make and the timescale for delivery.

CSGN Area – you can check if your project is in the eligible area using the [Forestry Commission Map Viewer](#). (Select Central Scotland Green Network from the boundaries folder in the Map Layers Menu at the right).

We are keen to receive applications from community organisations across the CSGN Local Authority areas. If you have never submitted an application before don't let this put you off, please get in touch and we will provide support and guidance.

Disadvantaged Communities – Priority will be given to projects which benefit communities in the 15% most deprived datazones (nationally) according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). Data from the SIMD can be accessed at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SIMD>. You will need to provide a reference for the relevant datazone(s) that your project will target.

Funding

Grant offers will be made inclusive of VAT.

Eligible costs could include capital and revenue costs such as materials, tools, equipment, maintenance and reasonable expenses for volunteers or community members but **will not** cover staff costs or management fees. You can apply for 100% of costs but if you have secured funding from other sources, please include these details within your application for funding. The fund is competitive and applications will be considered against other applicants and how the project meets the CSGN objectives.

Successful organisations may be paid upfront on receipt of signed terms and conditions. These conditions will include a requirement for organisations to provide receipted evidence of grant spend on project completion in addition to access to project accounts should this be requested by CSGNT.

Projects

Projects considered could include conservation and education projects such as developing a safe natural learning space, developing a growing area, biodiversity activities such as planting and improvements to ponds and wetlands, community events such as a park improvement day, volunteering in the outdoors, environmental events, woodland arts activities such as a nature woodland sculpture trail, carved log seating or mosaics. Feasibility projects are also welcome such as investigating opportunities to develop a local greenspace. This is not an exhaustive list as we are keen to keep the scope of the fund as wide as possible to encourage a range of projects and we are also open to projects which are a bit different and capture the interest and imagination of local people.

Assessment

Projects will be judged competitively against the purpose of the fund, eligibility criteria and against each other to ensure that the highest quality projects receive funding.

Timescales/Key Dates

Applicants should note the following:

The CPF will be open for applications from Monday, 20 March 2017.

The deadline for completed applications and all supporting information is **12 noon on Monday, 1 May 2017**.

Applicants will know the outcome of their application no later than 3 weeks following the deadline for submissions.

Successful organisations must complete project activity, provide evidence of spend and provide a short end of project report by 30 September 2017.