

# SK Community Fund

## Small Grants Fund – Eligibility Criteria

The SK Community Fund Small Grants fund is open to small or new groups that are involved in community projects and events that benefit the residents of communities in the district. Groups and organisations must demonstrate how their project or event will deliver wide benefit, contributing to the sustainability, vitality and well-being of the communities of South Kesteven and the Council's priority of Connecting Communities. Decisions on funding will take up to 12 weeks.

### Who can we fund?

- constituted voluntary or community groups or clubs
- registered charities
- charitable incorporated organisation (CIO)
- community interest companies (CIC) and companies limited by guarantee
- schools or PTFAs (but only for projects that benefit communities beyond the school and not for education costs or projects that only benefit the school itself)
- Scout, Guides, Cadet groups (but only for projects that are open to the wider community and not solely for the benefit of the group)
- sports clubs (but only for projects that are open to the wider community and not solely for the benefit of the club).

To apply to the SK Community Fund your group or organisation must have:

- a written governing document or constitution
- a bank or building society account in the name of your group or organisation with at least two signatories who are unrelated and do not live at the same address
- relevant policies and procedures
- written endorsement from the [District Councillor](#) in whose Ward the project/event will take place.
- where possible, photographic evidence should be supplied with your application.

### What we can fund

All projects must take place within South Kesteven and provide public benefit, which could be targeted at a specific demographic, or the community as a whole.

**Grants are available to groups requiring funding of between £100 to £2,000 for community events and community projects through the Small Grants Fund.** Groups and organisations eligible to apply should have financial resources which do not exceed £5,000.

**Capital and Revenue** funding is available through the Large Grants Fund.

Revenue funding is available for activities where there is no lasting asset including events, performances and activities or to cover the set-up costs of an organisation for example. Activities must be open to community participation. Revenue funding is provided as one-off support. Groups therefore need to evidence how they will become self-supporting as the SK Community Fund will not support costs year after year.

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The programme will fund across four categories:

<p><b>New buildings and repairs/refurbishment to existing buildings.</b></p> <p>Building of new village halls, community halls, sports pavilions, Scout/Guide huts, etc and include the purchase of land (sports/Scout buildings must also be open to use by the wider community). Significant repairs to community buildings (must be owned or have a lease agreement with a minimum of 5 years remaining)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roofing, windows, doors, floors</li> <li>• Rewiring, insulation, solar panels, heat-pumps and associated professional, planning and installation costs especially where this improves the energy efficiency of the building</li> <li>• Re-tarmacking a community building car park or the development of new/additional car parking, that will benefit the building users</li> <li>• Refurbishment of toilets and changing rooms, especially to improve accessibility for all</li> <li>• New kitchen facilities to a venue, especially where this is to provide a community service such as lunch clubs, community cafes, etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Land, outside space, playgrounds, sports grounds, sports equipment</b></p> <p>Projects must be for community spaces and community driven. Equipment cannot be funded for closed groups that have no access to facilities and equipment for communities wider than their own membership/setting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community gardens and orchards, storage sheds</li> <li>• Water systems, water butts, composters</li> <li>• Mowers and other gardening equipment (not consumables such as plants, seeds, sharpening, repairs, etc) – <b>for community activity only</b></li> <li>• New/replacement play equipment - swings, roundabouts, skate ramps, climbing walls, slides, climbing frames</li> <li>• New or replacement safety surfacing e.g. under play equipment.</li> <li>• Outdoor gym, MUGA, etc. (but not simple repairs to existing equipment).</li> <li>• Acquisition of land and buildings for community use</li> <li>• Repairs to monuments and heritage assets</li> <li>• Access improvements to buildings and open spaces, riverbank enhancements</li> <li>• picnic tables, benches for community use.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indoor space</b></p> <p>Projects must be for the benefit of community spaces or for groups that provide community activity within such spaces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PA and audio/visual systems, sound systems and their installation.</li> <li>• New hearing loop systems</li> <li>• New seating and/or tables for halls</li> <li>• Desks, chairs and physical items of office equipment (laptops, printers etc) that support set-up costs of new groups</li> <li>• Indoor leisure equipment such as bowls mats, new-age curling equipment etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community Events and Activities</b></p> <p>Recurring events and activities are required to have a significantly new or different aspect in order to be eligible beyond initial funding and applicants must also be able to evidence how such events will become self-sustaining.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community celebrations</li> <li>• Open-to-all sports events</li> <li>• Street festivals and community street markets</li> <li>• Arts and cultural events etc</li> <li>• Fun days</li> <li>• Fetes, carnivals and festivals</li> </ul>

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Eligible applicants must have permission (where required) before applying to undertake any work on the buildings or on land not owned by them. If required, planning permission must be sought before applying.

We will require that, for funding sought for refurbishment projects applicants will need to:

- own the land or building, or
- have a lease on the building or land for a minimum of five years, or
- have an official letter from the land owner or landlord that states that you have their permission to carry out work on the building where the premises is secured on a long-term rental agreement (minimum 5 years).

Whilst match funding is not a specific requirement, South Kesteven District Council welcomes applications which include match funding, as this offers greater opportunity for the SK Community Fund to positively impact more of South Kesteven's residents and communities.

### What cannot be funded

The SK Community Fund is not open to applications from parish and town councils, individuals, or to closed groups e.g. residents' associations, patient participation groups etc. (set up costs for new groups may be eligible). Applications from groups which require participants to pay a membership fee will only be considered if the project/event is open to the wider community.

Whilst the SK Community Fund can support some revenue costings – examples listed under What We Can Fund above - funding **cannot** be sought for staffing costs or project coordination costs. Fees for sessional workers brought in to support events (artists, writers, performers etc) will be considered under the Community Events and Activities category. Sessional worker fees do not include fees for existing or regular employees or owners of the commissioning agency.

Other projects, events and activities that will not be supported include:

- projects, events and activities that have already taken place or that are underway at the time of the application
- projects or events that are for private gain
- projects or events that are deemed to be within the 'business as usual' of groups and organisations.
- projects or events that have already received South Kesteven District Council funding (e.g. Coronation Community Orchard Fund, Food Support Fund, Section 106 etc).
- General appeals or sponsorship
- activities of a mainly political or religious nature, improvements to the fabric of church buildings, and their fixtures and fittings etc (**non-religious community activities**, held within a place of worship, may be eligible).
- carpeting and soft furnishings as part of building refurbishment.
- contingency funds, income deficits, bridging loans or security against a loan
- events primarily intended to pass on surplus income to other organisations, e.g. charity concerts, fund raising events and activities, costs of prizes/gifts etc
- mobile phones, tablets (e.g. iPads), defibrillators, public footpaths and roadways or projects related to highways (including village signs or speed signage/cameras etc) or any other County Council areas of responsibility.
- Event costs incurred for catering/refreshments/alcohol.

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