



The East Cambridgeshire Community Fund Grant & Facilities Improvement Grant

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Community Grants and Funding at East Cambridgeshire District Council.

Community Fund Grants:

District Council budget for community groups to support new or existing community services. Maximum grant of £1000 available.

Facilities Improvement Grants:

District Council budget for Parish Councils and community groups where there is insufficient S106 or Community Infrastructure Levy receipts to fund projects to improve facilities. Capital grants only available to a maximum of £10,000.



SUPPORTING COMMUNITY PROJECTS



Community Fund Grants

District Council budget for community groups to support new or existing community services.

- * Maximum award £1,000.
- * Total Community Fund available in 2022/23 £8,000.
 - *Two application windows per financial year.
- *Aimed at Community groups in East Cambridgeshire

Purpose of the Grant

The aim of this small community grants scheme is to support local community groups to provide new or develop existing community services and initiatives that improve the quality of life for residents living in East Cambridgeshire.

There must be evidence of how the project meets local need, involves and empowers local people, ensures equality of access and an indication of how the project will be sustained. This grant scheme cannot give capital funding for buildings but can be used to buy equipment for the project.

Who is eligible?

Applicants must:

- * Have a written constitution
- * Have a management committee of at least three people: a Chair, a Treasurer and a Secretary
- * Have their own bank account with a requirement for two signatories for any payments made
- * Be able to provide an up to date copy of their accounts
- * Provide an Equal Opportunity and Child Protection Policy where applicable



Frequently asked questions regarding Community Fund

How will we know when the application window opens and how long is it open for?

This information is published on the website, promoted on our social media, and local groups, Parish Councils and charities will be made aware via email. We are happy to add interested groups to our mailing list .

What is match funding? How much do we need?

Match Funding needs to be 25% of the TOTAL project cost.

Can Match Funding be from other grant sources or as volunteer hours?

Yes. The balance of funding required for a project must be raised before the Council's grant is claimed and written documentary evidence must be submitted to the District Council to confirm this.

Can Parish Councils apply for Community Fund?

No, this fund is for Community groups and Charities based in East Cambridgeshire. But we encourage Parish/Town Councils to promote these within their local area.

We were successfully awarded a Community Fund Grant. Can we apply again?

Yes, but Community groups can only be successful once in a financial year.

Can we use the Community fund for hard landscaping open spaces, such as a new path?

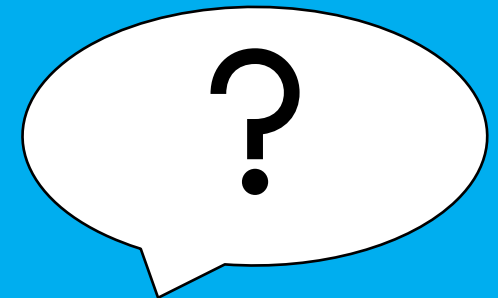
No, but it can be used for objects within an open space such as items for community gardens, for example benches or plants.

Can our School apply?

No. But pre-schools can apply for projects, provided they meet the other criteria.

Is there help and advice available before we apply?

Yes. East Cambs District Council are always happy to answer any questions and advise any groups filling out the forms.



How to Apply

The application form for the Community Fund can be found on the East Cambridgeshire District Council Website.

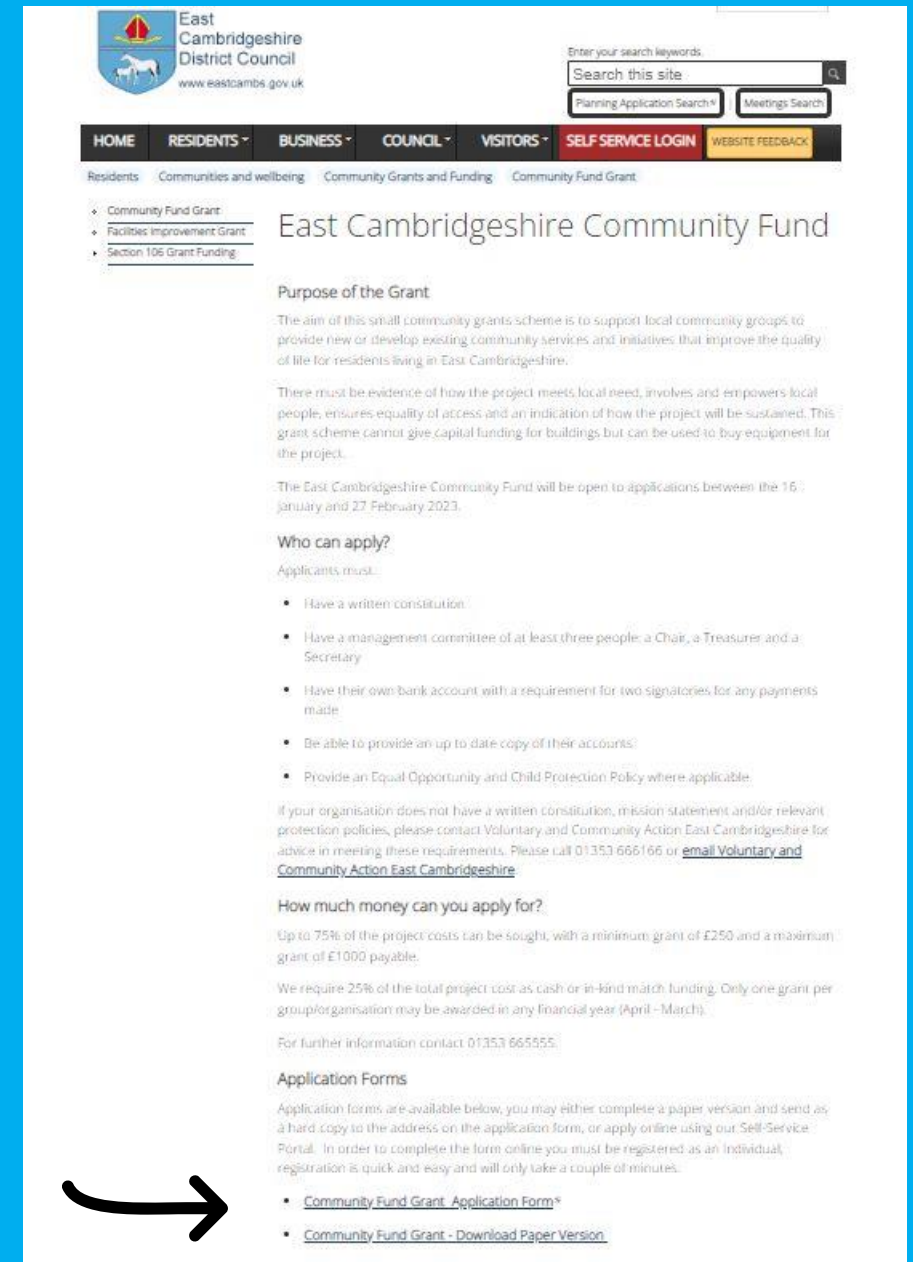
It is available to complete online , or as a downloadable form. Hard copies are available on request.

The window dates are published on this page, and an email circulated to local community groups, Charities and Parish/Town Councils once they are announced.

The application form itself contains the eligibility criteria, what we can and can't fund, and a contact number for a member of staff for any queries. We also promote the services of East Cambridgeshire community infrastructure organisations who can help with new groups that would like assistance and advice to get set up and meet the criteria.

Once received, all applications are checked. If we require further information, we will contact the applicant .

Eligible applications will then be scored against our scoring matrix by two members of the team individually. A joint score is generated from these scores, and those who score highest will be approved by management.



East Cambridgeshire District Council
www.eastcamb.gov.uk

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Community Fund Grant
Facilities Improvement Grant
Section 106 Grant Funding

East Cambridgeshire Community Fund

Purpose of the Grant

The aim of this small community grants scheme is to support local community groups to provide new or develop existing community services and initiatives that improve the quality of life for residents living in East Cambridgeshire.

There must be evidence of how the project meets local need, involves and empowers local people, ensures equality of access and an indication of how the project will be sustained. This grant scheme cannot give capital funding for buildings but can be used to buy equipment for the project.

The East Cambridgeshire Community Fund will be open to applications between the 16 January and 27 February 2023.

Who can apply?

Applicants must:

- Have a written constitution
- Have a management committee of at least three people, a Chair, a Treasurer and a Secretary
- Have their own bank account with a requirement for two signatories for any payments made
- Be able to provide an up to date copy of their accounts
- Provide an Equal Opportunity and Child Protection Policy where applicable

If your organisation does not have a written constitution, mission statement and/or relevant protection policies, please contact Voluntary and Community Action East Cambridgeshire for advice in meeting these requirements. Please call 01353 666166 or [email Voluntary and Community Action East Cambridgeshire](#)

How much money can you apply for?

Up to 75% of the project costs can be sought, with a minimum grant of £250 and a maximum grant of £1000 payable.


We require 25% of the total project cost as cash or in-kind match funding. Only one grant per group/organisation may be awarded in any financial year (April – March).

For further information contact 01353 665555.

Application Forms

Application forms are available below, you may either complete a paper version and send as a hard copy to the address on the application form, or apply online using our Self-Service Portal. In order to complete the form online you must be registered as an individual, registration is quick and easy and will only take a couple of minutes.

- [Community Fund Grant - Application Form*](#)
- [Community Fund Grant - Download Paper Version](#)





The Baby Bank at Fordham which was established three years ago to collect baby goods to distribute to those in need, was recently successful in applying for a grant.

Cilla Palmer, who organises the outreach project, said:

"We are very grateful to the council for its Community Grant Fund donation. On average 200 people a month use the Baby Bank and we are seeing demand for our services soar".

"We are fortunate in that we receive many donations of clothes and equipment, but milk and nappies are hard to come by and this grant has helped us to increase our stock at a time when parents need help the most."

Paula Budnik and her four month old daughter Daisy, who live in Soham, added:

"I regularly attend the Baby Bank as it is a great place to meet people and pick up equipment and clothes which all babies grow out of so quickly."

"I am fortunate in that I have not needed the nappies or the milk but I think it is great they are here and available for people who really need them."



Ely Baby bank – Successful in 2022

Facilities Improvement Grant

The aim of the Facilities Improvement Grant Fund is to develop and improve village halls, community centres, sport and leisure centres, play facilities and public open spaces, protecting and enhancing the quality of life for residents within East Cambridgeshire.

The Facilities Improvement Grant is for capital expenditure only.
Ongoing project running costs are not eligible.

* Maximum award £10,000.

* Total Fund available in 2022/23 was £45,000.

What can be Funded?

The project must fit into one of the following categories:

- * Community Centres/Village Halls
- * Multi-purpose Sports and Leisure Centres which serve the general public
- * Play Facilities
- * Open Spaces

Who can apply?

This grant scheme is open to all community based organisations that operate on a not-for-profit basis in East Cambridgeshire. An organisation can apply for Facilities Improvement Grant funding once during any given financial year. The facilities provided must be open and accessible to the general public with no membership restrictions in relation to the Equality Act 2010, and have wide public and community benefit.

Applicant bodies must have a constitution or set of rules.

The organisation must demonstrate that they have consulted with the local community, including the local Parish Council; that they have an equal opportunities policy in place and where relevant, have a child protection policy.

Section 106 and CIL

Any parish which has an allocation of Section 106 (S106) funding or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts that is not allocated and covers the full costs of the project are not eligible for Facilities Improvement Grant Funding. Community groups applying for this grant must check with their Parish Council whether S106 and CIL is allocated and spent (and therefore is insufficient funding for the project proposal), before making an application.



Frequently asked questions regarding Facilities Improvement Grants

When are applications open

The grant scheme is open all year round.. Please note that there is a maximum amount available for allocation each year, so it may not be possible to fund every application that meets the criteria.

Our Parish Council has S106 or CIL, can we apply?

If the S106 and/or CIL covers the entire project cost, then no.

If the S106 and/or CIL only covers part of the project, it is possible to apply to FIG .

If the S106, and/or CIL is already allocated to other projects, yes.

If the Parish Council do not have any S106 or CIL then yes.

What is match funding? How much do we need?

Match Funding needs to be 15% of the TOTAL project cost. This can be from other funding.

Can Parish Councils apply for Facilities Improvement Fund?

Yes. This grant scheme is open to all community based organisations that operate on a not-for-profit basis in East Cambridgeshire. An organisation can apply for Facilities Improvement Grant funding once during any given financial year.

The area or building of the project is leasehold. Do we need permission?

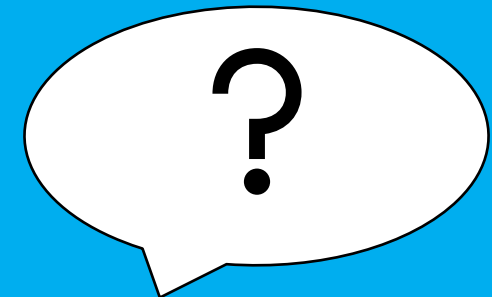
Evidence should be provided to show that your organisation has a satisfactory security of tenure on the site. If not owned by a public body, a minimum of a 25 year lease is required or a Covenant in place which protects public access to the site.

We were successfully awarded a Facilities Improvement Grant. Can we apply again?

Yes, but organisations can only be successful once in each financial year.

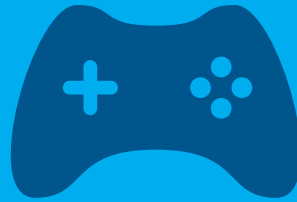
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Success Stories

Recent recipient of a Facilities Improvement grant Littleport Town Council, very recently installed an interactive gaming wall in the new youth and community building. Feedback from a Littleport Town Councillor - Our interactive wall was installed yesterday and it's fab. Some young people from the Youth Group came along to have a go and loved it.



Success Stories

Another recent recipient of a Facilities Improvement grant Haddenham Parish Council, installed a brand new play area at Ovins Rise, a new development in Haddenham. This new facility means that younger Children from the West of the village no longer have to cross a busy road to access a play area, and provides additional facilities for this growing village. From the press release by Haddenham Parish Council, The last word goes to the children who benefit from this Parish Council asset “It’s fab having this on our doorstep, we play there all the time,” says Ruth Asanga aged 9



Where do I find more information??

[East Cambridgeshire Community Fund | East Cambridgeshire District Council \(eastcambs.gov.uk\)](#)

[Facilities Improvement Grant | East Cambridgeshire District Council \(eastcambs.gov.uk\)](#)



Happy to answer any questions
Or if preferred,
via email stephanie.jones@eastcambs.gov.uk