

## Wessex Water Foundation Community Fund – opening 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

### CRITERIA & GUIDELINES

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#### About the Wessex Water Community Fund

The Wessex Water Community Fund supports charitable and community activities which aim to improve the lives of local people, especially those who are in the most need of support.

Grants are targeted at organisations where a small amount of money can make a significant difference.

The fund will seek to support a wide range of locally based groups across our region, especially grassroots and small to medium-sized organisations. We particularly welcome applications from BAME groups.

#### Priority will be given to work that:

- supports people in financial difficulty or those who lack access to services
- takes place in areas of multiple deprivation or rural isolation
- helps build stronger, more resilient communities
- helps people manage or avoid debt, including raising awareness and take up of utility affordability support, such as the Wessex Water schemes, among those who need it most
- educates and supports people of all ages to take steps to build financial capability, money management and household budgeting skills.

#### What you can apply for

You can apply for a grant towards costs for activities that strengthen communities by addressing local needs and issues. This may include core costs.

#### Who can apply?

- voluntary and community groups with charitable aims
- registered charities,
- community interest companies\*
- town and parish councils.

Funding is limited to local organisations based in the Wessex Water area. Applicants must be based and working in Wiltshire.

*Please note: **Swindon** and some surrounding areas are **not** served by Wessex Water and therefore groups in these areas are not eligible to apply for this fund. If you are unsure, please check with us before applying.*

We do not normally fund organisations which are holding more than 12 months of annual expenditure in unrestricted reserves. If your organisation is holding significant reserves, please make clear why these reserves cannot be used to cover the cost of the activity.

\*If your group is a Community Interest Company (CIC) you must be limited by guarantee and have a minimum of 3 directors, with the majority not receiving payment from the company.

#### Previous Applications

You cannot apply to the Wessex Water Community Fund if you have already received Wessex Water Environment Fund funding in the same year.

## How much do we award?

Grants available up to £3,000

## What we don't fund

- Applications from individuals
- National organisations or those based outside the region
- General appeals including for capital building projects
- Activities which are a statutory responsibility
- Political groups or activities promoting religious beliefs
- Animal welfare
- Arts or sports projects with no significant community or charitable element.
- One-off events with no significant community or charitable element.
- Medical research, equipment, or treatment
- Projects that take place before a grant can be awarded
- Activities that raise funds for other organisations

Applicants whose project is primarily focused on environmental themes or water refill points are advised to apply to the Wessex Water Foundation Environment Fund, opening in May 2022.

## How to apply?

The closing date **Friday 22 October 2021**.

You can apply online from our website at [Wessex Water Community Fund | Wiltshire Community Foundation \(wiltshirecf.org.uk\)](https://www.wessexwatercommunityfund.org.uk). If you have any difficulties applying online, please contact us. You will also need to provide the following:

- A copy of your constitution/governing document, if not registered at Companies House or the Charities Commission
- A copy of a bank statement in the name of your organisation which is no more than three months old. This bank account must have 2 unrelated signatories.
- A copy of your most recent annual accounts or financial records that show your organisation's balance of funds, income, and expenditure.
- An up-to-date safeguarding policy for your organisation. This is required even if you don't work directly with children or vulnerable adults. For guidance, please see <https://knowhow.ncvo.org.uk/safeguarding>

Apart from the bank statement, you do not have to send these if you have already sent these documents in the last 6 months to the Community Foundation

If you are not a formal group, and cannot provide the above, you will need to have another organisation apply for the funds in their own name.

## What will happen next?

Once we have received your application (including all supporting documents) it will be assessed by a member of staff. They may contact you for further information or to arrange to meet to discuss the application in more detail. The application will then go to a community panel for a decision. You will be notified of the outcome at the end of November 2021.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

All successful applicants will be sent a grant monitoring report form at the end of their project. This form asks for details of how the grant was spent and what was achieved.