



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Crowdfund Cotswold. Scheme outline and criteria

Crowdfund Cotswold is a movement on Spacehive, set up to support community projects in the Cotswold District. The online platform presents an opportunity for projects to raise funding from a wide range of support, including local people, local groups, charities and businesses. To attract projects to the movement, Cotswold District Council will use it to distribute its community grant budget. This fund will be called the Cotswold District Council Community Fund.

Cotswold District Council is allocating £110,000 to its Cotswold Community Fund. The fund will provide pledges to projects of up to £10,000. Typically projects can expect a pledge of up to 40%, but the Council will consider applying a premium to projects which are seeking to address climate change, the ecological emergency, or provide direct support to vulnerable groups.

Mission:

Supporting great ideas to make a greener, connected, healthier Cotswolds

Cotswold citizens know best what is needed in their neighbourhoods, what works, what's truly sustainable and they have the skills, creativity and talent/drive to shape their local area and the future they want. By working together with businesses and local communities we can make ideas a reality through crowdfunding. This will make a real difference and turn our beautiful District into an even better place to grow up, live, work, visit and grow old. Maybe even, the best!

What we will support

A budget to support Community Activity that makes our District special, this fund is set up to support community groups that:

- Improve the mental and physical health and wellbeing of your local community
- Propose solutions to directly address climate change
- Enhance lives through events and activities
- Support young people's ideas and ambitions

Annex A

- Help to tackle the barriers and challenges many of us experience in life, such as poverty, ill health, distance from services, social isolation/loneliness
- Promote food equity- projects that support building a fair food system for everyone
- Protect and enhance our natural and built environment
- Invest in and maintain the facilities we rely on for these activities to take place.

Exclusions:

We will not fund:

- Commercial activity – activity delivered for private profit.
- Commercial organisations and exempt* charities
- Activity that is more properly the responsibility of other statutory organisations (e.g. social care; bus subsidies).
- Party political promotion or activities.
- Activities related to religious worship. Faith groups may apply for non-religious activities but will need to demonstrate that the activity does not promote a religious view in any way and is inclusive.

Outcomes

- Community led change
- Improved health and food equity
- Well connected and resilient communities
- Improved mental and physical well being across all age groups and backgrounds
- Improved essential local infrastructure that facilitates rural living
- Improved environmental outcomes, such as carbon reduction, improved biodiversity or green infrastructure

Eligible Applicants

Eligibility will principally be determined by the aims of the project. The following are able to apply:

Public bodies, such as Parish Councils and schools – where they are delivering or hosting community projects - mainstream expenses such as salaries or replacement street furniture will not be supported

Registered charities and excepted charities**

Charitable Incorporated Organisations and Community Interest Companies

Social Enterprises

Unincorporated community groups

Individuals leading community projects - but not individuals for individual endeavour or benefit. Under 18s can create projects, but the project will need a project delivery manager, who takes responsibility for delivering the project. The project delivery manager must be at least 18 years old.

Phased projects, annual events and repeat applications.

Our funding is designed to support projects, not ongoing costs. Projects may be broken down into different phases, where each individual phase can be delivered independently of the other. Annually occurring activities, such as annual events, are eligible, where each year is dependent upon securing funding.

Where a project is broken down into phases, pledges from this fund will not usually exceed £10,000 in a single year, nor £15,000 over three years. For events, applications for activity in consecutive years will be considered, but project creators should seek to increase their pool of supporters, and investigate alternative means of sustaining activity. Projects contributing significantly to the Council's priorities or demonstrating innovation will be looked upon favourably.

Grant to an individual organisation is not capped at the project maximum – creators are welcome to propose multiple projects, although such projects should be clearly discreet activities (PLEASE NOTE: Spacehive do not recommend project creators propose more than one project per funding round, to focus backers towards one funding goal). Where projects are part of a larger scheme, the Council reserves the right to view such activity in the round, and pledge accordingly.

Decision-making

All projects seeking support will be expected to complete a set of questions to determine the eligibility of their projects. Cotswold District Council will consider these responses, and the organisations eligibility on the points raised above to determine if activity is eligible. Projects will also need to demonstrate that they have local support for the activity proposed. Typically this will be through pledges offered on the Spacehive website, but projects are also able to upload 'off' line and pre-existing funding offers to evidence the support already offered. Projects will need to evidence both eligibility and local support to be offered a pledge by Cotswold District Council. The District Council has committed the following principles in all its work:

- rebuilding trust and confidence in the Council by promoting a culture of openness and transparency
- providing value for money for our residents and businesses by using our resources wisely and investing in the District's fabric and future
- listening to the needs of our community, and acting on what we hear.

The Council retains its discretion to choose not to pledge against a project, or to pledge a higher or lower sum.

** Exempt charities - primarily larger education establishments or larger museums.*

*** Excepted Charities. Charities which do not need to be registered - include schools, churches, scout and guide groups.*