

Brenkley Lane Community Fund

Grant Guidelines

Who can apply?

Banks Brenkley Lane Surface Coal Mine Community Fund (the Fund) provides grants to community groups, voluntary organisations and the local community in the area of Banks Brenkley Lane Surface Coal Mine. Eligibility will normally be restricted to the wards of Castle Ward of Newcastle upon Tyne, where the priority will be for projects in the villages of Dinnington, Brunswick, Hazlerigg, and the Brenkley and the Ponteland East Ward of Northumberland, where the priority will be to fund projects in the Stannington, Milkhope, Blagdon and Horton Grange area.

Community groups, voluntary organisations and environmental projects that are charitable, educational, philanthropic or benevolent in purpose can apply to the Fund. This includes but is not restricted to:

- Playgroups
- Youth clubs
- Sports clubs and facilities
- The Scout and Guide Movement
- Senior citizens clubs and activities
- Village halls
- Church halls
- Local charities that benefit local people
- Environmental projects
- Schools (for non-statutory projects that are not normally funded by Durham County Council)
- Education, employment, training and skills development for unemployed people

Grants will be available towards capital costs of purchase as well as for associated maintenance, revenue, or project management fees which could include salary costs. These should not normally exceed 10% of the grant value.

How much you can apply for?

You can apply for us to £5,000 per year. Please note that the grant will be paid in arrears, on submission of appropriate evidence that all work and activities have been completed satisfactorily. Alternatively, suppliers and contractors can be paid directly by the Foundation where required.



Under no circumstances will grants be awarded retrospectively i.e. you must apply for and be approved for grant funding before any project work or activity takes place.

Grants should be drawn down within 12 months from the award date. For projects where the grant awards run over multiple years, each phase must be completed in line with the grant offer terms and conditions agreed at the time of the award. If you do not draw down your grant within the agreed period, the Community Fund Committee (CFC) has the discretion to recommend a time extension to the Foundation or may recommend withdrawal of the award.

What we will not fund

- The advancement of religion or political activities
- Activities understood to be the responsibility of statutory authorities
- Projects outside the area of benefit
- Activities contrary to the interests of the Funder or any associated entities
- Activities likely to bring into disrepute the Fund, the Funder or the Foundation
- Retrospective funding i.e. paying for costs incurred before a grant has been formally approved by the CFC and ratified by the Foundation
- Services or facilities already funded by the local authority or other statutory body at the time of application (other than as part of a match funding application)
- Projects of no benefit to the community of environment in the area of benefit
- applications from national or regional charities with no specific projects in the eligible area
- Projects relating to improvements to land that is not open to the general public
- Requests for sponsorship
- Requests for deficit or retrospective funding for projects and activities that have already taken place
- Statutory or other legal duty of a governmental department, local authority or other public body to carry on.
- Individuals

Need more help?

If you are unsure about whether you are eligible to apply, please contact us on 0191 378 6342 or email fundmanager@bankscommunityfund.org.uk or contact the Community Engagement Co-ordinator for your area from the Banks Group.

Please note that in submitting your application you, or a person in your organisation who knows the details of your application, should be available to speak to us during the next month. Applications can take up to 12 weeks before a decision is made.