

Potential funding for community green spaces



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Contents

Introduction	3
Section 1	
Grant schemes relevant to community green spaces initiatives	
The Office for Civil Society	4
Big Lottery Fund	4
Access to Nature	5
Heritage Lottery Fund	5
Community Development Foundation	6
Sport England	7
The Landfill Tax Credit Scheme	7
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	7
Age UK	8
Lloyds TSB Foundation	8
The Co-operative Group	9
The Country Land and Business Association Charitable Trust	9
Community Foundations	9
Grants from companies and local businesses	9
The Design Council	10
Big Tree Plant	10
Forestry Commission	11
Biffa Awards	11
Ernest Cook Trust	12
Home Office	12
Tudor Trust	12

Section 2

Organisations to contact for further information about grants

National Council for Voluntary Organisations	13
Council for Voluntary Services	13
Allotments Regeneration Initiative	14
Directory of Social Change	14
Granfinder	15
Funderfinder	15
Environmental Funders Network	15

Introduction

This document sets out the potential funding available to community and voluntary organisations for community green space initiatives. The aim is to identify the different grant schemes open to local groups, green spaces, allotment organisations or trusts, and also where to go to get help when looking for funding.

The government expects local authorities to empower their communities and maintain strong links with the voluntary and community groups. The current Localism Bill includes new community Rights designed to enable local people to play a major part in shaping and helping to manage green spaces where they live.

This document serves only as a guide and may not cover all the sources of funding available as grant schemes come and go and criteria change all the time. However, we do aim to keep this document as up to date as possible on an on-going basis.

There are different schemes for different purposes with different criteria. It is important that anyone looking for grants considers their objectives and project planning alongside the criteria for grant schemes to optimise their eligibility. Making an application for funding requires you to inspire confidence in your ability to handle money and to calculate your costs before completing your grant application.

Section 1

Grant schemes relevant to community green spaces initiatives

The Office for Civil Society

The Office for Civil Society has responsibility for charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations who work with the Cabinet Office. Its main areas of interest are:

- making it easier to run a charity, social enterprise or voluntary organisation
- getting more resources into the sector, strengthening its independence and resilience
- making it easier for sector organisations to work with the state.

OCS will oversee government plans to spend £470m over the next four years building the capacity of the voluntary sector to deliver the Big Society.

www.civilsociety.co.uk/

BIG Lottery Fund

Every year BIG Lottery Fund gives millions of pounds from the National Lottery to good causes. Their money goes to community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment. The following are examples of programmes for which community green space projects may qualify:

Jubilee People's Millions

Jubilee People's Millions is for people who have a great idea for a project to inspire their local community which involves local people working together to tackle a problem and need up to £60,000 to make it happen. The Jubilee People's Millions BIG will be making 60 awards of up to £60,000 to new projects that will take place in 2012 and improve local places or the lives of people in the community.

Basics Programme

The programme aims to ensure that voluntary and community organisations throughout England have access to high quality support that will help them to be more effective

Healthy Families: Childs Play

Child's play focuses on new approaches to structured play, and projects that apply must come up with creative play schemes that challenge and stimulate children. Big Society Lottery fund will also support projects that make the link between play nutrition and activity

Awards for All

Awards for All is a lottery grants programme aimed at local communities throughout the UK. Grants of between £300 and £10,000 are available to support participation in art, sport, heritage and community activities, and projects that promote education, the environment and health in the local community. Applications can be made at any time, the application form is short and simple, and the outcome is given to the applicant within eight weeks.

www.awardsforall.org.uk

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/

Access to Nature

Access to Nature is a yearly grant scheme to encourage people from all backgrounds to understand, access and enjoy the natural environment.

Funded by the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme and by Natural England's, Access to Nature on behalf of a consortium of major environmental organisations.

www.naturalengland.org.uk

Heritage Lottery Fund

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund gives grants to sustain and transform our heritage. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions. As the largest dedicated funder of the UK's heritage, with around £180m a year to

invest in new projects and a considerable body of knowledge and evaluation over 15 years, they are also a leading advocate for the value of heritage to modern life. The Heritage Lottery Fund has supported more than 33,900 projects allocating £4.4bn across the UK. The land and biodiversity project is one of the projects they fund to help enhance and rejuvenate historic public parks, making valued green spaces more accessible, attractive and safe. Visit their website to see their funding programmes and how to apply

www.hlf.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx

Community Development Foundation

Community First

Community First is an £80m government-funded programme that will run for four years, until March 2015. It will help communities come together through new and existing community groups, to identify their strengths and local priorities, plan for their future and become more resilient.

Big Local

Big Local is a ten year programme working with and supporting communities, in up to 150 selected areas, to make where they live and work a better place now and in the future.

Active at 60

Active at 60 is a £1m government grant programme, offering funding to community groups to help people in their 60s keep active and make the most of their later lives.

www.cdf.org.uk/

V

This is an independent youth-led charity, V, was launched on 8 May 2006 to take the lead in delivering a step change in the quality, quantity and diversity of volunteering opportunities available to young people aged 16-25 in England

<http://vinspired.com/>

Sport England

Sport England provides funding for various sporting projects including those connected to Urban Green Spaces.

www.sportengland.org/

The Landfill Tax Credit Scheme

The Landfill Tax Credit Scheme is a scheme for the distribution of funds generated from Landfill Tax in the UK. The Scheme was designed to help mitigate the effects of landfill upon local communities. It encourages partnerships between landfill operators, their local communities and the voluntary and public sectors.

Landfill operators must pay a tax to the Government on every ton of waste they dispose of in a landfill site. The Landfill Communities Fund allows landfill operators to 'offset' a percentage of the landfill tax and give a proportion of it to organisations who deliver environmental objectives, instead of paying it as tax to Government.

There are two methods of receiving funding through the Landfill Communities Fund. These could be either:

- from an organisation that distributes the monies on a landfill operator's behalf. These are commonly known as **distributive environmental bodies** . You are far more likely to receive money via a distributive environmental body than you are directly from a waste management company; or
- directly from a **landfill operator**.

If you seek to obtain money via distributive environmental bodies you may need to enrol with ENTRUST, we strongly recommend that you check with the distributive environmental bodies first whether they are willing to fund your proposed work before contacting ENTRUST.

www.entrust.org.uk/home/lcf/about/entrust

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation

The aim of the foundation is to improve the quality of life throughout the UK. Their primary interests are in the cultural life of the UK, education and learning, the natural environment and enabling disadvantaged people to participate more fully in society.

The foundation have funded the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens giving money towards the core costs of running the Allotments Regeneration Initiative as well as contributing to the core costs of the Federations plans to increase allotment use. Other organisations they have funded include Harrow in Leaf and Newcastle City Council.

www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk/

Age UK

Age UK, formally Age Concern, grants are for organisations working with people in later life. Their grants help organisations that make life better for older people, by addressing people's immediate needs or tackling the root causes of problems they are experiencing. Organisations receiving their grants must be independent, not for profit and accessible to all people in later life.

Age UK give out several million pounds each year in grants. Their grant funds are built up from donations by individuals, charitable trusts and companies. They also receive government and lottery funding to be given to local projects. They do not give grants to individuals.

For further information on grant programmes currently open to applications, please contact them at:

www.ageuk.org.uk/

or call Age UK free on **0800 169 8787**

Lloyds TSB Foundation

The TSB scheme aims to support charities that help disadvantaged people play a fuller role in the community by delivering lasting changes and benefits for their users/beneficiaries. TSB funding is needs-driven and their portfolio of grant making programmes is designed to fund issues that affect individuals as well as multiple communities.

www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk

The Co-Operative Group

The Community Fund is a grant scheme designed to help local communities throughout the UK. Members of the Co-operative Group who want to help improve the lives of others, donate part or all of their share of the profits. These members have already raised millions of pounds each year for all kinds of community projects.

www.co-operative.coop/communityfund

The Country Land and Business Association Charitable Trust

A fund, operating in England and Wales, to provide facilities for the disabled and disadvantaged to take part in recreation and education in the countryside. The trust is supported by the Country Land and Business Association

www.cla.org.uk/About_the_CLA/Charitable_Trust_Introduction/

Community Foundations

Community Foundations are charities across the UK dedicated to strengthening local communities, creating opportunities and tackling disadvantage and exclusion issues. .

Community Foundations target grants that make a genuine difference to the lives of local people. They manage funds donated by individuals and organisations. Building endowment and acting as the vital link between donors and local needs, connecting people with causes, and enabling clients to achieve far more than they ever could by themselves.

www.communityfoundations.org.uk/

Grants from companies and local businesses

Numerous companies and local businesses are now giving various grants to community and voluntary groups in their areas to promote the benefits of green spaces and community engagement. This is often as part of their policy on corporate aid responsibility

Organisations that maybe able to advise on potential sources of funding are listed in Section 2. A good example of this is UnLtd a charity which supports social entrepreneurs - people with vision, drive, commitment and passion who

want to change the world for the better. They do this by providing a complete package of funding and support, to help these individuals make their ideas a reality. UnLtd is one of the UK organisations to provide an individually tailored combination of cash funding, practical support and networking opportunities. They provide several levels of awards ranging from £500 to £60k.

www.unltd.org.uk/

The Design Council

Grants of up to £7,000 are being offered to support smaller organisations to work with the local community to develop their own vision of how their built environment should evolve.

The programme will award grants of up to £7,000 to not-for-profit organisations. The grants are for improving the design quality of the built environment, by providing support to neighbourhood projects including green space projects. The deadline for applications this year was Monday 1 August 2011, but the Design Council have said they will confirm in due course what their plans will be for similar grant schemes in the future.

www.designcouncil.org.uk/

Any queries about this grant should be e-mailed to Elspeth Wray:

neighbourhoodgrants@designcouncil.org.uk

Big Tree Plant

The Big tree Plant is a campaign to encourage communities in England to plant more trees .Over 30 projects from a wide range of community groups have so far been offered £1.6m funding as part of the scheme. These projects aim to plant an additional 295,000 trees over the coming four years but the Big Tree plant want to do more to meet their target of one million trees. Further information on how to get involved in the scheme is available at:
[http://www,direct.gov.uk/thebigtreeplant](http://www.direct.gov.uk/thebigtreeplant)

thebigtreeplant.direct.gov.uk/funding.html

Forestry Commission

The English Woodland Grant Scheme provides grant support for landowners wanting to create new woodland and carry out sustainable woodland management, particularly where it protects and enhances the woodland's environmental or social value. The Forestry Commission's English Woodland Grant Scheme consists of six main grants:

- **Woodland Planning Grant** (to produce a woodland management plan)
- **Woodland Assessment Grant** (to collect information that assists management decision)
- **Woodland Improvement Grant** (to carry out capital projects in woodlands such as access tracks, uneconomic thinning, coppicing, rhododendron clearance and public access facilities)
- **Woodland Regeneration Grant** (to re-establish trees after felling)
- **Woodland Management Grant** (to carry out regular work such as ride management and pest control)
- **Woodland Creation Grant** (to create new woodland).

www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs

Biffa Awards

Biffaward is a multi-million pound fund that helps to build communities and transform lives through awarding grants to communities and transform lives through awarding grants to community and environmental projects across the UK. It supports projects that will be of lasting environmental benefit, increase or maintain biodiversity, improve quality of life and foster vibrant communities. Funding is directed to projects that provide and improve public amenities for communities within 10 miles of a Biffa operation. Three types of grants are available:

- **Community** (for projects that provide and improve community facilities)
- **Biodiversity** (for projects that conserve wildlife species and habitats); and
- **Small Grants** (for projects that enable communities to improve local amenities and to conserve wildlife).

www.biffaward.org/

Ernest Cook Trust

The Ernest Cook Trust is one of the UK's leading educational charities. Rooted in the conservation and management of the countryside, the Trust actively encourages children and young people to learn from the land through hands-on educational opportunities on its estates and by offering grants. The Trust gives grants to registered charities, schools and not for profit organisations wishing to encourage young people's interest in the countryside, the environment or the arts (in the broadest sense).

www.ernestcooktrust.org.uk/grants/index.html

Home Office

The purpose of the *Community Action Against Crime Innovation Fund* is to stimulate creative new approaches to tackling crime. It is designed to do so by empowering local groups to develop innovative projects to tackle local community safety problems. The Home Office are particularly keen for the fund to be made available to grass roots community activists who are not the usual recipients of government grants.

The Home Office also want the fund to encourage the voluntary sector to work more closely with local Community Safety Partnerships, and other statutory agencies that impact on community safety, to drive co-design and co-delivery of services.

This Innovation Fund will be worth £5m in 2011-12 with a further £5m set aside for 2012-13. Applications will be invited from voluntary and community sector organisations. Full details of the application process for 2011-12 will be made available on the Home Office website shortly.

Further enquiries on the Community Action Against Crime: Innovation Fund should be addressed to: CAACFunding@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/

Tudor Trust

The Tudor Trust is an independent grant making trust supporting both voluntary and community groups working in UK. Tudor Trust grants help smaller, community-led groups which are supporting people at the margins of society.

<http://tudortrust.org.uk/what-we-do/about-our-grants/>

Section 2

Organisations to contact for further information about grants

In the search for grants, it is recommended that you contact organisations that might be able to offer professional advice and expertise. There are organisations who can assist with the completion of application forms or who know up to date information about grants available. Talking to people who have succeeded in obtaining funds can also be useful.

Examples of organisations that can provide help in this respect are listed below:

National Council for Voluntary Organisations

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations is the national voice of local support and development organisations in England. The organisation champions and strengthens voluntary and community action by supporting our members in their work with over 160,000 local charities and community groups.

The Council believes voluntary and community action offers solutions to the challenges we face. Action rooted in communities brings local people together to campaign, volunteer and provide services. Uniquely, the Council is a national membership organisation with a grassroots view. Their membership network of over 400 local support and development charities, such as councils for voluntary service and voluntary actions keeps them in touch with the views of local charities and community groups across the whole of England.

www.navca.org.uk

Council for Voluntary Services

A council for voluntary service is a voluntary organisation set up, owned and run by local groups to support, promote and develop local voluntary action. Councils for voluntary services provide their members with a range of services and are a voice for the local voluntary sector.

Usually funded by the local authority and other statutory agencies, there is a council for voluntary services working in almost every district and city. Each council differs in character and size, although they usually work to the same geographical boundaries as the local authority. They also differ in name. Many are called council for voluntary service, while others might be called voluntary action or voluntary sector council's.

All councils for voluntary services will be able to provide fundraising advice. The support available varies but can include training courses. Funding surgeries to help you complete grant application forms, funding news in newsletters or email bulletins and access to directories or databases of local and national funding opportunities. There is also a lot of grant-funding information on their website.

Some services may be available to non-members, but usually associations will need to join the council for voluntary services to benefit fully from the range of services available.

Membership conditions and charges vary but membership represents excellent value for money.

Funding central

Funding central is a free website for all voluntary and social enterprise schemes including community groups, providing access to thousands of funding and finance opportunities.

The site contains a support and advice page providing funding advice for voluntary, community or social enterprise organisations in need of funding advice with specific information on grants, contracts, loans and finance.

www.fundingcentral.org.uk/Default.aspx

Allotments Regeneration Initiative

Specific and wide-ranging advice on fundraising for allotments is available in the Allotments Regeneration Initiative's information pack, *A Guide to Fundraising for Allotment Associations*, which is available as a free download from the Initiatives' website. The pack also includes advice on reducing spending through recycling and the use of volunteer labour and ways of generating additional income within the limits imposed by the Allotment Acts, such as sales of produce, trading huts, events and social enterprise.

www.farmgarden.org.uk/ari

Directory of Social Change

The Directory of Social Change is an independent charity with a vision of an independent voluntary sector at the heart of social change. They achieve this

by providing essential information and training to the voluntary sector. Since they started in 1974, they have been running courses and have published charity and voluntary sector books on fundraising, management, organisational and personal development, communication, finance and law.

www.dsc.org.uk

The following are the products of Directory of Social Change:

- www.trustfunding.org.uk
- www.companygiving.org.uk
- www.governmentfunding.org.uk
- www.grantsforindividuals.org.uk

Please note that you may need to subscribe to some of these websites to have access to them.

Grantfinder

Grantfinder is the UK's leading grants and funding information provider. Their database includes details in excess of 6,000 funding opportunities. Please note this is a subscription service

www.grantfinder.co.uk

Funderfinder

Funderfinder is a small UK charity producing online and offline applications, mainly for grant-seekers based in the UK. Please note this is a subscription service.

www.funderfinder.org.uk/

Environmental Funders Network

The Environmental Funders Network is an informal network of trust foundations and individuals making Environmental Funders Network grants on environmental and conservation issues.

Please note that the Environmental Funders Network is a funder-to-funder network and is not open to grant seeking organisations. Its main purpose is to

allow peer group contact between environmental grant-makers, and provide a forum in which issues of common concern can be discussed.

It might be useful to check the list of funders featured on their website. This contains lists of different trusts and foundations involved in the Network since it was launched. Funders have diverse interests, including the protection of individual species and landscapes, production of local food etc. The Network have also published a document showing where Green grants funding has been allocated across Britain and Northern Ireland.

www.greenfunders.org/