

Rother District Council Community Grants Scheme

About the Fund

The Rother District Council Community Grants Scheme supports grassroots projects that strengthen communities in Rother, promote a thriving local economy, improve wellbeing, and protect the environment. Grants are managed by Sussex Community Foundation on behalf of Rother District Council.

Who Can Apply

- Applications will be accepted from not-for-profit organisations including charities, community organisations and social enterprises with an income of less than £2 million. The Fund is not open to applications from individuals.
- Parish Councils are also eligible to apply to this Fund, but we particularly welcome community-led partnerships, where the community group takes the lead.
- Applications will only be accepted from formally constituted groups with a bank account set up in the name of the organisation.
- We will undertake all necessary due diligence to ensure applicants have the capability and capacity to manage funding responsibly and are suited to working to support the Rother community.
- We expect applicants to be based in East Sussex and demonstrate their ability to work locally in Rother through established networks or with local partner organisations.

Funding Criteria

The funding criteria is based on three of the four Sussex Community Foundation funding priorities: Improving Health, Reaching Potential, and Acting on Climate. Projects must address one or more of the following:

1. Reaching Potential / A Thriving Local Economy

- Initiatives that provide skills and training opportunities.
- Projects that support people to access job opportunities or enhance employability.
- Organisations offering volunteer placements to develop community engagement.

2. Improving Health / Live Well Locally

- Health and wellbeing activities aimed at addressing health inequalities.
- Projects that provide opportunities for older people to engage in activities Grants that promote positive health and well-being.
- Community sports and recreation projects promoting physical activity and well-being.

3. Acting on Climate / Green to the Core

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- Environmental conservation and biodiversity projects.
 - Initiatives that promote recycling, reuse, and reduction of waste.
 - Projects focused on sustainable energy and climate action at the community level.

What is available?

Funding is split between revenue and capital grants as set out below. Please note that there is £100,000 available and therefore, we are only anticipating giving out a small number of capital grants this year.

Revenue Grants – up to £10,000

- Supports day-to-day costs, staff, equipment, and project delivery for up to 12 months

Capital Grants – up to £20,000

- For building works, major equipment, or refurbishment. Note all match funding and permissions must be in place before applying;
- If you are intending to apply for between £10,000 - £20,000 for a capital grant, we recommend arranging a telephone call with our Grants & Relationships Manager, Pete Jones, **before making an application**, allowing plenty of time to complete your application.
- All capital projects must be completed within 12 months of an award being made.
- For applications above £10,000 we expect to see three estimates for the proposed work or equipment and an explanation of why a preferred supplier has been indicated.

How to Apply

1. Check Eligibility

Please ensure your organisation and project meet our criteria before applying.

2. Prepare Your Application

You will need to submit the following documents:

- Application form
- Constitution
- Recent accounts or financial statement
- Recent bank statement
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Safeguarding Policy (if relevant to your work)
- Management committee details – as part of the application form
- Referee contact details
- Budget and quotes (for capital grants)
- Evidence of match funding secured (for capital grants)
- Planning permission (if applicable)

3. Submit Online

Please apply via the [application form here](#).

4. Assessment and Decision

You will hear around the first two weeks in January. If successful, you will be issued with a grant agreement containing Terms and Conditions. You will receive an email confirmation once your application is submitted, and a member of the team will be in touch with any questions before our decision-making process takes place.

5. If Funded

You will need to:

- Complete your project or funded activity within 12 months
- Submit monitoring reports
- Acknowledge the funding in all publicity materials

Deadline

5pm Friday 16 October 2026