

Beyond Birmingham 2022 – Celebrating Communities Fund Round 1 Summer 2023 Overview and Guidance

‘Enabling a coordinated ward funding approach, to bolster local decision making and putting people at the heart of everything we do’

Overview

A new city-wide fund has been made available to [all 69 wards across Birmingham](#), building on the success of the Celebrating Communities initiative, part of the Birmingham 2022 Community Fund. Grants of up to £10,000* are now available from Birmingham City Council (BCC) for community groups and organisations to run initiatives that meet the aims of the fund. Round 1 of the fund is open for applications from **1 June to 30 June 2023**.

* To check how much funding is available in each ward please visit the [funding allocations webpage on the BCC website](#).

Background

Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games enabled local communities to come together and celebrate the arrival of the Games, in their way, through the delivery of a range of activities across Birmingham. To mark one year from the Commonwealth Games, Beyond Birmingham 2022 – Celebrating Communities Fund Round 1 Summer 2023 will connect local communities to the Birmingham Commonwealth Games Legacy Festival taking place in the summer.

Aims of the fund

Grants of up to £10,000* are now available to run initiatives which deliver against one of three themes which are described as follows:

- **Getting Active** – encouraging communities to get out and get active by participating in sports and recreational activities. The overriding aim should be to encourage residents, of all abilities and ages, to engage in physical activity and improve their health and wellbeing.
- **Ready, Steady, Fun – Connecting Communities** – delivering community projects such as improving communal space, and hosting community celebrations to develop active citizenship and reduce loneliness and social isolation.
- **Celebrating Culture - Supporting communities to showcase the culture of their local area** – developing community-led cultural events and initiatives that encourage intergenerational activities. Proposed schemes must harness the power of culture to bring people together, celebrate their identities, and the culture, heritage, and stories of their communities.

Who can apply

- Community groups and not-for-profit organisations can apply.
- Applicants should have a bank account, in the name of the group or organisation applying, or be able to identify a sponsor organisation to hold the funds on behalf of the group. If a group is not constituted, you can still apply for the funds, under the umbrella of another constituted group who will act as the fund holder for the grant (a sponsor).
- Individuals are not eligible to apply for this grant programme.
- Applications will be considered for up to £10,000.
- Only one application per organisation will be considered.
- Activity must take place in the Ward applied to.
- Multi-ward applications will not be considered in this grant round.
- Groups and organisations previously funded by NDSU who have not returned an evaluation will not be considered.

Please visit [Beyond Birmingham 2022 – Celebrating Communities webpages on the BCC website](#) for full details of the criteria for the fund.

How to apply

Please complete the short application form and email it to celebratingcommunities@birmingham.gov.uk by **Friday 30th June 2023 at 5pm**. Applicants should contact their Local Councillor(s) to discuss the application before submission. [Visit the BCC website to find contact details for your Local Councillors](#)

What we can support

We can make grants to most types of community activity or elements including core costs/essential running costs, revenue costs, small capital costs**, new projects or existing projects and one-off initiatives. ** Any small capital project must demonstrate a plan for their ongoing maintenance. The relevant council department will be consulted on any maintenance plans to provide assurance that the plan is robust.

How decisions are made

Applications will be reviewed against the criteria and a recommendation will be agreed at a Ward Forum meeting. Recommendations will be ratified by a Strategic Director to ensure the proposal is not already part of existing delivery plans, is financially affordable, legally achievable, and is compiled with Everyone's Battle, Everyone's Business principles and the Council's procurement procedure.

Support available

The NDSU will hold information sessions where potential applicants can come along to hear more about the fund, discuss ideas and find out more about what makes a good project. To register to attend one of the information sessions click the links below:

[Beyond Birmingham 2022 – Celebrating Communities Fund 2023-24 Information Session Wednesday 14 June at 6pm](#)

[Beyond Birmingham 2022 – Celebrating Communities Fund 2023-24 Information Session Monday 26th June at 5:30pm](#)

Birmingham Community Matters

As part of the Celebrating Communities Fund programme last year, Birmingham Community Matters (BCM) provided guidance for groups around subjects such as 'How to Involve Volunteers' and 'Using Parks and Green Spaces'. [View guidance documents and recordings of the sessions on the Birmingham Community Matters website.](#)

Evaluation

All funded projects must complete a monitoring report to provide evidence in the form of photographs, social media posts/videos etc (compliant with GDPR), and commentary to explain how the project has engaged the community and worked towards the aims of the fund.

Application process

Beyond Birmingham 2022 – Celebrating Communities Fund Round 1 Summer 2023 will be open for applications between Thursday **1 June – 30 June 2023 at 5pm**. Notifications of the outcome of each application and start dates for each project awarded funding will be flexible dependant of the dates of individual Ward Forum Meetings.

Fund opens	Thursday 1 st June 2023
Online information sessions	Wednesday 14 th June 2023 at 6pm Monday 26 th June 2023 at 5:30pm
Closing date for submission of funding applications	Friday 30 th June 2023 at 5pm
Internal due diligence processes and review of funding applications	By Wednesday 12 th July 2023
Recommendations will be agreed at a Ward Forum meeting and then ratified by a Strategic Director	From week comm 10 th July 2023
Notification of outcome of application and confirmation letters and Conditions of Grant Aid forms are sent to successful applicants	From week comm 17 th July 2023
Projects commence	From week. comm 24 th July 2023
Project to be completed	Sunday 31 st March 2024
Evaluation deadline	By Friday 12 th April 2024