

Community Improvements and Local Centre Improvement Funds

How your project will be assessed

We will be looking for projects that meet as many of the following:

- Bids must be for projects based within Surrey.
- **It must improve community facilities** – it should enhance the look and feel of your area and be an improvement to local facilities or the convenience, appearance or safety of community spaces or venues
 - a) For projects to improve a community facility or building (church halls, sports pavilions, community centres), or open spaces and play areas you can apply for a grant between £10,000 and £30,000
 - b) For projects to improve the environmental quality of your local shopping parades, you can apply for a grant between £5,000 and £30,000.
- **The project should have a wider community benefit** – you should be able to demonstrate how the project benefits and is accessible to the wider community
- **The project should make a real difference to people's lives** – it should promote public health and wellbeing, provide opportunities for community based initiatives such as clubs and youth activities, help people to live and age well independently by exploring their skills and connections, provide facilities that encourage physical activities for all ages.
- **It should encourage communities to work together and take greater responsibility for local issues** – for example, it might help increase volunteering among residents or encourage local people, businesses and the voluntary sector to work together to address issues affecting communities such as flooding that affected areas of Surrey in 2013/14, or increasing attractiveness to your local shopping area.

Restrictions

These are the things the Community Improvements Fund can't be used for:

- Supporting political organisations or individuals
- Covering ongoing revenue costs, including salaries
- Replacing withdrawn funding for existing projects
- Contravening any of the Council's agreed policies or priorities
- Supporting projects which involve taking sides on a planning dispute or relate to matters in which the County Council is a statutory consultee
- Funding planning applications or fees (applicants must have permissions in place, if this is not possible then information should be included on when this will be secured)
- Paying for a consultant to make an application to the fund on the applicant's behalf
- Retrospective funding (this means that funding cannot be used for projects that have been started prior to the Leader's decision)
- Funding can only be used for projects that have been outlined in the application form
- Funding will not be considered for projects that do not have ongoing maintenance plans

- Supplement existing funding available from the County Council towards a project
- Funding also cannot be approved for or provided to:
 - Private companies, private clubs or other membership organisations unless the wider community benefit/s of the project are clearly demonstrated
 - Projects that have already received funding from Surrey County Council (or where a separate application is pending this includes the Surrey Community Building Grants Scheme)
 - Local authorities or private companies to achieve their statutory obligations

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