

Fundraising

The cost of any large scale changes to your street such as speed tables or build outs will need to be provided by your council or housing association and they will administer it. You may however like to raise money yourselves for a variety of different things such as planters and plants, an art work or events and street parties.

Informal funding sources:

You may be able to raise money from *informal sources* such as local residents and their friends and families by arranging things like:

- ❖ Sponsored dog walks, litter picks or cycle rides
Table top or car boot sales
- ❖ Coffee mornings, cake sales or pub quizzes
- ❖ Raffles or Tombolas



N.B. If you are having a street collection or running a raffle you will probably need a permit. Contact the Licensing Team at your local Council.

- ❖ Local businesses or organisations
Rather than cash they may be able to provide in kind donations such as party food; a raffle prize; photocopying etc. Ask the business directly but think of ideas before you go and see them so that you come across as confident and organised.

Don't forget to thank people for donations by

- writing a letter of thanks and referring to them or putting their logo in your newsletter

- asking them to a photo opportunity with the local press. Mention them in any press articles.

Formal funding sources:

There are also some *formal funds* that you can apply to. The application usually needs to come from a constituted residents' group so you'll need to set one up if you don't have one. As well as a chair and secretary, you will need to have one person who is the treasurer of your group. He or she does not have to have detailed knowledge of accounts but will need to keep detailed records of money obtained and money spent. All money should be banked as soon as possible in an account that is clearly identified as belonging to the group - see sections on **Setting up a constituted residents' group** and **Support and training opportunities**.

- Your Council

Many Councils give small grants to local community groups. Look at www.direct.gov.uk, put in your post code or town and you can see the grants that your Council may offer. Alternatively ring your local Council and ask to speak to a community development worker. Apply in good time if you are arranging an event.

Your Council may also offer in kind donations e.g. paper for your newsletters or refreshments for an event. Talk to the highways officer that you are working with on your DIY Street.

- Awards for All

You will need to apply at least three months before you want your project to start. It will fund all types of things needed by community projects including publicity materials, venue hire, training, educational toys and games fees to hire equipment

The fund has a simple application process and you will hear the results within 8 weeks. You can apply for £300 - £5,000 (in Wales) or £10,000 (in England). Ring 0845 600 20 40 or look at www.awardsforall.org.uk for more information.

- Co-op Dividend Fund

Supports community groups who are making local improvements. The fund has a very simple application form and you can apply for £1000 - £5000. Applications are assessed every 3 months. Ring 01543 421366 or look at www.midlandscop.com for more information.

- The Naturesave Trust

Supports projects with a long term benefit which deal proactively with the root of a particular problem as opposed to merely reacting to the effects. The projects considered must be from environmental and conservationist groups and organisations who seek funding for specific projects. To discuss things phone 01803 864390 or mail@naturesave.co.uk.

- WCVA

Is the organisation that supports voluntary groups **in Wales** including the provision of some grants, the most appropriate of which is Communities First.

For general enquiries about wcva ring 0800 288 8329, e mail help@wcva.org.uk or look at www.wcva.org.uk. For information about the wcva Communities First fund ring 0800 587 8898 e mail: enquiries@communitiesfirst.info or look at www.communitiesfirst.info.

Support and funding organisations in **Scotland** include: **Voluntary Action Fund** - contact them by phone on 01383 620780 or email at info@voluntaryactionfund.org.uk and **Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO)** on 0131 556 3882 or enquiries@scvo.org.uk.

In **Northern Ireland** you can contact **Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA)** on 028 9087 7777 or info@nicva.org.

Some general fundraising information:

www.direct.gov.uk – this is a government website with information about the community. Search on the website for “voluntary and community groups – applying for funding”. This section explains some of the funding sources that might be available for you.

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations 0800 279 8798 www.nvco-vol.org.uk

Helpful fundraising websites that may be available at your local library

- www.funderfinder.org.uk
- www.grantsonline.org.uk
- www.access-funds.co.uk

Top Tip

When applying to any funding body read the small print on their guidance notes and ring them up to make sure your application is relevant to the type of things they fund.

Be realistic about the amount of money you ask for bearing in mind that there will probably be lots of applications to the fund.