



Neighbourhood Improvement Fund

<p>Purpose of the fund</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Improvement Fund is part of the Community Infrastructure Levy, which is a charge paid by developers to fund infrastructure, facilities and services to benefit the local community.</p> <p>Projects should focus on the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.</p>
<p>Are you Eligible</p>	<p>To be considered for Crawley Borough Council funding you must first demonstrate, via the site, that your project has the support of the community. The decision to make a pledge is at the discretion of the council.</p> <p>To be eligible for this fund your organisation must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently be crowdfunding on the Crowdfund Crawley Spacehive page. • Be run by community organisations, charities or social enterprises/ not for profit organisations, based in Crawley. • Have a governing document (constitution, set of rules or equivalent) that show how your group or organisation is run and managed. • Have a bank or building society account in the name of the group, with a minimum of two cheque signatures. • Have an equal opportunities and diversity policy covering the organisation and activity (which says that you will not discriminate on specific grounds). • Have an annual income or expenditure of less than £10 Million.
<p>What kind of projects are we interested in funding</p>	<p>Crawley Borough Council will consider projects that achieve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility Projects and Improvements – i.e. making a community space easier to access • Turning waste space into community areas • Improvements to Community Buildings/ resident facilities in shared spaces • Community Art projects – Murals, Sculpture etc. • Community Safety Projects – improvements to lighting, landscaping etc. • Energy Efficiency initiatives • Improvements supporting wildlife and green spaces • Non-physical play (e.g. painted games on courtyards) • Physical equipment in community spaces – play parks, outdoor gyms etc. • Planting improvements – wildflowers and trees • Recycling projects • Social Enterprises to monetise waste products – generating income through waste product innovation • Sustainable services for those with more specific needs <p>Crawley Borough Council will not pledge towards projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help only one individual • Do not promote community cohesion • Are one off events • Are managed by groups that have had a previous grant which has not been managed satisfactorily

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are raising funds for works or equipment already committed, bought or completed (including trips). • Solely benefit people who live outside of Crawley. • Include administration costs, general running / revenue costs • Include volunteer costs/ expenses • Include rent/ hire charges • Include unspecified expenditure (e.g. campaign with flexible funding) • Promote a specific political party or faith • Interfere with Council business • Place an unauthorised financial implication on the Council <p>Crawley Borough Council reserves the right to not fund a project or to withdraw funding during a campaign if it becomes apparent that any of the criteria are not being met.</p>
What are the criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects must benefit the people of Crawley. Priority will be given to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Helps improve the local environment and public spaces ○ Helps meet the demands that development places on the need for community services and facilities within the town. ○ Demonstrates added benefits for the town, e.g. using local businesses or skills of local people. ○ Has a lasting impact on the local area and local people
Awarding Funds	<p>This is not a grant application. You do not apply for a specific amount of funding. You may be awarded up to 50% of the total project target, capped at £5,000.</p>
Pitch Process	<p>The Neighbourhood Improvement fund will only be accessible to projects running crowdfunding campaigns on Spacehive.</p> <p>When you set up your crowdfunding campaign you will have the option to pitch to the Neighbourhood Improvement fund through Spacehive.</p> <p>When we receive your pitch via Spacehive we will confirm receipt and let you know if you need to provide further information.</p> <p>Once the final decision after consideration has been made regarding your pitch, if the Council agrees to make a pledge, we will add our pledge to your page.</p>
Assessing you pitch	<p>The Council assessment process will consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The level of interest the projects generates from the “Crowd” • The extent to which it benefits the people of Crawley. • Consideration will also be given to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The amount of development that has taken place in the area. ○ How much has been pledged in that area already. • Ensuring the applicant organisation meets the eligibility criteria. • Establishing if the application for which funding is sought is suitable to be funded under this programme and is consistent with the expressed purpose of the fund. • Considering if the application is clear as to what is being asked for and testing that costings are accurate, appropriate and represent value for money. • Considering the difference the activity will make within the context of the local community as a whole.

Payment arrangements	For those projects where the Council agrees to make a pledge, payment will be made by BACS transfer into your nominated bank account within ten working days of the relevant Council meeting.
Monitoring requirements	You will be required to provide evidence to demonstrate the successful delivery or completion of your funded project via Spacehive. Failure to do so could lead to the Council taking steps to reclaim the funding from you.
Further information/ clarification	If you require any further information or clarification with regard to any of the items contained within this factsheet, please contact us at: crowdfundcrawley@crawley.gov.uk