



Neighbourhood Improvement Fund Funding Guide

<p>Purpose of the fund</p>	<p>Using money collected from developers, Crawley Borough Council created the Neighbourhood Improvement Fund. 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 eligible for this fund your organisation must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be run by community organisations, charities or social enterprises/ not for profit organisations. • 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. • Project must take place in Crawley.
<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. • 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 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	The Neighbourhood Improvement Fund is intended to support small local projects. Project proposals can request a minimum of £1,000 and up to a maximum £5,000.
Assessing your application	<p>The Council assessment process will consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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.
Payment arrangements	For successful applications, payment will be made by BACS transfer into your nominated bank account within ten working days of the relevant Council decision.
Monitoring requirements	You will be required to provide evidence to demonstrate the successful delivery or completion of your funded project. 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 about any of the items contained within this factsheet, please contact us at: crowdfundcrawley@crawley.gov.uk