

# COMMON GROUND AWARD

## Guidance Notes

### About Community Wealth Builder

We're all about helping Doncaster's communities grow stronger, more connected, and more resilient — by supporting the groups that make it all happen.

We're here to help local groups do more and go further. Whether you're a community organisation, a faith group, or a voluntary project, we offer free, tailored support to help you grow your impact.

From workshops and training to advice about writing the best funding application to one-to-one support, we're ready to help you build confidence, unlock new opportunities, and make a bigger difference in your area. Find loads of free resources and support on our website: [For my organisation | Well Doncaster](#)

So, if you're doing work that supports your community, member of our team will be here to talk to you about your idea and help you make the changes you want to see. Contact us at [communitywealthbuilder@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:communitywealthbuilder@doncaster.gov.uk)

### About the Common Ground Award

If you're part of a small group or organisation and you've got a plan to make your neighbourhood better — this grant could help you bring it to life.

Big changes often start small — with a good idea, a few passionate people, and a community that cares. **The Common Ground Award** is here to support those small, grassroots groups working hard to make life better in their local area. Whether it's a new project to bring neighbours together, improve a shared space, or tackle something that matters to your community — this grant is designed to help you make it happen. It's all about supporting the people who know their place best. The ones already making a difference, and the ones with ideas that could spark something new.

### What's it for?

This grant is to support minority community. To increase community cohesion and community safety. To support inclusive activities, increase social inclusion and minority safe spaces.

**Minority has been understood as ethnic minority, refugees & asylum seekers, underrepresented and underserved groups, neurodivergent, LGBTQ+, physical and mental difficulties.**

This grant is for new projects only — fresh ideas that haven't started yet. If you've got something ongoing, this fund isn't the right fit. But if you're dreaming up something new, we'd love to hear about it.

### What can it cover?

There are two types of funding available, but you can only apply for one or the other. You cannot mix the different funding.

- Capital Costs — things like equipment, materials, or improvements to spaces.
- Revenue Costs — things like staffing, training, or running costs for your new project.

**Eligible applicants must be delivering in Doncaster and include:**

- Not-for-profit voluntary or community organisations
- Registered charities
- Faith-based organisations
- Not-for-profit companies, Community Interest Companies (CICs), or social enterprises

This grant is all about meeting real needs — the ones that come straight from the people who live here. Through conversations with residents across Doncaster, we've heard what really matters to minority.

The fund will enable:

- Community-led initiatives that address inequality and promote social justice.
- Activities that celebrate diversity, reduce isolation, and build mutual understanding.
- Collaborative efforts that strengthen relationships across different communities.
- To engage and empower residents through education and community-led events.
- To reduce division and improve community cohesion.
- To promote healthier minority households and communities.
- To build a stronger community cohesion through creating diverse and inclusive environments and build on heritage.
- To increase safety of minority communities and their access to inclusive spaces.
- To support well-resourced spaces and accessible year-round inclusive activities for minority and all generations.

This grant is based on interaction and engagement with minority across Doncaster & the rationale collected directly from the individuals who identify themselves as minority, from minority leaders and representatives, from service providers and professionals who work with minority.

When you're putting together your application, take a moment to reflect:

- How does your idea speak to build a stronger & inclusive community?
- How does it build a support network and encourage positive relationships amongst diverse communities?
- How does it support social inclusion and wellbeing of minority?
- How could it help make life of minority safer and more welcome?
- How will your project engage minority and other organisation in the planning & delivery?
- What are the demonstrable outcomes from your project for minority benefits?
- Does your project plan to build on its work and have a lasting impact in the communities it serves?
- Do you have a reasonable use for the capital investments requested?
- How sustainable is your project, and how does it ensure continuity?

This grant is here for: helping communities shape their own future, so show us how your project connects minority community with the wider community. How you project demonstrates engagement across different communities.

We welcome a wide range of creative projects that will have a positive impact on organisations and individuals. That will build strong lasting relationships across communities whether is through learning about diverse heritage or launching new inclusive activities and spaces.

### **Capital Funding: For new projects that shape your space**

If you've got a new idea that needs tools, materials, or improvements to get off the ground — this funding stream is here to help.

Capital funding is available for new projects only. It's designed to support the practical things that help bring your vision to life — whether that's equipment, repairs, or making spaces more welcoming and accessible. Here are just a few examples of what this funding could cover:

- Buying equipment like tables, chairs, or IT kit
- Refurbishing or repairing buildings
- Improving outdoor spaces — think pathways, fencing, woodland trails
- Making places more accessible for everyone

For example, a group might use funding to buy equipment — helping minority improve their wellbeing.

If your project involves improving a green space, that's great — as long as it makes community inclusive & accessible to everyone. Just make sure you've got written permission from the landowner if the space isn't yours and include it with your application.

### **Revenue Funding: for new ideas that make a real difference**

This funding stream is here to help you launch new projects that offer real, practical support to communities who need it most — and that build long-term solutions to everyday challenges. We're looking for ideas that don't just respond to crisis but help prevent it. Ideas that bring people together, build skills and strengthen communities from the inside out.

Here are just a few examples of the kinds of activities this funding could support:

- Creating spaces for diverse community learning and education.
- Building bridges between minorities & communities through shared learning.
- Training volunteers or developing peer-led support networks.
- Strengthening partnerships between local services and minority.
- Offering advice, guidance, and signposting.
- Setting up sustainable food pantries or community kitchens.
- Running activities that boost local resilience and wellbeing.

### **How much can you apply for?**

You can apply for up to £1,000 to help bring your new idea to life. There's no minimum amount — so whether your project is big or small, we'd love to hear about it.

Just a couple of things to keep in mind:

- Each organisation or group can apply once only.
- You'll need to choose either capital funding or revenue funding — you can't mix the two in the same application.

### **Who can apply?**

Money from the grant will only be paid into a business bank and cannot be paid directly to individuals or un-constituted groups.

Individuals or groups who are un-constituted and/or do not have a bank account are advised to contact your local Well Doncaster Officer, in the first instance, who will be able to support you to become a constituted group.

A member of the Community Wealth Builder Team can offer more specialised support, should you require it.

You can find their details at the end of this guidance pack.

### **A few things to keep in mind before you apply.**

We want to make sure your application has the best chance of success — so here's a quick guide to what isn't covered by this grant.

It's all about supporting new, community-led ideas that benefit minority. That means there are a few things we can't fund, even if they're important in other ways. Take a look at the list below before you apply — and if you're unsure about anything, just ask. We're here to help.

- Activities promoting religious beliefs.
- Political activities.
- Goods or services that have already been purchased or ordered.
- Activities outside of the Borough of Doncaster.
- On-going organisational running costs.
- Trips and holidays.
- Costs that are already included within and funded by an existing grant or contract.
- School activities that are included within the curriculum (activities led by schools that engage the community will be eligible/considered).
- Endowments / loan repayments.
- Items that can only benefit an individual.

### **Monitoring, evaluation and celebrating success.**

#### **Sharing your story – and showing your impact.**

We want to shine a light on the brilliant work happening across Doncaster's communities — and that starts with you.

If your application is successful, we'll ask you to share a few things with us to help show the difference your project is making. These are a required part of the funding, but don't worry — your Well Doncaster Officer is here to support you every step of the way.

Here's what we'll need:

- A case study — this could be a short write-up, some photos, or even a quick video
- Evidence of spend — like receipts or invoices
- A completed Community Wealth Builder (CWB) monitoring form

#### **When to send your documents**

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Please submit all applications to [Community.WealthBuilder@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:Community.WealthBuilder@doncaster.gov.uk)

If you've received Capital Funding:

- Send your spend evidence within 30 days of receiving the payment
- Send your case study and CWB form within 3 months of the spend date

If you've received Revenue Funding:

- Send all your monitoring documents within 3 months of receiving the funding

Need help pulling it together? Your Well Doncaster Officer is here to guide you through it — just reach out.

**Thinking of applying?** Here is when to get your form in:

**Applications must be submitted through the MS Teams form. Please ensure you submit your application in good time to avoid missing out.**

This Common Ground Award has an open deadline, and it is available on a first come, first served basis.

**Once the money is used, the grant will be closed**

### **Important Notes**

- Governance Documents: Applications **must** be accompanied by the relevant governance documents. We will not chase missing documents, and applications without them will not be considered.
- Monitoring Compliance: If your group or organisation has outstanding monitoring from previous grants, your new application will not be progressed until this is resolved.
- Safeguarding and DBS Checks: Successful applications will be subject to safeguarding and DBS Checks.

To avoid delays, please submit these documents alongside your governance documents if possible. We will reach out to obtain these if your application is successful and we do not yet have this information.

Please note that due to the time constraints in ensuring that you receive the funds prior to your project, **the deadline will not be extended**. Please submit all supporting documents to [Community.WealthBuilder@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:Community.WealthBuilder@doncaster.gov.uk) by the deadlines.

### **What happens when you submit your application?**

This grant has a deadline on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2026, and the applications will be accepted since the grant has opened. **The Common Ground Award is available on a first come, first served basis. Once the money is used, the grant will be closed before the deadline.**

- You will receive an acknowledgement message after completing the MS Teams application which you can download to save a copy of.
- You may be contacted by the Community Wealth Builder Team to discuss your application in more detail or to ask for documentation.
- Applications will be assessed weekly by the Common Ground Award panel, and decisions given via email to the one included in your application.
- By accepting receipt of the fund, you must be willing to engage with the Community Wealth Builder Project and return any paperwork required.
- Successful applicants will be required to sign a grant agreement prior to release of the funds.
- Your local Well Doncaster Officer can provide support – keep in touch with them to let them know how you are doing.
- All monies must be spent by 31st March 2026.
- All monitoring must also be returned by 31st March 2026.

### **Unsuccessful applications**

The decision is final and there is no right of appeal. However, unsuccessful applicants will be referred to their local Well Doncaster Officer for support, and they may be offered further support by the Community Wealth Builder Team.

### **Apply / How to find out more:**

These applications will be online via a Microsoft Forms – [Common Ground Award – Fill in form](#)

and all supporting documentation should be clearly marked Common Ground Award and emailed to [Community.WealthBuilder@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:Community.WealthBuilder@doncaster.gov.uk) or posted to Public Health, Well Doncaster, Floor 4, Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU.

For more information and for support to develop your idea, please contact your Well Doncaster Officer or the Community Wealth Builder Team.

Area	Well Doncaster Officer
<b>North</b>	<p>Daisy Joustra <a href="mailto:Daisy.Joustra@doncaster.gov.uk">Daisy.Joustra@doncaster.gov.uk</a> 07483 941794</p> <p>Charlie Bonner <a href="mailto:Charlie.Bonner@doncaster.gov.uk">Charlie.Bonner@doncaster.gov.uk</a> 07483 179891)</p> <p>Kate Maguire <a href="mailto:Katherine.Maguire@doncaster.gov.uk">Katherine.Maguire@doncaster.gov.uk</a> 07971 395978</p>
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**Well Doncaster**

**Community Led Health and Wealth**

Empowering people in Doncaster to live better, healthier, and happier lives.

[www.welldoncaster.uk](http://www.welldoncaster.uk)