



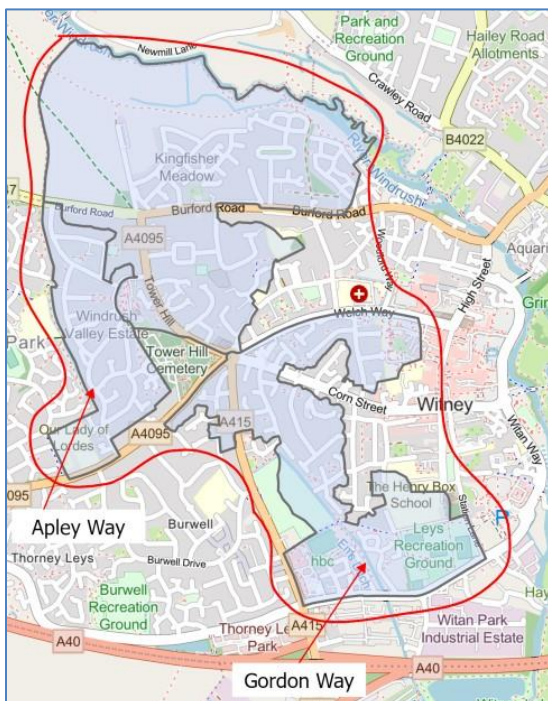
Witney Central Community Insight Fund Support for Applicants

Context:

The Witney Community Insight Fund has been created following the work recently carried out in the local area, creating a community profile. The profile used community knowledge and insight from residents to better understand the experiences of those living in Witney Central in relation to health and wellbeing.

You can find out more about the community profile here: [Oxfordshire Data Hub – Health and Social Care – Community Insight Profiles](#).

Purpose of the Witney Central Community Insight Fund:



The Witney Central Community Insight Fund will award grants of up to £3,000. For this work, Witney Central is defined as the area within the red border in the map below: The Fund will back projects that benefit:

- SEND and neurodiverse needs
- Young people
- Asylum seekers
- Life skills
- Social isolation through befriending and community transport initiatives
- Local environment improvements

How to apply

Before you apply for a grant, we ask that you first send us a quick [Expression of Interest](#) (EOI). This helps us check that your idea and organisation are eligible, so you don't spend time on a full application unnecessarily. If that's the case, we'll do our best to offer advice, support, or point you towards other funding options that might suit you better.

If you're eligible to apply for funding, we'll then invite you to complete a full online application. You'll need to submit your online application by 6th October, along with the supporting documents listed below:

- Constitution or set of rules
- Recent copy of a bank statement for your organisation's bank account
- Safeguarding policy details (where applicable)

If you would like to request a paper version of the application form, please contact wodc.grants@westoxon.gov.uk.



EOI window: Opens: 30th July 2025
Application window: Opens: 1st September 2025

Closes: 25th August 2025
Closes: 6th October 2025

Please be advised that West Oxfordshire District Council will not accept deliberate manipulation and fraud and any business/individual caught falsifying their statements or evidence to gain grant money may face prosecution, and any funding issued will be subject to claw back, as may any grants paid in error.

Supporting information for applicants

What difference do we want the funding to make?

- This funding will support projects that aim to tackle challenges faced by local residents, by addressing at least one of the priorities highlighted in the Witney Central Community Insight Profile. These include:
 - ✓ Supporting children and adults with SEND and neurodiverse needs
 - ✓ Engaging and empowering young people
 - ✓ Welcoming and supporting asylum seekers
 - ✓ Building life skills for everyday confidence and independence
 - ✓ Reducing social isolation through befriending and community transport initiatives
 - ✓ Improving the local environment to benefit community wellbeing
- You can use the funding to design, deliver, and evaluate new projects that benefit the community.
- If a project is already having a positive impact, this funding can be used to support it continue for longer.
- Funding can also be used to expand the reach of an existing project or activity.
- Projects must align with the [public health grant conditions](#) and aim to improve health and wellbeing of residents in the Witney central locality.
- This funding should not be used for things that should be funded by statutory organisations.
- Projects should benefit the population in the target area—not just individuals.
- Projects should consider how they can continue or have a lasting impact after the funding ends.

What principles and criteria will we use to guide decisions?

- Funding should be used to support at least one of the priorities listed above.
- The number of residents of Witney central who will benefit from the activity and whether the size of grant sought is proportionate with those benefitting.
- Whether the activity of the grant will meet the health and wellbeing needs of residents in Witney central and if it will compliment activity that is already underway.
- The capacity of the project to have ongoing impact.
- The degree to which those who benefit are considered vulnerable and hard to reach through other services, organisations or activity.

Who can apply?

We will consider applications from:

- Registered charities
- Community interest companies
- Voluntary organisations
- Constituted community groups
- Schools and Colleges



Applications are particularly welcomed from emerging groups and organisations seeking to develop new activities in response to identified local needs.

General

- Applicants will need to demonstrate how the activity for which funding is being applied for will be undertaken in the Witney central area which is highlighted in the map above.
- Previously successful applicants for funding through WODC can apply but will need to submit an evaluation report covering any previous award.
- Activity for which funding is received must be complete by 15th September 2026.
- You will be required to monitor your activity and provide a written impact report using a template which will be provided at a later date, this will need to be submitted by early October 2026. Exact date TBC.
- Only one application is permitted per organisation.

What will be excluded?

- Applications which create an ongoing funding commitment from West Oxfordshire District Council.
- Applications towards a project which has previously received West Oxfordshire District or Oxfordshire County Council funding or for activity which is simultaneously fundraising on the Westhive platform.
- Applications from:
 - Parish and Town Councils
 - Groups based outside West Oxfordshire
 - Faith groups where any element of the activity delivered has a religious component or element of worship, or access to the activity is limited or denied based on a difference in religious belief.
- Applications from commercial businesses or individuals.
- Costs covered elsewhere.
- General charitable fundraising.
- Applications for activity which does not take place in and benefit residents of Witney central.

What documents will need to be supplied?

Once you have submitted your online application form you will need to send the following documents to wodc.grants@westoxon.gov.uk or post to the Community Wellbeing Team, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, OX28 1NB by 6th October.

- Constitution or set of rules
- Recent copy of a bank statement for your organisation's bank account
- Safeguarding policy details (where applicable)

How will you keep your participants, staff and volunteers safe?

You are asked to submit details of your safeguarding approach as part of your application where you are likely to be working with children and/or individuals who are at risk or vulnerable. A safeguarding policy will set out your safeguarding approach and the protocol that would be followed if you need to escalate a safeguarding concern. Your approach should be proportionate to the activities you plan to deliver. Where there is lots of direct work with vulnerable people then it's more likely that more detail is required and a policy more appropriate.

Contact us at:



By email wodc.grants@westoxon.gov.uk.



Book a MS Teams meeting with our Community Funding Officer [here](#).



By post: Community Wellbeing Team, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, OX28 1NB.