



Community Spaces Capital Grant

Guidance for applicants

What is Barnwood's Community Spaces Capital Grant?

Barnwood's vision is to create the best possible environment in Gloucestershire for disabled people and people with mental health problems to make the most of their lives. Community spaces to connect with other people and build relationships, often through doing things together, are a vital component of that environment.

As part of its funding programmes, Barnwood welcomes applications to its **Community Spaces Capital Grant Fund**. The fund aims to help support communities or organisations that would like to develop **inclusive community spaces: places where everyone is welcome to meet and do things together**.

'Everyone is welcome' means that particular attention is given to helping people who are usually marginalised to feel that they belong in the community; for example, those with disabilities and mental health problems.

What do we mean by 'Community Spaces'?

Community spaces are simply places where people gather together for all sorts of reasons, such as:

- to socialise and meet others;
- for events, recreation and entertainment;



- to attend groups or meetings;
- to undertake activities such as sports, arts or gardening.

A community space could be:

- a building, an outside space or both, of varied design, size or age;
- permanent or temporary;
- used for a wide range of purposes.

The importance of Community Spaces

Barnwood's objective is to help **build belonging** in Gloucestershire. The Community Spaces Capital Grant contributes to making this a reality.

Evidence shows that community spaces can make a huge contribution to our wellbeing. They can make a difference to whether we have opportunities to meet and connect with other people, and whether we can take part in activities, events or pursue interests. The best community spaces are well designed and run, are great to spend time in and enhance health and quality of life.

This Grant has been created to help fund new or existing community spaces that play a part in making everyone feel welcome and included.

Is our project eligible to apply?

For Barnwood to invest in community spaces, **the project must be linked to the following criteria:**

1. The space must be linked to a clear plan both for making the space welcoming, accessible and for building a more inclusive community.
2. Applications should be from '*constituted*' groups or organisations and have community or charitable purposes. [*Constituted* groups are those that are registered (e.g. as a company, charity, or industrial & provident society) with a constitution (i.e. a set of adopted aims and rules).
New groups working with a constituted group (for example as their fiscal agent to manage financial matters on their behalf) may also be eligible. If you represent a

group that is not constituted, please contact Barnwood as we may be able to offer helpful advice and information.

3. We fund communities and organisations willing to go **‘the extra mile’** in terms of **building belonging**.

‘the extra mile’ means:

- the physical space plays a part in bringing people together and making everyone feel welcome and included.
- plans for the physical space will lead to new or enhanced opportunities for people to come together and build inclusive social connections.
- the project is community led and/or has strong community support and builds upon the strengths in the community.
- for community organisations, there must be plans or current actions which engage with disabled people and people with mental health problems; for organisations with a disability focus the space must bring about new or enhanced opportunities for community connections.

In your application, you will need to think about how your project meets these criteria and what work you are doing to develop them.

What can Barnwood’s Community Spaces Grant be used for?

If Barnwood believes that a community space, and the process of developing it, can make an active contribution to building a welcoming and inclusive community, we may consider funding various aspects of a project including:

- technical advice or consultancy services;
- design work;
- construction costs;
- refurbishment costs;
- furnishings and equipment.

The Grant cannot be used for revenue costs.

We would not normally fund above £10,000 without match funding being secured by the applicant.

If you think you meet our criteria, we would be pleased to hear about your project to see if we can assist or help provide funding.

What kinds of projects has Barnwood funded?

During the last year Barnwood has funded a range of community spaces projects with grants ranging from a few hundred pounds to nearly £30,000. For projects towards the upper end, we are looking for schemes that are very closely aligned with our criteria and provide exceptional outcomes for communities.

During the last year, projects Barnwood has funded have included:

- **Capital improvements** – To improve the physical environment of the space and to make it more welcoming for everyone.
- **Technical advice or consultancy services**– for example, advice on accessibility, design or business planning in connection with a community space.
- **Grants for equipment and hardware** - such as chairs and tables.
- **Grants to make outdoor spaces more accessible.**

[LINK to - Typical Community Spaces projects Barnwood has funded so far](#)

How do we apply for a Community Spaces Capital Grant?

As with all Barnwood's funds, our Community Spaces Capital Grant has a limited budget. This means we carefully allocate funding based on our investment criteria, spread through the investment period and across Gloucestershire.

The following steps outline our application process:

STEP 1 Contact us:

Discussion of your ideas or plans at an early stage is helpful. It enables us to see if Barnwood can provide help or advice with your project and/or funding.

At this stage we will provide guidance about whether your project is eligible.

Details of how to contact us are shown below.

STEP 2 Submit a grant application:

Download or print **The Community Spaces Capital Grant Application**

Once we receive your application we will usually visit to discuss the application in more detail.

STEP 3 Assessment of your application:

After we've discussed and reviewed your application, according to the amount of investment being applied for, grant decisions are made as follows:

- **Funding Panel** – this meets monthly and recommends grants up to £10,000.
- **Barnwood Trust' Growing Communities Committee** – this meets every three months and makes grant decisions above £10,000.

Contact details and further information:

Please contact our Community Spaces Team:

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Visit our website for more information:

<http://www.Barnwood Trusttrust.org/what-we-do/growing-communities/community-spaces/>