



Love Lewisham Micro Grants

Funding local people to improve local places

Applicant guidance

Key dates

Applications open **Monday 28 September 2026**

Applications close **5pm Friday 27 November 2026**

Need help or want to talk through an idea?

community.funding@lewisham.gov.uk

Contents

Welcome	2
Love Lewisham Micro Grants at a glance.....	2
What are Love Lewisham Micro Grants?	2
I have an idea. What do I do next?	3
Before you apply: should we talk first?	3
Which grant is right for me?	4
If I am an individual resident, do I need a community organisation?	4
Community group applications (up to £1,000).....	5
Community Organisation Partners in resident-led projects (up to £500)	5
Example projects and typical costs.....	6
What can be funded	7
What cannot be funded	7
What makes a strong application?.....	8
Permissions, approvals and early conversations	8
Quick self-check before you apply	9
Submitting your application.....	9
What happens next after I apply?	10
If your application is successful	11
Key dates	14
Frequently asked questions	14
Contact and support.....	15

Welcome

Have you spotted a place in your neighbourhood that could be cleaner, greener or more welcoming?

Do you have an idea that could help tackle fly-tipping, improve a neglected place or bring people together to make a positive difference in your area?

Love Lewisham Micro Grants are small grants designed to help local people turn good ideas into real improvements.

- You do not need experience of applying for funding
- You do not need a complicated project plan
- You do need enthusiasm to make positive change in your area

We are looking for practical ideas that will improve local neighbourhoods and encourage pride in the places where people live. Whether you are a resident, volunteer, resident's association, community group, faith group or another local organisation, we want to hear your ideas.

Love Lewisham Micro Grants at a glance

Question	Answer
Who can apply?	Lewisham residents, community groups and local organisations - Individual applicants must be aged 18 or over at the time of application.
How much is available?	Up to £200 Up to £500 Up to £1,000
Can residents apply directly?	Yes, for Resident Grants up to £200
What if the project needs more than £200?	A resident can still lead the idea, but must work with a suitable Community Organisation Partner.
When do applications close?	5pm on Friday 27 November 2026.
Need help?	Contact us before applying: community.funding@lewisham.gov.uk

What are Love Lewisham Micro Grants?

Love Lewisham Micro Grants are part of Lewisham's wider work to improve neighbourhoods and tackle fly-tipping.

The fund provides small grants to help local people:

- improve areas affected by fly-tipping
- clean up neglected spaces
- make neighbourhoods greener
- bring people together to improve their local area
- create practical improvements that benefit the wider community

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We know local people often understand their neighbourhoods better than anyone else. This fund is designed to help communities turn local knowledge into local action.

I have an idea. What do I do next?

Start by asking yourself four simple questions.

The application form will ask different questions depending on the type of project you want to do. For example, if your idea involves a public space, physical improvements, equipment, activities with people or work delivered by an organisation, we may ask for extra information about permissions, maintenance, safeguarding, accessibility, risk, insurance or conflicts of interest.

What issue do I want to improve?

Think about the issue you want to tackle, such as repeated fly-tipping, a neglected space or a place that feels unsafe because of ongoing dumping or litter.

What is my proposed solution?

This could be a community clean-up, improving an unused green space, bringing neighbours together to tackle an ongoing problem, or using gardening tools, plants and other materials to make a practical local improvement.

How much funding do I need?

The amount will help determine which funding route is right for you. If you need help estimating costs, see the [Ideas and Typical Costs Catalogue](#).

Will my project need permission or an early conversation?

Some projects can be submitted straight away. Others will need advice, permission or site approval. Do not worry if you are unsure. We can help you work that out.

Think!

If your project involves public space, planters, artwork, physical changes to a site or more than one location, email community.funding@lewisham.gov.uk before you start the form.

Before you apply: should we talk first?

Before you spend time completing an application, please contact us if your idea involves any of the following:

- planters or planting in public spaces
- work on pavements, roads or highway land
- public artwork, murals or installations
- changes to a physical location
- larger funding requests
- projects involving more than one site
- anything where permission might be needed
- anything you are unsure about

These conversations are informal and supportive. They can help us identify potential issues early, explain permissions, connect you with the right officers and avoid you spending time on a project that may not be able to proceed.

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Looking for more than £200?

If you are applying as an individual resident and your project needs more than £200, you must have a Community Organisation Partner before submitting your application. Contact us early if you need help finding one. Email community.funding@lewisham.gov.uk and tell us about your idea. We will connect you with the most appropriate organisation.

Which grant is right for me?

There are three funding routes. The best route will depend on who is applying, how much the project needs and how it will be delivered.

Funding route	Who can apply?	Amount	Best suited to
Resident Grant	An individual Lewisham resident	Up to £200	Small, simple, local projects and first-time applicants.
Community Grant	A constituted community group or local organisation	Up to £500	Small community projects, including resident-led projects delivered with an organisation. Community groups and organisations can apply for their own project even if they are supporting an individual resident application.
Enhanced Community Grant	A constituted community group or local organisation	More than £500 and up to £1,000	Larger or more substantial projects with wider impact. Community groups and organisations can apply for their own project even if they are supporting an individual resident application.

Projects from across Lewisham can be considered. Applications will be assessed on the problem being addressed, the proposed solution, local need, community benefit, feasibility, value for money, deliverability and how any improvement will be maintained.

If I am an individual resident, do I need a community organisation?

If you need £200 or less

No. You can apply directly as a resident.

If you need more than £200

Yes. You will need to work with a suitable constituted community organisation, such as a residents' association, faith group, community organisation, locally based charity or another eligible organisation.

We call this your Community Organisation Partner. The organisation will receive and manage the grant funding and use its usual financial, safeguarding, insurance and governance arrangements where relevant.

Your idea stays yours

Working with a Community Organisation Partner does not mean giving up your idea. You can still lead the project and organise the activity. The organisation provides the support and accountability needed for a larger grant.

What if I do not know a suitable organisation?

Contact us before applying. We can suggest possible groups, help make introductions and discuss the most suitable route.

Example: how a Resident + Community group partnership could work

A resident wants to improve a neglected space through a planting project costing about £650. Because the project needs more than £200, the resident contacts the Micro Grants team and is introduced to a local residents' association. The resident continues to lead the idea. The association becomes the Community Organisation Partner, receives the funding, and may support delivery or help find volunteers. The resident and organisation must agree how the funding will pay for the work. We can help with this conversation.

Community group applications (up to £1,000)

If you are applying as a community group, charity or other organisation, you will be asked to provide information about your organisation as part of the application.

Depending on the type of organisation, this may include:

- your charity number
- your Community Interest Company (CIC) registration number
- your Companies House registration number
- or other information confirming your organisation's status and governance arrangements

You will also be asked to confirm that your organisation has a bank account in the organisation's name and holds any relevant documents, policies or procedures needed to deliver the project.

If your application is successful, we may ask to see some of these documents before funding is released.

Community Organisation Partners in resident-led projects (up to £500)

Some residents may have ideas that require more than £200 of funding. In these cases, the resident must apply with a suitable Community Organisation Partner.

A Community Organisation Partner is a constituted community group, charity, faith group, residents' association or other eligible organisation that agrees to support the project.

If your organisation agrees to support a resident-led application, you will be asked to complete a short declaration using DocuSign confirming your involvement and the arrangements that have been agreed.

Supporting a resident-led project does not prevent your organisation from applying for funding for its own project. Community groups are encouraged to apply for their own ideas as well as supporting local residents where they wish to do so.

As with any successful organisational application, Community Organisation Partners may benefit from being recognised as a Lewisham Council funded organisation and may be included in publicity, case studies or project communications, where appropriate.

What will Community Organisation Partners be asked to confirm?

Community Organisation Partners will be asked to confirm which of the following arrangements have been agreed with the resident:

- work with the resident on the project
- receive and manage the grant funding
- agree with the resident how the funding will pay for the work
- support delivery where agreed
- help complete the final monitoring
- sign the Community Organisation Partner declaration
- upload the signed Community Organisation Partner declaration

All required arrangements must be confirmed before the application can be submitted.

Remember

Community Groups are encouraged to submit their own applications, even if they are supporting a resident led application.

Example projects and typical costs

These examples are illustrations only. You do not need to choose one of them, and actual costs will vary.

Example project	What it might include	Typical amount
Community litter-picking starter kit	Litter pickers, gloves, bags and reusable equipment.	£75–£150
Mini planting project	Plants, bulbs, compost and gardening materials.	£100–£200
Neighbourhood clean-up and planting day	Volunteer equipment, plants and engagement materials.	Up to £200
Small local improvement project	Clean-up equipment, planting and awareness materials.	£250–£500
Community volunteer	Reusable equipment, storage and materials for regular	Up to £500

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Example project	What it might include	Typical amount
equipment hub	volunteering.	
Larger neighbourhood improvement project	Several linked improvements, planting, equipment and community engagement.	£500–£1,000

You may propose any project or combination of activities, provided the costs are eligible, reasonable and support the aims of the fund.

What can be funded

We are looking for practical projects that improve neighbourhoods, tackle local problems and encourage people to take pride in the places where they live. Projects do not need to be large or complicated. Often the simplest ideas make the biggest difference.

Cleaner neighbourhoods

- community clean-up events
- reusable litter-picking equipment or volunteer clean-up kits
- storage for shared community equipment
- activities that encourage people to care for local spaces

Greener neighbourhoods

- planters and planting schemes
- pollinator-friendly or biodiversity projects
- community gardening activities
- improvements to neglected green areas

Neighbourhood pride and community action

- small local improvements
- community-led improvements and activity days
- local awareness activity linked to a neighbourhood issue
- projects that bring people together around a shared local concern

Creative approaches

- community artwork or murals
- creative neighbourhood-improvement projects
- local campaigns linked to improving an area

Use photographs, local knowledge and residents' views to explain the problem and why the project is needed. Published hotspot maps are not used as an eligibility test or a scoring requirement.

What cannot be funded

The fund is intended to support wider community benefit. We cannot normally fund:

- projects or purchases that only benefit one person

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- paying yourself for your own time or pay yourself an administration fee if you are applying as an individual resident
- unreasonable or unsupported administration, staffing or delivery costs. Community groups and organisations may include reasonable costs where these are needed to deliver the project and are clearly explained in the budget
- work that is the responsibility of the Council or another statutory service
- routine maintenance that should already be carried out by a landowner or service provider
- costs already incurred or activity that has already taken place
- general fundraising without a specific project
- projects outside Lewisham
- projects with no clear local or community benefit
- projects that cannot obtain the permissions or approvals they need
- activities that are unlawful, unsafe or inconsistent with the aims of the fund

Not sure whether your idea fits?

Contact us before applying. We would much rather discuss an idea early than have you spend time on an application that is not suitable.

What makes a strong application?

Strong applications are not necessarily the biggest. They clearly explain the problem, why it matters to the community, what the applicant wants to do, who will benefit and why the project is achievable.

- **A clear problem**

Tell us what the issue is, where it is and why it matters. Photographs and local knowledge can strengthen the application.

- **A practical solution**

Tell us what you want to do, how it will help and why you think it will work.

- **Community benefit**

Tell us who will benefit, how local people will be involved and what difference the project will make.

- **A realistic budget**

Tell us what the funding will pay for, how much items cost and why the costs are reasonable.

- **A plan for what happens next**

Where relevant, tell us who will maintain the improvement, who will be responsible and how it will continue to benefit the community.

Please upload reasonable cost evidence, such as quotations, supplier estimates, catalogue prices or screenshots. The more funding you request, the clearer and more detailed the cost evidence should be.

If the grant will cover only part of the project cost, the remaining funding must already be confirmed and available. We cannot commit to one part of a project if the rest of the funding has not been secured.

Permissions, approvals and early conversations

Some projects need additional discussion before they can go ahead. This does not mean that the project is unsuitable. It means we need to understand the location, responsibilities and permissions before time or money is committed.

Planters and planting projects

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We may need to discuss the exact location, land ownership, suitability, maintenance and approval.

Projects in public or shared spaces

Projects in parks, on housing land, highways, pavements or other public and shared spaces may need landowner, Highways or other approval.

Public art, murals and installations

These projects will usually need the landowner's permission and may benefit from specialist advice or community consultation.

Larger or more complex projects

Projects involving physical work, several locations, specialist equipment or public events may require more detail, including a simple risk assessment or delivery plan.

Important: Receiving a grant does not automatically give permission for work to take place. Any required permissions, approvals or licenses must still be obtained. Early conversations should help you understand whether the idea is viable before you submit the application.

Quick self-check before you apply

- ☐ Does the project clearly help the wider community?
- ☐ Do I know where it will take place?
- ☐ Do I know who owns or manages the site, or can I find out?
- ☐ Do I know who will look after it afterwards?
- ☐ Could permission, specialist advice or site approval be needed?
- ☐ Have I contacted the Council if I am unsure?

Pause moment

If you are unsure about any of these questions, email community.funding@lewisham.gov.uk before starting the application.

Submitting your application

If you have read the guidance, checked that your project is suitable and had any necessary early conversations with us, you are ready to apply using the online application form.

Complete the form at your own pace

You do not need to complete the form in one sitting. Save your progress and come back later using the return link sent to you. Keep the link safe and save regularly.

Before you press submit

- ☐ Have I explained the problem and location clearly?
- ☐ Have I explained what I want to do and who will benefit?
- ☐ Is the budget realistic and clearly itemised?
- ☐ Have I thought about maintenance where relevant?

- ☐ Have I contacted the Council if permission or approval may be required?
- ☐ If the project needs more than £200, is a Community Organisation Partner confirmed?

What happens when I submit?

You will receive an automatic confirmation email. If you do not receive confirmation, contact us.

Made a mistake?

Contact us as soon as possible. Where practical, we may be able to reopen the form before assessment begins.

Technical problems?

Take a screenshot if possible, make a note of what happened and contact us. Leave enough time to resolve technical issues before the deadline.

Application deadline

Applications must be submitted by 5pm on Friday 27 November 2026. We cannot accept applications after the deadline.

Applications will be assessed after the application window closes. Submitting early will not give an application priority, but it gives more time to resolve problems and hold necessary conversations.

What happens next after I apply?



Step 1: We check your application

We will check that required questions have been answered, the idea appears eligible, the budget makes sense and we have enough information to understand the proposal. If something is missing, we may contact you.

Step 2: Additional discussions where needed

We may still contact you if further information, specialist advice, permission, risk information or changes are needed before a decision can be made.

Step 3: Your application is assessed

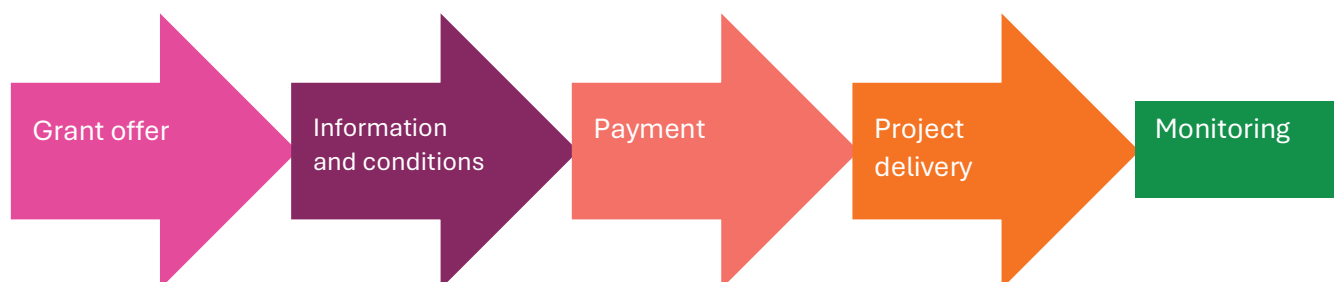
Applications will be considered against the local problem being addressed, community benefit, local need, feasibility, value for money, deliverability and maintenance arrangements. We will use the information supplied by the applicant and may cross-check relevant Council information during pre-assessment. A missing mark on a published map will not count against an application.

Step 4: We make a decision

Possible outcome	What it means
Fund	Your application is approved.
Fund with conditions	Your application is approved, but there are things to complete first.
Clarification required	We need more information before making a final decision.
Redirect	Another funding or support route may be more suitable.
Decline	We cannot support the project through this fund. We will explain the decision.

The programme is likely to be oversubscribed. All applications will be reviewed after the deadline and applicants will be notified once decisions have been made.

If your application is successful



Payments

Resident Grants up to £200

We will contact you about the information needed before payment. This will include a completed payee details form, a simple letter of introduction and proof of the bank account to be paid. We will provide the forms and explain what is needed.

How will residents be paid?

Successful residents will be paid directly by BACS. Standard payment terms are up to 28 days after all correct information and documents have been received, although payment may arrive sooner.

Community and Enhanced Community Grants

We will contact the organisation named in the application. If the organisation is not already set up on the Council's payment system, we will send the appropriate forms to complete. We may also need to see relevant policy documents.

Before starting the project

- ☐ Any required permissions must be secured.
- ☐ Any conflict of interest must be declared.

☐ Any grant conditions must be met.

If your project involves planters, planting, equipment, artwork or another physical improvement, we may ask you to complete a maintenance agreement before funding can be released. This helps make clear who will look after the improvement once the project is complete.

☐ Payment arrangements must be confirmed.

Once these steps are complete, the project can begin.

Safety and insurance

Most projects funded through Love Lewisham Micro Grants will not require applicants to arrange their own public liability insurance. Projects that would not normally require additional insurance might include:

- community litter-picks
- planting and greening activities
- planters
- community clean-up activities
- awareness campaigns
- small-scale neighbourhood improvement projects

Some projects may require additional information, permission, a simple risk assessment or evidence of suitable insurance before they can proceed. This could apply to projects involving:

- larger organised events
- specialist equipment or machinery
- physical installations in public spaces
- activities on land not managed by the applicant
- work carried out by contractors
- activities involving children, young people or adults who may need additional support

Example: simple risk information

Risk	Risk level	How will you reduce or manage this risk?
Heavy rain prevents the planting day from taking place	Medium	Have a reserve date or move the activity to another suitable day.
Newly planted flowers or shrubs are not watered and die	Medium	Arrange a watering rota with local residents or volunteers and choose suitable plants.
Plants are vandalised or damaged after installation	Low	Involve local residents in the project and regularly check the site.
Fewer volunteers attend than expected	Medium	Promote the event in advance and ask volunteers to confirm attendance.
Materials or equipment do not arrive on time	Low	Order items well in advance and identify alternative suppliers if needed.
Permission to carry out the project is delayed or withdrawn	Medium	Confirm permissions before purchasing materials or arranging activities.

A planned community event is poorly attended	Low	Advertise through local groups, social media and community networks.
Sharp objects or hazardous waste are found during a litter pick	High	Provide litter pickers and gloves, brief volunteers, and report dangerous items to the council rather than handling them.
Volunteers injure themselves while carrying out a litter pick	Medium	Provide safety guidance, appropriate equipment and adult supervision where needed.
Collected rubbish cannot be disposed of properly	Medium	Arrange collection or disposal before the event takes place.
Graffiti removal or clean-up activities damage surfaces	Low	Use appropriate materials and seek advice where necessary before starting.
Children or vulnerable adults attending an activity are not adequately supervised	High	Ensure responsible adults are present and follow safeguarding procedures.

Where an established organisation is delivering a project, its existing insurance arrangements may already cover the activity. You do not need to decide these requirements yourself. If you are unsure, email community.funding@lewisham.gov.uk before applying and we will help you understand what is needed.

Keeping receipts and records

Keep reasonable evidence showing that the grant was used for the agreed purpose. This may include receipts, invoices, photographs and evidence that the activity took place.

Completing and reporting on the project

Projects should normally be completed by 31 May 2027. At the end, we will ask for a short update covering what happened, evidence of spending, photographs, community benefit and useful learning. We are not expecting a lengthy report.

Monitoring deadline

Submit monitoring within one month of completing the project, or by 30 June 2027, whichever is earlier.

Conflicts of interest Applicants will be asked to declare any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest connected with their application or project. A conflict of interest could include a personal, financial, family or organisational connection that may influence, or be seen to influence, decisions about the project, funding or delivery. Declaring a conflict of interest will not automatically make an application ineligible. We ask for this information to help ensure the process is fair and transparent.

Sharing your success

With your agreement, we may feature successful projects through Love Lewisham communications, newsletters, social media, case studies or programme reports.

Key dates

Stage	Date
Applications open	Monday 28 September 2026
Applications close	5pm Friday 27 November 2026
Final checks and assessment	Late November and December 2026
Applicant outcomes and award documents	December 2026 to January 2027
Payments	January to February 2027
Project delivery begins	From February 2027
Project delivery deadline	31 May 2027
Final monitoring	Within one month of completion or by 30 June 2027, whichever is earlier

Frequently asked questions

Can I apply as an individual resident?

Yes. If the project needs £200 or less, you can apply directly. For more than £200, apply with a suitable Community Organisation Partner.

Do I need to speak to the Council before applying?

Not always, but contact us early if the project involves public space, planters, art, highways, physical changes, several sites, permission or anything you are unsure about.

Do I need public liability insurance?

Usually not for straightforward community activities. The Safety and insurance section gives examples. Contact us if you are unsure.

How will applications be assessed?

We will consider the local problem, community benefit, local need, feasibility, value for money, deliverability and maintenance. Published hotspot maps are not an eligibility or scoring requirement.

Can I submit more than one application?

Yes, but each application must be for an entirely separate project. You must not split one larger project into several applications.

Community groups are able to submit an application even if they are also supporting an individual resident with their application.

Will declaring a conflict of interest make my application ineligible?

No. Declaring a conflict does not automatically make an application ineligible. It allows us to understand and manage any potential issues fairly and transparently.

Can the grant cover only part of my project cost?

Yes, but the remaining funding must already be confirmed and available.

How much reporting will I have to do?

Reporting will be proportionate. Most applicants will provide evidence of spending, photographs and a short update.

What if my project changes or is delayed?

Contact us as early as possible. Do not make material changes without discussing them with us first.

What if I make a mistake or have technical problems?

Contact us promptly. Take a screenshot of any technical problem if possible and do not wait until after the deadline.

Contact and support

Need help or want to request an early conversation about a project?

Email us and briefly tell us about your idea or the support you need. A member of the team will respond or connect you with the most appropriate officer. If you need support accessing or completing the online application, email community.funding@lewisham.gov.uk and explain what assistance would be helpful.