



## **Small Sparks Matching Funds for Thurrock Guidance and Application Process**

### **What is Small Sparks Matching Funds?**

Small Sparks Matching Funds offers funding to community led projects across Thurrock that bring residents together to work on the things that matter to them and their community. We hope that this fund will spark many projects over future years.

The Fund will remain open until the budget has been allocated; as this is a rolling programme the CVS website will let people know when the funds have expired. Applications can be made at any time and will be considered on a monthly basis.

Each project can apply for a match funding between £50 - £250. ***Please see criteria below for further information.***

### **APPENDIX 1**

#### **Criteria for Awarding Funds**

##### **Which projects will be most likely to receive a fund?**

1. Projects with a 1:1 community match to the funds requested.
2. Projects that show maximum community benefit for the amount invested.
3. Projects that show they have taken reasonable steps to get the best price for what they will use the money for.
4. Projects should be community led and funding should aim to engage new people.
5. Projects must be inclusive and aim to involve different people from across the community.
6. Projects that could not be funded from other funding sources.
7. Projects that are can demonstrate that the funding would have an on-going community interest.
8. Projects must have community benefit i.e. Healthy Living; social Justice; Community cohesion.

##### **What projects are not likely to be funded?**

9. Projects that promote any faith or political belief system (faith projects supporting the wider community can be supported)
10. Projects that are not focused on the common good of the community, but are driven by self-interest.
11. Projects that do not bring people together.
12. Projects without a community match.
13. Projects that require ongoing funding.
14. Projects that could be funded from other funding sources.
15. Projects that have been previously funded without involving new members of community- (see 4 above)  
Projects that have no demonstrable benefit to the community'.
16. We will not fund previous grant recipients that have not met their terms & conditions.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How much funding is available?**

Projects can apply for up to £250.00. Matching funds are available across Thurrock and will reside with Thurrock CVS.

### **Where does the decision making responsibility for Small Sparks Matching Funds for Thurrock reside?**

The decision making responsibility resides with the initiating group which includes representatives from Thurrock CVS, Thurrock Council and individuals from the community. The Group will meet regularly to consider small Sparks applications. Members of the public are welcome to join the Group and take part in decisions about bids they do not have a direct interest in.

**How will funds be administered?** Funds will be paid either by cheque or by bank transfer. Please let us know if your group does not have a bank account by contacting Debbie Buck 01375-389893 for alternative arrangements.

### **When should I apply?**

Applicants should have a new idea, at least three other neighbours willing to pledge time and energy in the new idea to make it happen (this will be their match, each hour of their time will be valued at £12), and be prepared to come to a community celebration to present the results of their efforts. All ideas must be one off applications; amounts will be up to £250 per fund.

Please return your completed application form to:  
Thurrock CVS  
The Beehive  
West St  
Grays  
Essex  
RM17 6XP

Or email to [Grants@thurrockcvs.org.uk](mailto:Grants@thurrockcvs.org.uk)

Any enquiries please contact Thurrock CVS on 01375 389893