

Thank you for contacting Avenue Services about the Blacon Neighbourhood Plan for 2022/2023. We are now inviting you to complete an application form with the details of your community investment proposal.

We recommend you have this document to hand when you complete the application form.

The fund is currently accepting applications for small community projects (up to £5,000) that will make a difference to the lives of local residents and the Blacon community.

Who can apply?

- Blacon residents.
- Blacon community and resident groups.
- Local businesses and social enterprises
- Local charities.
- Local schools and educational institutions.
- Statutory organisations providing services to the Blacon community.

Applicant groups must have a bank account, equal opportunities policy and constitution as a minimum.

Projects must support one or more of the following priorities :

Employment, Education, Skills and Training

We aim to support residents in developing skills and accessing training opportunities in order to enter into, and sustain, employment. We are particularly interested in projects which aim to increase employability, gain qualifications and help people progress into work.

Health and Wellbeing

We aim to support residents to live happy, healthy and fulfilled lives, with access to the care and support services they need. We are particularly interested in projects which aim to reduce isolation, build connections and friendships.

Community safety and infrastructure

We aim to ensure that our communities are safe places to live and are equipped with the infrastructure they need to shape their aims and aspirations. We are particularly interested in projects which aim to make our communities feel safer and increase a sense of belonging and pride.

Environment

We aim to make our neighbourhoods greener and cleaner places to live and to assist our residents to live more sustainable lifestyles. We are particularly interested in projects which actively engage people in improving spaces or places as well as projects which support greener lifestyle choices.

Financial inclusion

We aim to ensure that everyone is able to access the basic financial services products that are needed to participate in a modern society. We are particularly interested in projects which increase the confidence of people to manage their money.

Eligible projects

Your project should fit one or more of our five priority themes. It must benefit Blacon residents and should aim to make a positive difference to the community. We are committed to supporting the communities that we work in.

Our Neighbourhood Plan fund supports organisations and groups that are already doing great work in our community to help them to achieve more. It would be ideal, but not essential, for you to demonstrate effective partnership working as part of the project or activities you're planning and to have secured or anticipate securing additional investment to contribute to the project from other sources (for example cash, materials or volunteer time). Projects which only benefit one person **will not** be eligible for funding.

How much funding can you apply for?

Up to £5,000 per application (including VAT, if not exempt). If you have a great idea for a larger scale project (over £5,000) please complete our '*Avenue Services Surplus Fund*' application form.

What happens once you have submitted your application?

We will contact you within five working days to confirm receipt of your application.

All applications must be submitted between 1 January 2022 to 31 January 2022

We are unable to consider applications received after 31 January 2022.

Your project must start after 1 April 2022 and we will confirm if you have been successful in your application by the end of March 2022. If your application is successful, we will expect you to agree to the conditions of the funding which includes: recording your expenditure, working with us to monitor your progress and sharing stories. We will provide you with a contract to help you to make sure that your project is a success.

Is there anything you can't use the money for?

Yes, there are a few things that our funding cannot be used for.

- Ongoing running costs; for example, insurance, utility costs, rent or salaries.
- Funding individuals or projects which only benefit one person.
- Fixtures and fittings; for example, chairs and tables (unless the project cannot run without the specialised equipment).
- Sponsorship or projects which are motivated mainly by marketing or branding.
- Alcohol

Find out more

If you would like to talk your idea through with someone, or ask a question about the '*Blacon Neighbourhood Plan 2022/2023*' please call us on 0300 123 1741 or email avenue.services@sanctuary-housing.co.uk.