

10 ways to get 'Funding-Ready'

VCSE organisations
Parish and town councils



Who are GRCC?

Infrastructure services in the Tewkesbury Borough

- Tewkesbury Borough VCSE Network
- Gloucestershire Community Buildings Network
- Gloucestershire Volunteer Managers Network
- One to one support for parish and town councils and VCSE organisations (come meet us at our stand)

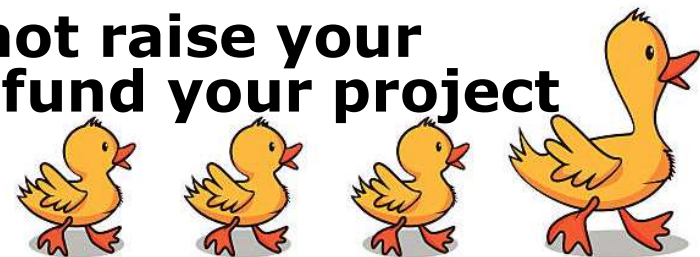


Grant funding is a sliding scale

- The more funds you apply for, the more work you need to do
- The more money you apply for, the more you need to prove
- Grant funding is never guaranteed

Follow your mission

- 1. Have up-to-date strategies/plans and policies
 - Accurate meeting/AGM minutes on decisions
 - Health and safety
 - Safeguarding
 - Food hygiene
- 2. Prepare financial context for applications
 - Clear picture of income and expenditure, and up-to-date accounts
 - Precept (parish/town councils) – why it cannot be raised further
 - Reserves – what they are currently earmarked for
 - Audits – good financial management
- **Be prepared to explain why you cannot raise your precept and/or use reserves to fully fund your project**



3. Select your project

- Must be owned and managed directly by your organisation
- Must have community benefit
- Includes, but not limited to:
 - New/enhanced play equipment
 - Community building repair/building work
 - Community projects
 - Community facilities
 - Community events
- Rarely includes:
 - Basic/routine maintenance of assets
 - Running ('core') costs



4. Know the details

- What are you trying to achieve?
- Who or what will it benefit?
- Where will you do it?
- How will you do it?

5. Consider how much staff or volunteer time has been allocated for grant applications – avoid burnout!



6. Establish your project budget

- How much will it cost initially?
- How much will it cost to maintain?
- What funds are already in place?

- Match funding e.g. own funds, other grants, precept raise, reserves
- Core costs, capital and revenue
- Marketing and communication costs (if applicable)
- Full cost recovery

7. Prepare your case

- Why is your project needed?
- Prepare **relevant, local** statistics e.g.
 - The population of Trumpton has grown by 20%
 - 63% of responses to our community consultation asked for...
 - Dibley music festival had over 4000 attendees in 2024
- Parish statistics can be found on Inform Gloucestershire:
<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/profiles/>
- Can you show **confidence** in the project (e.g. increase, decrease, maximise, minimise, save, assist)?
- Can you show **certainty** in the outcomes (e.g. will, can, shall)?

8. Sign up to funding news

- Rural Services Network funding digest
<https://www.rsnonline.org.uk/tag/rural-funding-digest>
- Gloucestershire VCSE Alliance Funding Bulletin
<https://www.glosalliance.org.uk/funding-directory>
- GRCC's mailing lists (see flyer)

NB Most funding search engines do not filter for funds open to parish and town councils

Keep useful local contacts to hand:

- Tewkesbury Borough Council Community Funding Team
communityfunding@Tewkesbury.gov.uk
- GRCC Community Development Team cdt@grcc.org.uk

9. Check eligibility, and check again

- **Does the fund apply to your organisation and project?**
- If eligibility is unclear, contact the funder

10. Assign responsible and accountable members of staff/volunteers to fill in applications, and ensure:

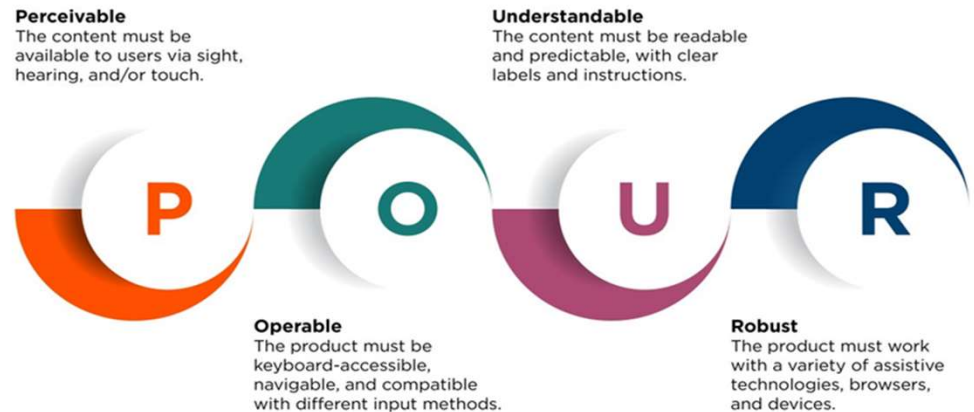
- They have capacity
- They have ability to use (or check) the use plain English, plus correct spelling and grammar



Bonus top tip: Check your online presence!

- If a funder Googled your organisation, what would they see?
- Does your website and/or social media accurately represent you?
- Do you have a policy in place on staff/volunteers updating these?
- If relevant, are your companies house, charity commission listings etc up to date?

The Four Principles of Accessibility



Source:
<https://www.w3.org/TR/UNDERSTANDING-WCAG20/intro.html>

Any Questions?