

3 Counties Connected Community Railway Partnership, Community Resilience Fund 2023

The scheme:

The 3 Counties Connected Community Railway Partnership (Chester, Wrexham, Shrewsbury, Crewe railway line) has set up a one-off grant fund to support communities along the railway line. The scheme is offering funding to allow communities along the line to build resilience or sustainability for their project / activities or new initiative. Community organisations, charities, and CIC's (please see eligibility) with the local community (5 miles of the stations) can apply for funding to assist with projects targeting social inclusion, encouraging behaviour change, that link to healthy wellbeing activities and where possible encourage the use of public transport.

Funding available:

Grants of up to £2000 are available, and the total grant pot is £20,000.

Eligibility:

Any community organisation, charity, CIC or group that has a bank account in their name with at least two unrelated signatories, and is based within 8km/5miles of the 3 Counties Connected Community Railway Partnership Railway Line (Chester, Wrexham, Shrewsbury, Crewe railway line) can apply.

If the organisation is not based within the given radius but can show how the grant funding will support a community that is, then this is acceptable. Individuals, businesses and statutory bodies cannot apply and neither can national charities unless it is a local branch. Religious organisations can apply if the funding is not used to promote a particular faith or belief system.

Applicants do not have to be registered charities, but they must be a group with a bank account. In exceptional circumstances, groups can apply through a sponsoring organisation if they do not have a bank account, but they must be able to demonstrate that they have the ability to deliver in their own right.

How can the grant be used?

The grant can be used for projects that look to support grassroots projects that look to reduce social isolation and improve health and wellbeing within the local community. The grant will fund new or existing activities that meet the objectives of the scheme. The grant does not have to be solely for project costs, it can be used for running costs including staff, bills, rent or maintenance as long as it can be demonstrated that these costs cannot be met by other means and that it will help the organisation remain active and sustainable.

How will the grant be assessed?

Since there is a finite amount of money, applications will be assessed by a panel using a scoring system after the deadline, and if there are more suitable applications than funding available then applications with the higher scores will be prioritised. There is also an aspiration to spread the fund fairly along the line so this will be part of the consideration. Unsuccessful applicants will be given feedback and may be supported in other ways if appropriate. If applications do not exceed the fund there will be a second bidding opportunity. Organisations should not apply for more than is needed so that the funds can be made available for as many groups as possible. A properly costed application will increase the likelihood of success.

The panel will be made up of some 3 Counties Connected Community Railway Partnership board members as well as voluntary sector representatives and representatives from Transport for Wales and Avanti; the process will be administered by Groundwork North Wales.

For the best possible chance of success, make sure you cover the following:

- Within 8 km /5 miles of the 3 Counties Connected Community Railway Partnership railway line or proof of benefitting a community that is
- Have a bank account or similar.
- Have demonstrated positive impact on the community.
- Have demonstrated how the grant will help sustain the organisation or an activity.
- Have shown that costs cannot be met by other means.
- The bid is well- costed.
- Have shown a track record of delivery
- Have enclosed all the documents requested
- Have answered all the questions as required
- Have signed correctly and agree with all the declarations

Date	Activity Deadline
29 th Nov 2023	Deadline for submission of applications
6 th Dec 2023	Decisions to be shared by
31 st Mar 2024	Project completion end date
30 th Apr 2024	Final date for end of project report and evidence to be submitted

- **Match funding** is not a requirement of the grant and organisations will be able to combine the grant with other funding in order to deliver a project or achieve an outcome. If this is the case then monitoring and impact needs to show this and only a proportion can be claimed (no double counting).
- **What sort of monitoring is needed?** If you are successful in getting a grant a few monitoring requirements will be requested. For example, you will need to provide evidence of spend and be able to describe the impact of the grant including numbers of people impacted and any feedback you’ve received. Photos will be welcomed as long as you have gained permission from any individuals in them.
- **Publicity** the 3 Counties Connected Community Railway Partnership will want to publicise the positive impact of the fund so grant recipients will be asked for consent for the information provided to be utilized for local publicity, on the website and on social media. The partners listed at the bottom of the form may wish to do the same. If there are legitimate reason not to publicise the use of the grant, it will be considered.
- **Is there any help available to make the application?** All groups can go to their local CVC in order to get support with filling in applications. Questions about the fund itself can be asked by contacting josie.rayworth@3countiesconnected.org.uk

SECTION 1 QUESTIONS – YOUR INFO	YOUR ANSWER	GUIDANCE NOTE
Organisation name		Your organisation must be based within 8km/5miles of the 3 Counties Connected Community Railway Partnership railway line
Address including postcode		This should be the official address of your organisation. We will check it against the other documents you provide
Organisation contact details	Phone:	Please give your organisation's phone no, email, & website. If you don't have any of these, please put N/A.
	Email:	
	Website:	
Legal structure	Constituted Group	Please tick any that apply, and enter the registration number, if applicable. We will check these details, so please check that the information is the same as that supplied by you.
	Registered Charity	
	CIC	
	Faith Based Group	
	Other (please specify)	
Signatories – names of 2 unrelated signatories on the group's bank account	1.	To apply you must have a bank account which does not belong to an individual. The account should be in the name of group or organisation and have two unrelated signatories.
	2.	
Contact details of application signatory	Name:	Please tell us about the person who has signed this application on behalf of your organisation. They should be authorised by your board / management committee to do so. This is the contact we will use to let you know the outcome of your application.
	Role:	
	Organisation address & postcode:	
	Phone:	
	Email:	
SECTION 2 QUESTIONS – PROJECT	YOUR ANSWER	GUIDANCE NOTE
Activities of your organisation		Please describe the main activities of your organisation, who you help and approx. how many people per annum? (200 words max)
County of operation		Which county do you operate in?
Nearest train station		What is your nearest 3 Counties Connected Community Railway Partnership train station and how far away are you?
Project title		Project a name that will clearly identify it.

Project start date		All projects must be completed by 31 st March 2024
Project description		Please provide an overview of the proposed activity including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a clear description of project activities • who the funding will benefit • how project beneficiaries will benefit • what impact the project will have 500 words max
Evidence of need		How do you know your project is needed? e.g. survey results, identified gap etc.
SECTION 3 QUESTIONS – FINANCE / DOCUMENTS	YOUR ANSWER	GUIDANCE NOTE
Grant requested	£	How much grant are you requesting? (max £2000)
Items to be funded by the grant:	£	Please detail what the grant will pay for
Bank account details		GUIDANCE NOTE
Account name		Please provide details of the organisation account that the grant will be paid into (should: you be successful)
Sort code		
Account number		

Declaration - Please read this section carefully.

We are unable to accept an application if this section has not been completed. It will give details of how we will use the information you have provided in this form, and how we will store it.

1. By signing you agree that you are making an application for funding and that the information that you have provided is correct to the best of your knowledge.
2. You accept that if any information changes prior to an award being made you will need to notify the 3 Counties Connected Railway Partnership at the earliest opportunity.
3. You understand that any grant awarded will only be made payable to the organisation which will benefit from the grant unless there are exceptional circumstances.
4. You understand that the grant funders will record the information contained on this application form so that we can make an informed decision of whether we can offer you support.

5. You understand that if you are successful in receiving an award, 3 Counties Connected Community Railway Partnership will retain the information on this application form for 3 years. If you are not successful, the information will be retained for 1 year.
6. You understand that if more information is needed, 3 Counties Connected Community Railway Partnership or the grant administrators will contact you using the details you provided on the application and you consent to this contact.
7. You understand to ensure that the grant is used only for the purposes stated in the application and to return any surplus grant funding which is not used for the project applied for.
8. You understand that the 3 Counties Connected Community Railway Partnership and partners listed below may use information and images from the application form and follow up impact report for publicity purposes.
9. You understand that any publicity or events generated by you in relation to this grant must include acknowledgement of the 3 Counties Connected Community Railway Partnership, including invitations to events and to provide quotations, website links and connections on social media.
10. You understand that the decision of the grant making panel is final.

SIGNATORIES			
Chair / Secretary		Trustee / Committee Member	
Name		Name	
Role		Role	
Signature		Signature	
Date		Date	

Please send your application and accompanying documents to: info@groundworknorthwales.org.uk
by MIDDAY FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2023