PRIDE IN PLACE
LED BY YOU – BACKED BY UK GOVERNMENT

Proud of **Blacon** Neighbourhood Board

in partnership with

Cheshire West Voluntary Action
Championing the community sector

Cheshire West and Chester

Before you start

We are Proud of Blacon and recognise that small groups and organisations in our area are already building a stronger community, creating a thriving place, and empowering people to take back control.

Cheshire West Voluntary Action (CWVA) is working with the Pride in Place Proud of Blacon Board to oversee a grants programme worth £50,000, supporting these groups to continue succeeding and growing their vital contribution to our community life.

CWVA is the local infrastructure organisation (LIO) in Cheshire West, championing the community sector and supporting organisations in areas like funding, training, governance, volunteer management, and much more.

Information in applications will be shared with CWVA, the Pride in Place Proud of Blacon Board and Cheshire West and Chester Council for administration purposes.

What we fund

Grassroots groups based in or operating in Blacon, Chester.

Applicants can apply for between £200 and £2,000 to continue existing projects, core work or try something new.

Funding can be used to provide services or activities which:

- help reduce loneliness or isolation
- improve physical or mental health
- improve opportunities for local children and adults
- improve financial wellbeing or resilience
- strengthen community involvement and local pride

- improve the local environment and neighbourhood.

What we won't fund

- Over £2,000 or under £200 of costs
- Individuals, companies limited by shares or profit-making organisations
- Organisations without a constitution (set of rules) or bank account with two unrelated signatories (unless you have a partner organisation that has both, and is willing to hold and manage money on your behalf)
- Organisations not based in Blacon, unless they have a proven record of delivery in the area and/or the project is in response to an identified need with local support
- Large organisations, unless funding is for a local, grassroots-led project/activity
- Projects to be delivered outside of Blacon
- Projects that do not meet our priorities of building a stronger community, creating a thriving place, and empowering people to take back control

If your application is successful, additional supporting documentation will need to be submitted before final approval is made.

This will include:

- your constitution, standing orders, Articles of Association or similar (or that of your supporting partner organisation)
- your most recent bank statement (or that of your supporting partner organisation)
- your safeguarding policy if the funding is for an event or activity in which children or vulnerable adults are taking part or attending.

Timeline and decision-making process

Applications open on Monday 26 October 2026. Our panel will meet on a rolling basis in the last weeks of November 2026, January 2027 and March 2027 to consider applications until funds have been fully distributed.

We will do our best to let all applicants know the outcome of their application at the beginning of the following month for each panel, which will include Pride in Place Proud of Blacon Board members and members of the CWVA team.

Projects will be scored in the following way.

Category	Weighting
Alignment with Pride in Place Proud of Blacon priorities	40%
Potential reach and impact of project	40%
Previous track record of delivery	20%

Advice on the Application Form

The below talks you through the different questions on the Application Form, and how you might approach answering each of them.

Individual information required

- Contact person name
- Contact email address
- Phone number

Basic details for your organisation or group required

- Name of your organisation or group – e.g. Blacon Knit & Natter
- Charity reference number – you may not have one. If you are not registered with the Charity Commission, you can skip this question, or put n/a, none or something similar
- Company number – you may not have one. If you are not registered with Companies House, you can skip this question, or put n/a, none or something similar
- Organisation address – if you are a registered charity or company, this should match the Charity Commission/Companies House information. If you are not, this could be where your bank statements are sent to, or where you are happy to get post (it can be a home address)
- Organisation postcode – use the postcode for the address you have just given above

Basic project details required

- Project address if different from organisation address – this could be the building your group meets at, the starting point for a walking group, or the piece of land you intend to transform. If you will be delivering in multiple places, please list them
- Does your project fall within the Proud of Blacon area boundaries? – there is a map of the boundaries on the front page of the online form, but it roughly covers all of what locals consider to be Blacon. Your project must fall within the Proud

of Blacon area boundaries to qualify for this fund. If it doesn't, please contact CWVA or visit its website for other funds that may be able to help

How your organisation/group is managed

- **Does your group/organisation have its own set of governing rules?** – governing rules have a lot of different names e.g. constitution, articles, governing document, trust deed, rules of association. If you have a bank account or have applied for funding before, you should already have these
- **Does your group/organisation have a bank account in its name with at least two unrelated signatories?** – we cannot pay money into a personal bank account, or an organisation without two unrelated people on the bank account

Details of partner organisation

This is only relevant (and will only show) for those groups who do not have governing rules and/or a qualifying bank account, meaning that small groups can still apply if they have someone willing to manage the funds on their behalf. For example, an informal craft group who meets weekly and would like funding for more materials could ask the community venue if they would be willing to buy these on their behalf if they put in the application. You may already know people (e.g. the people managing the building you meet in) you could ask but, if you would like help finding a partner organisation, please contact CWVA.

- **Does your group have another organisation who has agreed to manage money on your behalf?** – this should be agreed before the application is submitted
- **Does that organisation have its own set of governing rules and a bank account in its name?** – the organisation who has agreed to manage the funds needs to have governing rules and a bank account, but could be larger and/or based outside of Blacon. For example, a gardening group in Blacon without a bank account might ask another gardening group outside of Blacon to be its partner, or a local peer support group might ask the national organisation it is affiliated with to manage their funding
- **What is the name of your partner organisation?**
- **What is the name and email address of the person we should contact at your partner organisation regarding your application?** – we need a contact person who knows you are applying as we will be asking them to provide things like their constitution and bank details

More information about your organisation/group

- **Does your organisation have insurance?** If you do not currently have insurance, this will not stop you from applying, but you need to ensure your project is covered. You can do this by including the cost of insurance in your application, or by confirming with your partner organisation that their insurance will cover your activity

- **What is your organisation's income last year?** We don't need detail – just under £10k, £10K-£100k or over £100k to give us an idea of your size. If you are a registered charity or company, please use your last submitted accounts. If you are not registered but have been going for a while, you should know how much income you had last year. This specific fund is for small grassroots projects so, if you are a large organisation (over £100k income), your application must be for a local, grassroots-led project/activity. Other funds will follow, which may have different criteria

Please indicate which of the following criteria your group fulfils (please tick all that apply)

- Help reduce loneliness or isolation
- Improve opportunities for local children and adults
- Improve physical or mental health
- Strengthen community involvement and local pride
- Improve financial wellbeing or resilience
- Improve the local environment and neighbourhood

Please provide a brief overview of your organisation or group (no more than 150 words)

You might like to cover some practical things like how long you have been going, how many volunteers you have, and what activities you already run. We also want to hear why you do what you do, what you are passionate about, and what effect your work has in the local area. Even if you are a brand-new group, you will have experience and drive you can put in this section.

Please describe the project or activity you would like funding for and how it will support the people of Blacon to build a stronger community, create a thriving place, and empower people to take back control (no more than 300 words)

This is your opportunity to sell your project. If it is funding, for example, for rent and refreshments for a free coffee morning, you could tell us how many people you expect to come to your group each week, and whether it is open to all or targeted at those with a specific need. You could say what difference you expect it will make to those people and how that difference builds a stronger community, creates a thriving place, and empowers people to take back control. How will having funding for your specific items help you to do more for your existing participants, reach new people and/or how do you know your activity is wanted and needed?

Please indicate whether this is a new project or ongoing activities/core work

Multiple choice

How many beneficiaries will your project support?

Try to quantify the number of people you expect your project will support. To do this, you could use past attendance figures, and the number of people who might practically attend e.g. if it's a training course, there might be a maximum. If it's improvement to the area e.g. an alleyway project, it could be how many people use the alleyway. Try to avoid answers like "Everyone in Blacon'", but you can give a brief explainer e.g. there are 70 residents in houses backing onto the alleyway but the project will be open to all.

How do you plan to tell the difference your project/activities make? (50 words)

Are you going to ask participants before and after questions, count the number of people attending, or take before and after photos? There are a lot of ways to do this.

How much are you asking for? Please give the total and a breakdown of costs (include volunteer expenses, insurance, materials, resources, refreshments etc)

You have up to 20 rows. We don't need everything individually but would like to see some breakdown, such as the below.

Category	Description	Amount
Rent	52 weeks @ £20 pw	£1,040
Refreshments	Hot drinks and biscuits for up to 20 people per week	£520
Insurance	Annual Public Liability Insurance	£120

Please briefly describe how you intend to safeguard your beneficiaries and keep them safe from harm, abuse and neglect

Safeguarding specifically refers to protecting children and vulnerable adults from harm, abuse and neglect and shouldn't be confused with more general health and safety (although that's also important). What would you do if you noticed one of your participants wasn't coping, or they told you something worrying that was happening at home or between them and someone else in the group? How do people know what to do and do you have any policies, procedures, checks or training in place to help you deal with this situation?

What is your organisation's website address and/or social media details (if you have an online presence)?

Don't worry if you haven't got any of these but they can be useful when getting an idea of what groups are doing. If you haven't got any, please state this.

Grant condition questions you need to confirm you understand and accept

- To be eligible for funding, you must agree to complete a simple monitoring form after six months, and keep evidence of any purchases (e.g. receipts), providing these as proof if asked

- If successful, details of funded projects and how much they receive will need to be published online so please confirm if you agree
- If successful, all projects, activities, events or promotional materials funded through this programme will need to use the Pride in Place branding so please confirm if you agree
- If successful, you may be asked to take part in additional publicity so please confirm if you agree (this will not affect your application)

Support available

Applications are being processed by CWVA through Plinth, and you will need to create an account when accessing the system for the first time. If you already have an account after applying for other funds, you will be able to log back in. By creating an account, you can save applications and return to complete them later.

If you still need assistance with your application after reading this guidance, please contact: enquiries@cwva.org.uk, and a member of the CWVA team will be in touch to arrange help.