



The Beautiful South Fund guidance notes

We know from the work we do that south Manchester is a beautiful place full of people who look after and support their communities and one another. The Beautiful South Fund offers grants to organisations and groups who have a community initiative or idea in mind to make south Manchester even more beautiful. The theme of the fund is neighbourliness.

Who can apply for funding?

Charities, not-for-profit organisations, community groups and individuals can apply for funding of **up to £2,500** for projects, whether they are big or small, that help improve and bring people together within Southway neighbourhoods.

Your project must be based around the theme of neighbourliness and should aim to:

- Improve physical or mental wellbeing of local residents.
- Encourage friendly or social contact and local connections.
- Increase opportunities for people to get involved in their community.
- Improve the local environment and green spaces.
- Help or support communities to ease the impacts of a rising cost of living.

To be eligible for a grant:

- Your project or activity should cost no more than £2,500.
We will consider part-funding larger projects; if awarded, the grant would be paid to you once full funding has been secured.
- Your project or activity must benefit Southway communities (our core areas are the council wards of Burnage, Chorlton Park, Didsbury East, Didsbury West, Old Moat and Withington); **at least 50% of the beneficiaries of all grants awarded must be Southway tenants.**
- You must have an organisation/group bank account for the grant to be paid into. If you are applying as an individual, you could use the bank account of an organisation that you work with, or Southway may be able to purchase items for you.

We want the Fund to support as many projects, events and people as possible across all our neighbourhoods, so **we may offer less than the amount requested – the average amount awarded in 2022-23 was £1,300** – and we will not normally consider a second application from organisations/groups/individuals whilst they have a grant in payment. Priority is given to organisations/groups/individuals who have not received a grant before.

Applications for funding of more than £2,500 will be considered by Southway's Chief Executive separate to the panel.

If you want to discuss your project/event, please contact us on **0161 448 4200**.



What cannot be funded?

We will not award funding to projects or activities that:

- Statutory organisations such as local authorities and schools have a legal obligation to provide
- Promote political or religious beliefs
- Have already taken place or start before funding is awarded
- Are carried out for profit

We may also refuse grants to organisations or groups who have not provided monitoring information when requested for a previous Beautiful South Fund award.

Supporting your neighbourhood, protecting the planet

Southway has made a pledge to become a zero carbon organisation by 2038. We are fully committed to creating sustainable communities; reducing emissions, and bills, and increasing education around the critical issues of greener energy and 'low-carbon' living.

Please think about the steps you can take to reduce the carbon footprint of your project:

- *Use compostable tableware at events*
- *Reuse items when you can, during projects and after they're completed*
- *Buy local – and only buy what you need*
- *Encourage people to walk and cycle to your event/group*

Application process

1. To request funding please complete The Beautiful South application, available on our website; please contact us if you need help to complete the form.
2. We will acknowledge receipt of your application within a week.
3. We aim to make decisions about applications within two months of receiving them (but this may not always be possible).

Awards from the Beautiful South Fund are made by The Beautiful South Decision Making Panel. This panel is made up of Southway tenants and supported by Southway staff. The panel may ask for more information or to meet with you as part of the decision-making process.

4. A panel member or a member of Southway staff will contact you to confirm the panel's decision.

If you are not awarded a grant, we will explain the reasons for the decision. There are no restrictions on re-applying to the Fund; in some cases, we may be able to work with you to help you to develop a stronger application.



What happens if we are awarded a grant?

If you are awarded a grant, a panel member or member of Southway staff will contact you to discuss the next steps; this will include:

- How and when payment will be made; the panel may decide to release funds in stages or ask Southway staff to pay suppliers directly
- The information and records we will ask you to keep about your project
- How you can promote your Beautiful South Fund award and your project, for example, on social media and in Southway communications

Telling us how your project went

At the end of your project/funding, we will ask you to complete a short survey telling us how the project went, including how many people participated, the outcomes you achieved and any learning from the project. This helps us to understand our communities and to be able to share good practice across our neighbourhoods.

We love to hear about the projects funded by the Beautiful South Fund so you don't need to wait until the end of your project to tell us about it – you can contact us any time to update us and share photos or feedback. Please make sure that you have permission to share photographs or personal details of people involved in the project with us.

If you use social media, please tag us in your posts about the funded project/activity/event: @SouthwayHousing on Twitter or @southwayhousing on Facebook.

A Beautiful South Fund panel member or member of Southway staff may contact you during or after the project for an update on your progress. If you have any concerns about your project or are unable to complete it as planned, please contact us as soon you can.

You must record how the grant is spent and keep receipts for items bought with it; we may ask you for this during or after your project. Any grant money that has not been spent by the end of the project must be returned to Southway.



Previously funded projects

In 2022/23 Beautiful South Fund grants were awarded to:

- Merseyfest 2022 - £2,500 to support BMCA's annual fun day in Chorlton Park
- Teenage Engagement at Withington Baths - £2,250 to run a boxing club for 12 months
- Merseybank Planters - £1,636 to install 10 self-watering lamppost planters
- New Wooden sculpture for Old Moat - £2,500 to commission a new wooden sculpture for Old Moat Park
- Alford Avenue Jubilee Community Celebration - £387 for a street party in Withington
- Ladybarn Community Fun Day - £2,500 towards a community event to relaunch Ladybarn Hub
- Merseybank Community Garden - £960 to clear ground to redevelop the area
- Old Moat Kick-About - £2,447 to run a weekly football club for young people in for 12 months
- School Uniform Support - £2,000 to provide school uniforms to families struggling with the cost of living crisis in Merseybank
- Tea, Laughter, Craft - £900 for weekly craft sessions at Holland Court in Chorlton for 12 months
- Thyme for Everyone - £500 to support a community cooking group in Burnage
- Grosvenor Gardens Improvement Project - £2,475 for a new summerhouse at a Southway residential scheme in Stalybridge
- Minehead Café Christmas Party - £350 for a Christmas party in Old Moat
- Holland Court Christmas Bash - £330 for a Christmas party in Chorlton
- Fizz Club & Friday Night Club - £1,500 for two youth clubs at Ladybarn Hub
- Groovies - £345 for craft sessions at Grove Lane housing scheme in Didsbury
- Me and You Singing for Wellbeing in the Community – £966 to run community singing sessions for Dahlia House residents in Burnage
- Alston Gardens Coronation street party - £975 for a community street party in Burnage
- Old Moaties Coronation Party - £200 for an indoor street party in Old Moat
- BME Community Wellbeing - £604 for wellbeing sessions for people from BME communities in Burnage
- Merseyfest 2023 - £1,170 to support BMCA's annual fun day in Chorlton Park