

Community Fund

Guidance for Applicants

› The Community Fund

As a housebuilder, Durkan Homes works at the heart of local communities. We build high-quality homes to create new neighbourhoods people love, that also enhance existing places.

Beyond our housebuilding, we want to build positive relationships with the communities we work in, creating lasting legacies during and after our construction work.

Our Community Fund is one of the ways we do this. It extends how we can support local places, and the organisations, social

enterprises and charities that play important roles at the centre of these communities.

This guidance documents sets out in more detail how our Community Fund works, which organisations are eligible, and how we make decisions about funding.

Please read this document carefully before submitting your application.

› Eligibility

To apply for funding, your project must be near one of our Durkan Homes projects in Hertfordshire or Cambridgeshire. This means being an organisation in or near the city, town or village where we're working.

2024 is the second year Durkan Homes is operating this Community Fund. In the coming years, we may expand the scheme to accept applications from other areas.

Please note, we reserve the right to decline an application if we feel the organisation and / or its proposed work is too far away from the communities we work in.

We consider applications from not-for-profit organisations, social enterprises and charities that benefit local communities.

This includes projects or initiatives that support the following:

- Education, upskilling and retraining to support employability
- Community safety, health and wellbeing
- At risk members of society and those with special needs
- The environment, wildlife and ecology
- The infrastructure of charities and organisations, to improve how they deliver their services. This includes, for example, improvements to the fabric of buildings to create new, improved spaces and amenities, or enhance energy efficiency.

We do not consider applications for the following:

- To cover bills or operational costs, including salaries
- Sponsorship to individuals
- Promotion of political causes or religious interests. We do, however, consider supporting non-faith work being carried out by faith-based organisations
- Retrospective funding, for projects already completed
- Projects that require planning permissions
- Funding local authorities, parish councils, health services and transport services
- Research of any kind.

This list is not exhaustive, and we reserve the right to decline an application for funding if we feel a project or organisation is not appropriate.

If you have any questions that are not answered by the information in this document, please contact our team on:

› communityfund@durkan.co.uk

› How much we fund

Durkan Homes will consider applications for funding and donations up to £2,500.

› Other considerations

Applicants can submit more than one application, however Durkan Homes will only offer funding for one project per organisation each year.

We only accept applications from a given area while we are building and selling homes in that community.

› The application process

We know that many local organisations and charities are often very busy. We have therefore created an application process that isn't too time intensive to complete.

The process is as follows:

1. If you believe your organisation meets our funding criteria, then please complete our Application Form and email it to communityfund@durkan.co.uk
2. Once you have submitted your application, you will receive an email confirming that we have received it and we are reviewing it. We may contact you directly if we need more information to fully consider your application.
3. Once we have reviewed your application, you will receive an email confirming whether you have been successful. This may take up to a month, but please be assured we will come back to you.
4. If your application is successful, a member of our team will be in contact to tell you the good news and explain the next steps.

For unsuccessful applications, we will share the reasons for our decision. In some instances, applicants may be able to reapply if they can address the reasons they weren't successful.

› How we make decisions

Durkan Homes has a dedicated team that considers all the applications we receive. The team meets to assess applications regularly against the eligibility set out in this document.

The team responds to applicants with their decision as soon as possible.

As reviews of applications are undertaken, we may ask applicants for more information if needed to support a decision. In these instances, applicants are contacted directly using the details they have supplied.

› Payment

After successful applicants have been notified of our decision to grant funding, we will make contact directly to discuss next steps and how we make payment.

The specifics of the most appropriate payment method will be discussed at this point.

› Publicity

We will often want to talk publicly about successful grants and share the positive news about the awarding of funding.

Publicising our work may include photography of projects, posting information on our website and our social media, and engaging with media outlets to share the news.

We will discuss this with applicants and work in partnership to make sure any media activity is mutually agreed, and ensure that all necessary permissions are in place.

Thank you for taking the time to read this guidance document. If you are making an application, we look forward to receiving it