

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

MARCH 2026

AVAILABLE FUNDS

Making Local Life Better

Open all year round, Making Local Life Better does what it says on the tin! It supports locally run and managed groups across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to make local lives better, with a focus on:

- Arts, Culture & Heritage
- Education, training, and employment
- Environment, wildlife, and biodiversity
- Equity, inclusion, and fairness
- Health (physical and mental) including social isolation, addiction issues and caring responsibilities
- Poverty and disadvantage, including homelessness, housing, food and fuel poverty, debt advice.
- Sport and recreation
- Stronger communities and cohesion, including refugee support

Grants up to £3,000

Assessment takes on average 12 weeks.

2026 panel dates 10th February, 28th April, 11th August, 10th November.

CASE STUDY

Grantee: Leicester Children's Holidays

Donor: William Colton Sports Fund and the Louisa Fund

Grant awarded: £2,982

Over 2 days, 30 young people had fun and adventures, learning how to fish, operate a lock on a canal, and indoor bouldering (climbing). They even steered the canal boat!

The trips gave children the chance to learn new skills, try new experiences, and boost their wellbeing. They discovered opportunities they might never have had, made new friends, and left with fresh hope for the future.

Of their adventures, young people said:

"I can't believe how peaceful this canal is"

"I really wasn't looking forward to the climbing, but it was so much fun"

"I am so happy, I caught 5 fish"

FIND MORE INFORMATION [HERE](#)

SWEF Enterprise Fund

Open all year round, targeted support to young people aged 18-30 years who are looking to set up or develop their own business. Funding can support training, equipment, new materials and products.

Grants from £500-£2,000.

Assessment takes on average 2 weeks.

Market Harborough Building Society Community Fund

Opening on 2nd February 2026 with a deadline of Monday 6th April 2026.

The fund will support charitable groups in Market Harborough, Kibworth, Kettering, Desborough and Rothwell, with a focus on poverty and disadvantage, which includes:

- Food and fuel poverty
- Housing/homelessness
- Debt relief and financial resilience
- Antisocial behaviour/crime/gangs
- Rural issues/transport
- Abuse/violence/exploitation
- Ex-offenders/at risk of offending

Please note, priority will be given to proposals addressing food and fuel poverty, housing and homelessness, and debt relief and financial resilience.

Grants up to £5,000.

OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING OR SUPPORT

Anglian Water, Thriving Communities Fund

The fund focuses on Anglian Water's trading area, which includes part of Leicestershire and Rutland. The fund seeks to empower groups to improve their local environment and create positive social impact.

Grants of between £10,000 and £100,000 to support projects that are focused on the water environment whilst also delivering social benefits. Whether it's shaping spaces that enhance wellbeing and reduce flood risk, improving water quality, or helping local species thrive, there are countless ways this fund can help communities flourish.

For more information visit

<https://www.cambscf.org.uk/funds/thriving-communities/>

Active Together

Active Together offers dedicated support for physical activity and sport clubs, organisations and groups across Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. This includes a [Funding Finder](#), Funding Advice Service, Organisational Development Support, [Safeguarding & Welfare Support](#) and a [Health Hub](#).

[Supporting Organisations](#) | [Active Together](#)

TOP TIPS

What, why, where, who, when... These are all important questions to answer when submitting a funding application. Clear detail strengthens an application, supporting the assessment team and donors to have confidence in the viability of the proposed activity. It helps the donor appreciate the scale of the activity and potential impact of a request.

For example:

We are seeking funding for our youth club, targeting 25 young people aged 12-15 years. The club is open most Fridays at Anytown Village Hall, offering 2hrs of activities each week for 50 weeks of the year. Our youth club activities include table tennis, music making, pool, games and trips to local sights of interest as decided by the young members.

The additional information helps set the context. The response can be further strengthened by:

- Sharing demographic details of club members, gender, disability, ethnicity etc.
- Including quotes from club members, parents/carers or local members of the community.

Q&A

Each fund managed by the Community Foundation will have tailored grant guidance documents available at <https://www.llrcommunityfoundation.org.uk/our-grants/apply-for-a-grant/>

Responses to questions below relate to the Community Foundations flagship Making Local Life Better programme.

What costs will the fund not pay for?

Making Local Life Better is very flexible and will fund core costs, small capital costs, volunteer & staff training, volunteer expenses, activity costs, new and repeat projects. However, the fund is unlikely to support a small contribution to a much larger project (£30,000+).

The fund will not contribute towards activity taking place outside Leicester, Leicestershire or Rutland, loan repayments, animal welfare and sponsorship events.

How soon can projects start after approval?

As soon as a Grant Agreement is signed and returned funded activity can begin. Making Local Life Better does not support retrospective funding, funding for things that have happened prior to a Grant Agreement being issued.

Do we need match funding?

No, match funding is not required.