Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Forum

23 September 2025

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COMMUNITY GRANTS – SECOND APPLICATION ROUND

I am writing to tell you about the opportunity for organisations operating within the unparished area of Horsham town to bid for capital funding for local projects, and to **invite you to a launch event on Thursday 23rd October.**

In certain circumstances developers are required to pay a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which has to be used to support the development of the area by funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure, or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area. In its broadest sense this means upgrading or providing new services to support a larger population. A portion of the CIL is allocated to parish councils but in the unparished area of Horsham represented by Denne, Forest and Trafalgar Neighbourhood Councils the Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Forum, is responsible for collecting and assessing bids, and making recommendations to Horsham District Council for awarding grants.

Blueprint is inviting bids for capital projects which will enhance our neighbourhoods and improve the lives of residents and others who use the facilities the town offers. **This bidding round starts on 23rd October and will close on 16th January 2026.** We plan to make decisions for awards in the Spring. The assessment of bids will begin as we receive them so please do not delay until the closing date.

Projects that have been funded from CIL receipts include improvements to community buildings and sporting facilities, improving access to recreation areas and investing in local green spaces, footpaths and cycle ways.

Blueprint wants to support a wide range of different projects in line with the Neighbourhood Plan. Funding is limited so smaller projects, and larger ones not exceeding £25,000, are encouraged. We are particularly interested in ideas which involve matched funding provided by the bidders themselves or other partners. We also encourage potential bidders to engage with supporters and communities, and with Blueprint and the relevant Neighbourhood Councils at an early stage as you develop your proposals, though without committing yourselves to any expenditure. I am attaching a guidance note, which includes a map of the unparished area and contacts for Blueprint and the Neighbourhood Councils, and an application form.

I am sure you will have questions, so we are inviting you to a launch event on Thursday 23rd October in the Park Barn, at 7pm for 7.30pm where we will explain the process in more detail, together with information about other grant funding opportunities that are available to local organisations. I hope you or a representative of your organisation will be able to join us.

Yours sincerely

Ron Bates
Secretary, Blueprint Steering Group