



Community Chest Grant

Tackling fly-tipping and building community pride in Old Stoke, South West Ipswich - Applications now open

Amount: A total funding pot of £5,000 is available for this theme/area. This may be awarded as a single grant or divided among multiple successful applicants.

You may apply for anything up to £5,000.

Area: Old Stoke Ipswich (Bridge Ward).

Issue or emerging need: Fly-tipping, environmental neglect and community pride.

Closing date: **Friday 2nd October by 5pm.**

What We Are Looking For

Community Chest grants are designed to tackle local issues and address emerging community needs.

We are seeking applications from community groups, voluntary organisations and partnerships to deliver projects that help tackle fly-tipping and build community pride in Old Stoke. Funding can be used to develop a new project or expand an existing one and we encourage partnership working where possible.

Projects must be delivered by **April 2027** and should engage residents in improving and caring for their local area. We are particularly interested in activities that encourage community involvement, positive behaviour change and lasting environmental improvements.

What we learned from previous projects:

Previous work in Old Stoke has shown that environmental improvements can be difficult to sustain without ongoing community engagement and local ownership. We are therefore particularly interested in projects that empower residents to play an active role in improving their neighbourhood and creating lasting change.

Please view Appendices A,B and C below for more information.

Community Day at Old Stoke – Tuesday 22nd September, 1pm-3pm.

Interested organisations and community groups are invited to join us at our Community Pride Day, taking place from 1pm-3pm at The Platforma, opposite Polly's Park in Old Stoke. This informal event will provide an opportunity to meet residents, speak with Community Praxis and Ipswich Borough Council's Waste Team, learn more about the environmental challenges and opportunities within the area, and discuss ideas for potential Community Chest applications. Attending the event will help organisations gain a deeper understanding of the local issues highlighted within this funding opportunity, hear directly from residents about their priorities, and explore opportunities for partnership working with other local groups and stakeholders. If you are considering an application, this is a valuable opportunity to make new connections and shape proposals that respond to local needs. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to zara.hanman@ipswich.gov.uk so we have an indication of numbers in advance.

Supporting information

Evidence collected by Ipswich Borough Council shows:

- Old Stoke continues to experience recurring environmental concerns despite significant council investment.
- Between March and June 2026, Old Stoke accounted for 37 reported fly-tipping incidents, approximately 17% of all reported fly-tipping in Ipswich.
- Previous interventions have included deep cleans, CCTV monitoring, enforcement activity, education campaigns and enhanced cleansing services.
- Feedback from residents and stakeholders continues to identify environmental quality and neighbourhood appearance as key local concerns.

For further information or access to data on local populations, we recommend visiting the SODA website [Suffolk Observatory – Welcome to the Suffolk Observatory](#).

Desired Outcomes

Applications should demonstrate how their project will contribute to one or more of the following outcomes:

- Reduced fly-tipping, littering or environmental neglect within Old Stoke
- Increased awareness of responsible waste disposal and local services
- Greater resident involvement in improving local neighbourhoods
- Increased community pride and ownership of local spaces
- Stronger community connections and volunteering opportunities
- Improved perceptions of the local environment

- Sustainable improvements that continue beyond the funded period where possible

Applicants must be able to

- Demonstrate their ability to engage with a diverse range of residents, including minoritised groups and communities where English may not be the first language.
- Demonstrate how project activities will be accessible, inclusive and welcoming to all residents of Old Stoke.
- Demonstrate experience of delivering community-led projects that encourage environmental improvement and community pride.
- Demonstrate effective partnership working and resident engagement.
- Pass usual due diligence checks and provide relevant insurance and policy documentation.

Eligibility criteria

This fund is for existing local groups or organisations, who must be constituted and be able to meet the following due diligence requirements:

- A committee with at least three members
- A bank account in the group's name, with two signatories for all withdrawals (living at two different addresses)
- Provision of a recent bank statement (within 30 days) with visible transactions (confidential details may be redacted, for example if an individual has paid a donation into the account)
- A Safeguarding Policy in place if they are working with children and/ or vulnerable people
- Any other policies or insurance which are deemed necessary or related to the activity

Successful applicants will be required to complete due diligence checks before funding is released.

Community Chest Grants cannot be used for:

- Paid staff costs which are unrelated to the project
- Activities which are the statutory duty of any organisation, including IBC
- Paying for any activities retrospectively
- Political activities for any party
- Activities with a religious focus, or which may exclude residents based on faith (this does not exclude activities which are affiliated with a religious group provided they are open to all)

How applications will be assessed

Applications will be assessed on:

- Understanding of the local issue
- Ability to deliver the proposed activities
- Community engagement and inclusion
- Value for money
- Expected impact on fly-tipping and community pride
- Long-term sustainability and legacy

How to apply

Applications are to be made using the following form and must be received by **5pm on Friday 2nd October 2026**.

[Community Chest Application form 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Next Steps

Applications will be reviewed at the next Community Grants Recommendation working group on the 14th October.

If your application is successful, we will request due diligence documents from you and make the required checks. Once complete, we will ask you to sign an agreement and make arrangements for payment.

We aim for the Community Chest Grant process to take no more than two- three months in total, inclusive of due diligence checks and processing payment.

If you require any further information or support, please contact communities@ipswich.gov.uk.

Appendix: Community Evidence and Engagement Findings

This appendix provides additional context and evidence gathered through community engagement and local intelligence. The findings have informed the development of this Community Chest funding opportunity and highlight the environmental challenges, resident priorities and community-led solutions identified within Old Stoke. Applicants may wish to use this information to support the design and delivery of their proposals.

Appendix A: Community Praxis Engagement Findings

Community Praxis engaged with local residents, young people and community stakeholders across Old Stoke to understand the environmental issues affecting the area and identify opportunities for community-led improvement. A number of consistent themes emerged from this engagement.

Key Findings

Environmental Quality: Residents identified fly-tipping, littering, overflowing bins, overgrown alleyways and waste accumulation as some of the most significant concerns affecting the appearance of the neighbourhood. Several hotspot locations were highlighted where these issues occur regularly.

Community Pride and Public Spaces: Feedback indicated a desire for cleaner, greener and more attractive streets. Residents highlighted opportunities to improve neglected spaces and expressed support for initiatives that encourage local pride and ownership.

Communication and Education: Many residents felt there was confusion around waste disposal and recycling arrangements. Community Praxis highlighted the importance of clear, accessible and multilingual communication to support positive behaviour change and improve understanding of local services.

Youth and Community Engagement: Young people identified environmental quality, lighting and anti-social behaviour as concerns and expressed interest in being involved in positive community initiatives. The report emphasised the value of youth-led projects and community ambassador roles.

Building Sustainable Change: Community Praxis found that environmental improvements are most effective when combined with community engagement, education and local ownership. The report recommends approaches that empower residents to take an active role in caring for and improving their neighbourhood.

Appendix B: Ideas Suggested by Residents and Community Praxis

Feedback gathered through the Community Praxis engagement highlighted a range of ideas that residents felt could help improve the local environment, reduce fly-tipping and strengthen community pride in Old Stoke. These suggestions may help inform project proposals, although applicants are encouraged to develop their own community-led approaches.

Environmental Improvements

Residents and stakeholders suggested:

- Community litter-picking and neighbourhood clean-up events.
- Alleyway restoration projects and vegetation clearance.
- Improvements to neglected public spaces.
- Better waste and recycling awareness activities.
- Greening initiatives to improve the appearance of streets and communal areas.

Community Pride Initiatives

Ideas included:

- Community murals and public artwork.
- Street planters, hanging baskets and planting schemes.
- Creation or enhancement of community noticeboards.
- Resident-led projects that encourage pride and ownership of local spaces.

Education and Engagement Activities

Residents highlighted the importance of:

- Multilingual information and awareness campaigns.
- Opportunities for young people to become involved in environmental projects.
- Community ambassador or champion programmes.
- Community events that bring residents together while promoting positive environmental behaviours.

Appendix C: Evidence Photographs







