

1. What is a community group?

A Community Group is a gathering of individuals who unite to serve their community. Typically, they recognize a need within their community and take proactive steps to address it through various projects. These groups often have a constitution document outlining their rules and objectives.

2. What is a committee?

A community group typically includes a committee, consisting of roles like a chairperson, treasurer, secretary, and potentially others. These roles are fulfilled by volunteers who dedicate their time to support the group and manage its operations. Committee members are usually elected democratically during Annual General Meetings (AGMs).

3. How are community groups formed?

Community groups are formed when individuals decide to come together with specific aims and goals. Any group of people can initiate the formation of a community group based on shared interests or community needs.

4. What relation does a Community Group have with the local council?

Community groups operate independently of the Council. However, many community groups receive support from Community Learning and Development teams, which offer assistance with governance, grant funding, and general advice. It's important to note that community groups are not extensions of the council.

5. How can I get involved in my community group?

You can get involved in your community group by attending meetings to contribute ideas in a positive manner. Additionally, completing forms and surveys sent out by committee members ensures that your voice is heard and considered in decision-making processes.

6. How do Community Groups get funding?

Community groups seek funding from various organisations by submitting funding bids and providing evidence of the need for different projects. This is why groups often request members to complete surveys, etc. Funders typically specify guidelines regarding how the money can be utilised. It's important to note that no individual has a share of the funding, and spending rules are determined by the funder.

7,What is a grant?

A grant is a financial award provided by funders to support specific projects or initiatives that align with their objectives. These funders may include government agencies, private foundations, or corporations. Grants are typically awarded to community groups, non-profit organisations, or individuals who successfully apply for funding to carry out projects that address social, environmental, or cultural needs. Each grant has its own set of criteria and aims, and applicants must demonstrate how their project meets these requirements. Once awarded, grant recipients are obligated to utilise the funds in accordance with the terms agreed upon with the funder, usually outlined in the application process. Grants play a crucial role in facilitating positive change and innovation within communities by providing financial support for projects that might not otherwise be feasible.

8. How do I know what the money has been spent on?

Community groups typically present their expenditure at their Annual General Meeting (AGM). During these meetings, members have the opportunity to review financial reports and see how grant money has been utilised. This transparency allows members to understand where funds have been allocated and ensures accountability within the group.

9. What should I do if I am not happy with the projects and plans that are being organised and delivered?

It's important to remember that the individuals organising events within the community group are volunteers with other commitments, generously giving up their free time. If you find yourself dissatisfied with the projects and plans, consider how you can contribute positively to the group's efforts. Attend meetings regularly, offer your assistance, and actively participate in surveys organised by the group. By engaging constructively, you can play a role in shaping the direction of the group and ensuring that your concerns are addressed effectively.