

Ageless Thanet Community Fund Information for Applicants

About the Fund

Ageless Thanet is a National Lottery Funded programme working to reduce social isolation and loneliness among older people, improve their wellbeing, ensure their voices are heard and help them live fulfilling lives.

Ageless Thanet is committing approximately £75,000 to help start community activities that will help to build sustainable communities for Thanet's older people.

The Ageless Thanet Community Fund will allow organisations, groups and individuals to seek up to £1,000 for a new activity that is likely to reduce isolation and loneliness for older people. The successful initiatives will be selected by older people on the Ageless Thanet Community Fund Commissioning Group that meets quarterly to review applications to the fund.

Who can apply

The Ageless Thanet Community Fund is open to any charity, community group, organisation or individual with an idea that supports older people (see below) who are 50 years old and over.

What we can fund

Groups can apply for up to £1,000 for a **new** activity that;

- Builds stronger communities for older people in Thanet
- Aims to reduce social isolation and loneliness
- Works to ensure older peoples' voices are heard on the things that matter to them
- Creates additional capacity in Thanet to meet the demands of older residents
- Makes Thanet a great place to grow older

Strong applications would show how the activity is supported by and likely to be of interest to local older people, and how it is likely to continue beyond the community funding. Activities must not duplicate those already happening locally.

For example, if you and a group of 50+ residents want to set up a gardening group to beautify your community, but lack the tools and equipment to make this happen, you can apply to the Ageless Thanet Community Fund as we may be able to provide them.

You may want to start an art group for 50+ residents and need to supply the paints and canvases. Again, you can apply to the Ageless Thanet Community Fund as we may be able to provide them.

We can support payments for:

Goods such as equipment needed to kick-start a new sports or activity project

Services including training, facilitation and room hire for activities that will be delivered within 12 months of the funding being approved

Ageless Thanet will purchase the goods and/or services on behalf of the group applying for funding.

What information we need from you

Please complete the Community Fund application form to provide details about you and your project. This should include;

- What your project will look like
- Which older people will be involved in the project (for example 'Westgate-On-Sea 50+ Surfing Club' or 'Cliffsend Cooking Club').
- An estimate of how many older people will be involved in your project.
- Breakdown of costs, including 2—3 quotes for each item applied for with the application. All quotes should include VAT and any postal or delivery charges.

FAQs

What criteria are used to assess the applications?

Our panel will score bids against the below criteria, giving equal weighting to each:

- **Supported by older people:** how well does the application demonstrate that the idea is supported by older people?

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| 5 | The response clearly demonstrates that the application is supported by older people |
| 4 | The response goes some way to demonstrate that the application is supported by older people |
| 3 | There is some evidence of support from older people for the activity |
| 2 | There is little or no clear evidence of support from older people |
| 1 | There is no evidence of support from older people |

- **New projects:** does the application clearly demonstrate that this is a new project not duplicated elsewhere, or an existing project that will be accessed by new people?

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| 5 | The response clearly demonstrates that this is a new project |
| 4 | The activity already exists but will clearly be accessed by new older people |
| 3 | There is some evidence that this is a new project or will be accessed by new older people |
| 2 | There is some duplication of existing activities and no evidence that new older people will access this project |
| 1 | The response is a duplication of existing activities and contains no evidence that new older people will access this project |

- **How the project will make a difference:** how strong a chance does the project have of reducing isolation and loneliness?

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| 5 | The project has a high chance of reducing or preventing isolation and loneliness. |
| 4 | The project has some chance of reducing or preventing isolation and loneliness. |
| 3 | The project has some chance of reducing isolation and loneliness |
| 2 | The project is not likely to reduce isolation and loneliness |
| 1 | The project is highly unlikely reduce isolation and loneliness |

- **Beneficiaries:** how proportionate is the cost to the outcomes for the number of beneficiaries? Are the beneficiaries part of Ageless Thanet’s target group i.e. 50+ residents living within CT8, CT9, CT10, CT11 and CT12?

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|---|---|
| 5 | The cost is highly proportionate to the outcomes for the number of beneficiaries and Beneficiaries include an Ageless Thanet target group |
| 4 | The cost is highly proportionate to the outcomes for the number of beneficiaries or Beneficiaries include an Ageless Thanet target group and costs are proportionate |
| 3 | The cost is proportionate to the outcomes for the number of beneficiaries |
| 2 | Beneficiaries do not include any Ageless Thanet target groups. It is unclear how many older people will benefit/what the outcomes will be for beneficiaries |
| 1 | The cost is not proportionate to the outcomes for the number of beneficiaries and Beneficiaries do not include any Ageless Thanet target groups |

- **Sustainability:** is the project likely to generate long-term community impact and be sustainable beyond the initial funding?

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|---|---|
| 5 | The application is highly likely to generate long term community impact and be sustainable beyond the initial funding |
| 4 | The application is likely to generate long term community impact and be sustainable beyond the initial funding |
| 3 | The application has some chance of generating long term community impact and being sustainable beyond the initial funding |
| 2 | The application is not likely to generate long term community impact or be sustainable beyond the initial funding |
| 1 | The application is highly unlikely to generate long term community impact and be sustainable beyond the initial funding |

Can I apply for funding for more than one activity?

You are welcome to apply for funding for different activities. Please submit separate application forms for each activity, with separate cost breakdowns. All applications will be reviewed separately on their own merits.

Can I apply for partial funding for an activity which will cost over £1,000?

If you have already received funding from elsewhere for one part of your activity’s running costs (e.g. venue hire or equipment), you are welcome to apply to the Ageless Thanet Community Fund for the remaining goods and services.

Is there a minimum amount of funding that I can apply for?

No, you can apply for any amount up to £1,000.

What goods and services are Ageless Thanet unable to support payments for?

The Ageless Thanet Community Fund cannot be used to fund:

- Salaries of any staff in the organisation applying to the fund
- Payments for work done by the person named on the application form
- Volunteer expenses paid in arrears. We can fund transport (e.g. minibus hire), training and refreshments for volunteers if the cost is included in the application and can be paid in advance.
- Ongoing room hire. For example, if a group currently meets at a community centre on Wednesday mornings and would like to apply for goods and services to increase the provision for that group or start

new activities, Ageless Thanet cannot cover the cost for the Wednesday morning room hire. If the activity is scheduled for a time when the group does not regularly meet, Ageless Thanet can pay for the room hire.

- Any expenditure incurred or committed before the funding is agreed
- Political or religious activities (We can support activities run by faith-based groups or in religious buildings, as long as the activity is open to people of all faiths or none.)

My activity can only take place at a particular venue and/or with a particular facilitator/tutor. Do I have to include quotes for alternatives?

While we appreciate that facilitators may have unique skills which mean that nobody else is likely to be as suited to the activity, and venues may be ideally located and equipped at a competitive price, we will need to see evidence of this in your application. The Ageless Thanet Community Fund Commissioning Group, who review the applications, as well as our funders at the Lottery, will need to see that all funding that is given offers the best value for money and that the most appropriate purchases are made. Therefore, please also submit a quote from another facilitator in order to evidence that the one you have in mind offers a competitive rate, and/or a quote from another venue to show that the hourly rate for the ideal venue offers value for money. Feel free to also include a brief explanation as to why your chosen facilitator/venue would be most appropriate, or provide evidence that you couldn't obtain further quotes.

This applies even if the venue is yours, unless you are not requesting funding for facilitation or venue hire.

Must my activity be restricted to people aged over 50?

We welcome applications for activities with an intergenerational focus, and therefore do not require that all goods and services be used solely by over 50s. Successful applications will show that the activity's main focus is helping to reduce isolation and loneliness of older people, and that the idea is supported by older people. Ours and the Big Lottery Fund's definition of 'older people' is people 50 and over.

May I restrict my activity to people with protected characteristics (e.g. race, nationality, gender, sexuality)?

We welcome applications aimed at all older people, but encourage applicants not to restrict their activity to groups with protected characteristics, unless the characteristics relate directly to the benefits the activity provides (e.g. English lessons for people with a shared first language).

When will I find out if my application is successful?

The Ageless Thanet Commissioning Group meets 3-4 times a year to review applications to the Community Fund. The closing dates for applications in each round of applications are available on the Ageless Thanet website.

You will be notified of your application's outcome within 4 weeks of the closing date. If your application is unsuccessful, you will be offered the opportunity to schedule a call from the Active Citizenship Supervisor to receive detailed feedback.

The purchasing of goods and/or services will begin either during the same month you receive confirmation that your application has been successful or the month after, and all purchases must be made within 12 months of confirmation. You may be asked for further information about your project before a decision is made. If there are more strong applications received for one review meeting than funding available, the Commissioning Group may choose to reconsider some applications at the next review meeting.

If my application is successful, what happens next?

You will be contacted by a member of the Ageless Thanet Programme Management team to arrange a meeting to discuss your activity and complete a short checklist about your project. Once this is complete, Ageless Thanet will arrange purchase and delivery of your goods and/or services. Once you have received these, your project can start.

Six months after the project has started, we will contact you again to find out how it is going and to gather some information as agreed with you. We may also want to visit to speak to the people involved and find out what difference the project has made to them. You may also be contacted by the Ageless Thanet Evaluation Team during the project to help us evaluate the Community Fund project and improve the application process. By accepting the funding, you agree to work with us and participate in this evaluation process.

Ongoing support for groups is available from the Ageless Thanet Programme Management Team and we would like to stay in touch with you throughout the Ageless Thanet programme.

If my application is successful, who will own the equipment/items purchased by Ageless Thanet?

Any equipment purchased by Ageless Thanet will be yours to keep for the purposes of the activity and your responsibility. If any electrical equipment has been purchased for your activity, these will be your responsibility to maintain and extend any warranty (if applicable). Ageless Thanet will not be responsible for any damages, replacements or breakages of equipment purchased.

Any further questions?

If you need any more information about the Community Fund, or would like to ask anything before applying, please contact:

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Please visit our website at:

www.agelessthanet.org.uk