

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT GRANTS GUIDANCE NOTE

Grant aid is available to assist with the costs of repair, maintenance and reinstatement of historic local features, and to support more general environmental enhancement proposals throughout the District. The grants are targeted towards schemes not otherwise eligible for funding from other sources. The grants are administered through the Moorlands Partnership Board; a body which includes elected Members and representatives from Parish and Town Councils, Staffordshire County Council and the Chambers of Trade. The Moorlands Partnership Board has a remit to encourage environmental improvement schemes throughout the District.

Eligible Works

The repair and reinstatement of any built structure of historic interest or environmental merit may be considered for grant aid. There are many examples of traditional structures and features which make an important contribution to the character and appearance of urban and rural scenery of the Staffordshire Moorlands. Whilst some of these features may be Listed as being of special historic and architectural interest and have statutory protection, others may not be Listed but still have significant value in enhancing the interest and character of the local area. Grant aid can also be offered under this scheme for more general environmental enhancement projects within the District which will play a small but important role in enhancing the character of the area.

Examples Include

- Roadside drinking troughs
- Village wells
- Pinfolds
- Repair / repainting mileposts or signs
- Rebuilding dry stone walls of significant community value
- Other local features of interest
- Repair or reinstatement of traditional surfaces
- Restoration of traditional shopfronts
- Enhancement of prominent historic building facades, particularly in Conservation Areas

Who is Eligible?

Any group, private individual or Parish Council can apply for an Environmental Enhancement Grant.

Level of Grant Aid

The standard rate of grant is 50% of eligible works. The exact rate of grant will be based on the availability of other sources of grant aid or funding, total cost of the project and the importance of the work.

How to Apply for Grant Aid

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the Building Conservation Section at an early stage. Help and advice can be given on applying for grant aid, repair techniques, sources of materials, suitable contractors and obtaining any necessary consents.

Requests for grant aid should be made on the attached application form and accompanied by a description of the proposed works, photographs, a drawing if appropriate, and a statement supporting the proposal. Two competitive quotes for the work should also be submitted. A grant offer will not be made retrospectively.

The conditions which apply to all grant offers are attached to the application form.

When will a Decision be Made?

Applications will be reported to the Moorlands Partnership Board. If your application is successful, a written offer of grant will be made following the meeting.

For Further Information

Please contact the Building Conservation Section (01538) 395576 or write to Mr. P. Wardle, Head of Regeneration Services, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Moorlands House, Stockwell Street, Leek, Staffs. ST13 6HQ, for further information.

CONDITIONS OF GRANT OFFERS

Whilst the scheme is designed to be as flexible as possible, the following conditions apply to all grant offers:

1. The award of grant is entirely discretionary and is made towards the repair, maintenance or reinstatement of historic structures or features and for carrying out more general improvements.
2. All work shall be to the highest possible standard using traditional details and techniques where appropriate. Materials should be obtained from sustainable sources.
3. Grants will not normally be made for proposals already eligible for funding under Staffordshire Moorlands District Council's existing budgets such as provisions made for archaeology, historic buildings and including those improvement schemes operated by other Departments.
4. Grants will not normally be made where the funding for an environmental improvement initiative has been, or can be, provided by another source or sources such as Staffordshire Highways Department, English Heritage or the Peak Park Planning Board.
5. Grants will not normally be available for the removal of unsightly features such as traffic signage, roadside lighting equipment or street surfacing, although consideration may be given to the grant aid of appropriate replacements.
6. The maximum grant for any single environmental enhancement project will not normally exceed £4,000.
7. Works which have commenced before the submission of an application and subsequent inspection by a Council's representative will not normally be offered a grant.
8. Free access shall be given to the Partnership's representative during and upon completion of the works.

9. The applicant is responsible for ensuring that, where appropriate, planning permission, listed building consent and building regulation approval have been obtained.
10. Architect's fees of up to 12.5% and VAT (if not recoverable) may be added to the costs of eligible works.
11. The applicant shall, upon request, display the Partnership's name board, and, upon completion of the works, return it to the Partnership's representative in good condition.
12. The applicant shall accept any offer of grant aid in writing within one month. Work shall commence within six months of the grant offer and be completed within two years.
13. The applicant shall produce receipted accounts to the Partnership's representative upon completion of the works.
14. The Partnership, or any constituent bodies thereof, shall not accept any liability for defective workmanship and / or materials.

Additional conditions may be attached to a grant offer depending on the nature of the work involved.