



Gorbals Ideas Fund

For positive change in the Gorbals,
Hutchesontown, Oatlands & Laurieston

Everything you need to know about applying to the
Gorbals Ideas Fund

A Guide to Applying

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Welcome

This guide has been developed to help you understand more about the Gorbals Ideas Fund; the application process and how funds are awarded.

We hope you find th guide useful. If you have any questions, or if you think the guide could be improved in any way, please get in touch with Jo Speirs at New Gorbals Housing Association on 0141 429 3900 or email johanna@newgorbalsha.org.uk.

Contents

The Gorbals Ideas Fund.....	P4
What is Participatory Budgeting.....	P5
Applicant Criteria.....	P6
Funding.....	P7
Developing Your Idea.....	P8
Completing an Application Form.....	P9
Community Voting Events.....	P10-11
If you are Successful.....	P12
If you are Unsuccessful.....	P12
Contact Us.....	P12

The Gorbals Ideas Fund

The Gorbals Ideas Fund (GIF) is a community fund that gives individuals, groups and projects the opportunity to access money to develop new ideas and activities that they think will make the Gorbals an even better place to live.

The Gorbals Ideas Fund aims to involve local people at every stage and is supported by a panel of local volunteers who live in the Gorbals, Hutchesontown, Laurieston and Oatlands.

The panel work across the community. They come together to share their experiences and help people think about how they can solve issues, and overcome challenges, they and others in the community face.

The Panel also works together to design, develop and deliver Participatory Budgeting activity that gives everyone in the community a chance to have their say in how local budgets are used to address local needs.

Community Budgeting Officer, Jo Speirs, works alongside the panel supporting them develop and deliver the project on a day-to-day basis. Jo also helps panel members think about how they can use feedback from the community to influence long-term and sustainable positive change.

The Gorbals Ideas Fund (GIF) builds on the work of Spirit of the Gorbals.

Spirit of the Gorbals ran from 2015 to 2018. Spirit supported a range of activity across the area by providing grants to local people groups and organisations.



What is Participatory Budgeting?

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is used across the world as a tool to give ordinary people more control over the decisions that affect them. PB gives citizens and communities a chance to decide how public money is spent. It aims to increase the number of people who use their right to vote and have their voices heard by politicians and governments.

PB started in Porto Alegre in Brazil. In 1989 the country became a democracy and, after many years under military dictatorship, the citizens of Porto Alegre demanded more of a say in decision making. The Mayor of the city made a commitment to **participative democracy** - a system of government where people have real opportunities to influence decisions on a regular basis. Through this Participatory Budgeting was born! This was a radical change to the way democracy operates in most other countries - where people only really have power over political decisions at elections.

PB was so successful in Porto Alegre that it has spread across the world; from France to New Zealand, Japan to the USA. There's no '*standard*' way of doing PB, it's been developed differently in every country. The amount of money and the way the process works changes but the basic idea remains the same: *positive change can happen when local people are given the chance to drive local solutions.*

Scotland is just starting out on the Participatory Budgeting journey. We want to learn as much as we can about what works and what doesn't; making sure PB in the Gorbals gives local people control in decision making whilst making the community an even better place to live.

The Scottish Government has made a commitment to spend 1% of public budgets through Participatory Budgeting by 2021.

Paris has one of the largest Participatory Budgeting programmes in the world - allocating 67 Million Euros per year this way!

Research shows that people who are unlikely to vote in standard elections do get involved in PB because they can see the benefits of taking part.

Applicant Criteria

Our criteria are very open. You don't have to be working towards a particular theme, need or challenge to apply. You do have to show that your idea could and would bring a benefit to the wider Gorbals community or to a group of people within the community.

We accept applications from:

- Individuals
- Local groups and organisations
- Individuals, groups and organisations who not based in the area but who have an idea that would be delivered here and benefit residents of the area. If you fall into this category you'll need to have a Local Sponsor. Find out more about Local Sponsors on page p12.

There's no age limit to applying. However, if you are under 18 years old you need to have an adult to sponsor your application. This is just so we know you have someone to help you if you need it. We've added information about Adult Sponsors on page P12.

Your application **must show** represent:

- A new idea, activity or event – something that isn't happening in the local area at the moment; or
- Development of an idea, activity or project previously funded by Spirit of the Gorbals; or
- Something that will benefit the whole community or a group of people living in the community, for example young people, older people, disabled people, people affected by addiction.

We have limited funds available, so applications seeking funding to meet shortfalls or cover core costs won't be eligible for funding.

If you are having funding difficulties or aren't sure if your idea is eligible, please contact Jo on 0141 429 3900 or email: johanna@newgorbalsha.org.uk

Funding

Our funding is allocated as small grants. The whole community decides who gets these grants through Community Voting. *See page 10 for more information.*

Individuals and informal/non-constituted groups can apply for up to £250.00 to develop their idea and test it on a small scale, or £500.00 to take something already tested to the next level.

Formal/constituted groups, services and projects can apply for up to £1000.00.

- **What can I/we use funding for?**

You can use funding for absolutely anything that helps you deliver your idea, like buying equipment, taking part in training, paying for venues and catering or paying volunteer expenses. You can't use the funding to buy alcohol, tobacco or for your own personal needs. You must spend all of the money on your project.

- **Reporting on what you spend**

We have to report back to our funders on how the funding is spent, so we provide reports on what sort of things have been funded and how this funding has been used.

For small grants of £250-500 we give a pre-paid credit card. This makes it easier for individuals and informal groups because we get regular statements on how the funds are used and that means you don't have to complete lengthy reports and accounts. We know that some things require cash so for these things we'll ask for receipts.

For larger grants of £1000.00 we give a cheque and ask recipients to provide a breakdown of how they spend the money at the end of their project.

If we have any questions or queries about how you are spending the funding we'll get in touch with the lead applicant.

- **What difference your idea makes**

We want to focus on the impact local ideas have on local people. We won't ask you to submit lots of reports but we will ask you to come to a couple of meetings where you'll get help to think about the questions you can ask to find out how people benefit from your idea.

Developing Your Idea

Developing an idea can be difficult; there can be quite a lot to think about. Here is a list of things you might want to consider before completing an application form.

What is your idea?

Example: A Chair Bingo night for older people that brings people together and encourages physical activity.

What problem, issue or gap does your idea tackle?

Example: There isn't much for older people to do in the evenings and nothing that includes physical activity.

How do you know this is a problem, need or gap in the area?

Example: I volunteer at a lunch club and lots of older people talk about being bored in the evening.

How does this impact people and/or the community?

Example: Older people are isolated and this can lead to poor mental health and physical health problems.

How will your idea make things better?

Example: Older people will have more to do and be less isolated, they will also get a wee bit of physical exercise.

If you'd like help to develop your idea why not call Jo on 0141 429 3900 or email johanna@newgorbalsha.org.uk.

Completing an Application Form

The application form is short. It is just three pages long. It doesn't ask for complicated information but it would be really useful to the Community Panel, and you, if you take time to describe your idea as fully as possible.

When we receive your application form the Community Panel will read it and check it meets the criteria. We want the process to be supportive and positive for everyone so, if we think your application could be strengthened we might give you a call for more information or to offer advice on how to improve your application.

If you meet the funding criteria you'll be invited to share your idea with the community at Community Voting Events across the community.

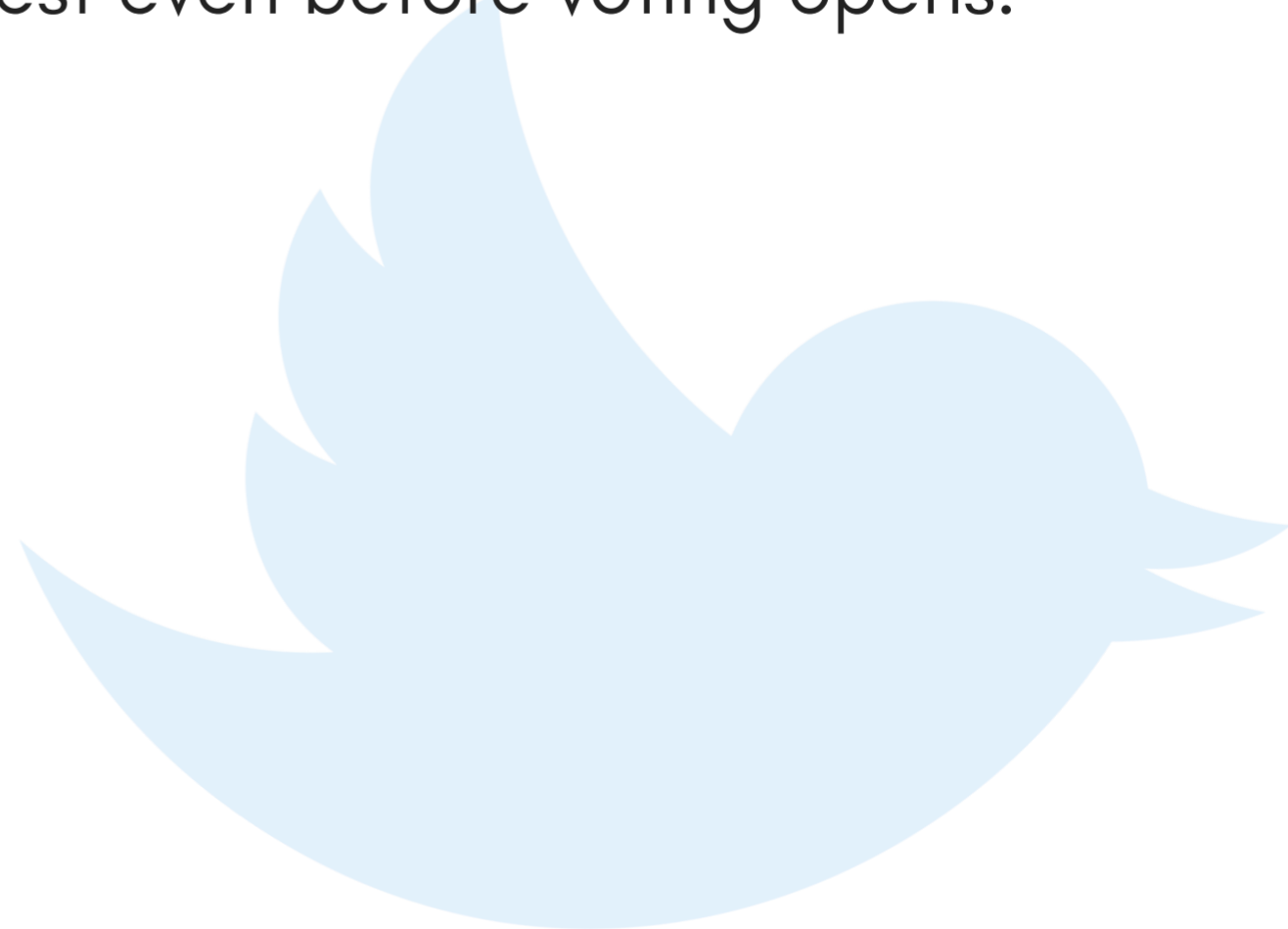
If you would like some help or support with your application or if you have any questions please contact Jo on 0141 429 3900 or email: johanna@newgorbalsha.org.uk

- **Presentation Workshop**

Not everyone has experience of 'selling' an idea to the community and we want everyone to be able to share their idea in the best possible way, so to help we'll invite you along to a Presentation Workshop.

At the workshop we'll give you some tools, tips and techniques that will help you get the community on board with your idea.

We will support you to get your idea on the Go Get Gorbals website and, from there, Facebook & Twitter to gather support and interest even before voting opens.



Community Voting Events

The Community will be invited to vote for their favourite ideas through Community Voting.

Your idea could be voted on at one or more Community Voting Events and as GIF develops we hope to open up Digital Voting too. We want to give as many people as possible the opportunity to take part.

• Who can vote?

Voting is open to anyone aged 8 and up who lives in the wider Gorbals area, including Hutchesontown, Oatlands and Laurieston.

• How do people vote?

Everyone eligible to vote gets 3 equal votes. They must use all 3 votes and vote for 3 different ideas. All votes are equal, they aren't ranked in order of preference.

We give people 3 equal votes to make the process fairer. We know that voters will come along to support something they feel connected to, and that's good, but it isn't always fair as groups with the most members would be likely to get the most votes.

Using the equal voting method encourages people to find out about and vote for ideas they aren't already involved in. Chatting to all applicants and finding out what the community has to offer helps people make voting decisions based on what they think would make the biggest difference to them and the community.

• How are funds awarded?

Funds are awarded based on the total amount of money available and the number of votes each idea receives. We've created an example of how monies might be distributed on page 11.

8 year olds?

We think children and young people are able to make decisions based on their experiences. Having a low voting age at our events helps us send a message to younger people in the community that their voices matter and that by taking part they can make a difference.

Community Vote - An Example

A group has £1000.00 to allocate through Community Voting. They receive a total of 11 applications; the applications total £2,908.00 so not all of them can be funded.

The community votes at an event.

Total Budget: £1,000.00 Applications Received: 11

Total Applied For: £2,908.00

Idea	£ Requested	No. of Votes	Successful
1	£500.00	83	N
2	£150.00	179	Y <i>Most popular</i>
3	£425.00	67	N
4	£220.00	163	Y <i>2nd Most Popular</i>
5	£315.00	148	Y <i>3rd Most Popular</i>
6	£100.00	123	Y <i>4th Most Popular</i>
7	£370.00	90	N
8	£198.00	79	N
9	£160.00	54	N
10	£340.00	120	N <i>5th Most Popular</i>
11	£300.00	109	N

In this example the 4 ideas receiving the highest number of votes from the community would be completely funded, leaving £215.00 left over. Unfortunately the 5th most popular idea needed £340.00 - The Community Panel would approach the lead applicant to discuss whether the £215.00 available might help them deliver their idea. If they don't think it would, the Community Panel will speak to the 6th most popular idea and offer them the remaining funds, and so on.

Working in this way means that the opinions of the community are considered at every point and funding is always provided based on the democratic wishes of the community.

If you are Successful

If you are successful we will get in touch with you on the first working day after the event to tell you what to do next.

We'll invite you to meet with us individually to find out about the help, support and advice we can offer as you put your idea into practice. We'll also introduce you to our online 'Unlocking Potential' tool that will help you track the impact your work is having on you as an individual.

You'll also be invited to join the 'Gorbals Ideas Group' - where you will meet other people who have been awarded GIF funding, share and learn from experiences and build networks and connections. At these meetings we'll share information, hints and tips about monitoring and evaluating your success and get your feedback on how we can improve our processes.

If you aren't Successful

If you aren't successful we'll get in touch with you within 5 working days of the event to arrange a meeting where we can chat about your idea and how else we can support you to develop it further. This might be by identifying other funding or building support to take your idea to the next GIF Event.

Contact Us

If there's anything in this guide that you would like to discuss in more detail, or if you have questions about submitting an application form please get in touch with Jo on 0141 429 3900 or email johanna@newgorbalsha.org.uk.



Local Sponsor

We know that good things happen outside our area, things that local people here in the Gorbals might benefit from. However, we're very keen that the money allocated to support positive change in the area kick-starts longer term, sustainable improvements.

Asking you to name a local sponsor reassures us and the wider community that you have connections to the area. We need to know that you'll be able to link in with what's already going on and be able to develop, and refine, your idea or activity to meet the needs of the people who live here.

- **A Note to Local Sponsors**

By acting as a Local Sponsor you are agreeing that you have previous knowledge of the individual, group or service you are sponsoring and, that you are confident their work will be sustainable or leave a legacy in the area.

You can act as a Local Sponsor if you live in the Gorbals or run a service or project in the local area.

Adult Sponsor

There's no age restrictions on who can apply to the Gorbals Ideas Fund.

We know that great ideas can come from anyone no matter what age they are. We think that children and young people are often best placed to know what they need and should have opportunities to develop their ideas.

To meet our own funding criteria we have to make sure that all of the ideas and projects funded are 'guaranteed' by someone aged 18 or over. This could be any adult who is willing to support you to make your idea happen. For example, your adult sponsor could be a family member, a friend, or a youth worker.

- **A Note to Adult Sponsors**

As an Adult Sponsor you agree to support the young person, or young people, applying for the grant. In the event that they are successful we will offer support, assistance and advice to them to help them make their idea happen. However, your role is to ensure that money they receive is spent in line with their application and to help them overcome any challenges they might face along the way.

Notes Pages

extra space to develop your idea

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