

Develop your Dementia Friendly Community with a Cultivate Cambs grant

A dementia friendly community is a village, town, or city where people with dementia enjoy living, and are understood, respected and supported. A dementia friendly community can be developed by a new or existing community organisation, such as a community group, voluntary organisation, a group of individuals, or a Parish or Town Council.

Cambridgeshire County Council welcomes [Cultivate Cambs](#) grant applications for initiatives that help communities across Cambridgeshire to become more dementia-friendly. You can apply for up to £2000 over two years to make dementia-friendly physical enhancements in your community alongside gaining the commitments of individuals, organisations and businesses.

What is a dementia friendly community?

We all know someone living with or affected by dementia whether it is a family member, a friend, a neighbour, or someone we have met in our local community or through our place of work. In a dementia friendly community they can continue to do the things they want to for as long as possible.

Creating a dementia friendly community involves raising awareness through Dementia Friends Information Sessions offered by Alzheimer's Society and getting local organisations and businesses to take simple actions as part of their commitment to the community working to become more dementia-friendly. This could involve improvements to the environment like rest benches, signage or awareness raising amongst staff to help everyone understand dementia.

What makes dementia friendly communities suitable for this fund?

Dementia friendly communities are vital in helping people to live well with dementia and remain a part of their community. Too many people affected by dementia feel society fails to understand the condition they live with, its impact or how to interact with them. That's why people with dementia sometimes feel they need to withdraw from their community as the condition progresses. If appropriately supported, people with dementia can continue to play an active and valuable role even years after diagnosis.

In a dementia friendly community people will be aware of and understand dementia, so that people with dementia can continue to live in the way they want to and in the community they choose. This enables people to maintain a good quality of life and remain independent in their own homes if they wish to. It can prevent carer breakdown and delay the need for more costly intensive or specialist care. The community will have input from people with dementia at its heart, right from the outset.

What do you need to start a dementia friendly community?

- People:** Dementia friendly communities work best when they're led by local people. Join with other interested people locally to form your 'steering group.' Get the word out via articles and events. Ask people if they are interested and, if they are affected by dementia, what would make the biggest difference for themselves living in your community. Keep it as informal as possible. Think about tasks rather than formal roles if that helps some people to get involved. Free Dementia Friends Information Sessions can help you to raise awareness of dementia. You can find a Dementia Friends Ambassador to deliver awareness raising in your community by requesting a session [here](#).
- A good understanding of your community:** What local projects, groups and businesses already exist in your community? Talk to them about how a dementia friendly community could complement and add value to the great work they do. You can also learn more about your community from the Parish and Ward Profiles on Cambridgeshire Insight: <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/>

What we can provide:

- Start-up Funding:** You can apply for a grant of £2000 over two years for your dementia friendly community from Cultivate Cambs. Funding may also be available from sources such as your Town or Parish Council, local businesses, charitable grants, and your own fundraising efforts. For further funding opportunities please see: <https://www.idoxopen4community.co.uk/supportcambs>
- Support:** The Alzheimer's Society provides advice, tools, templates and help to enable communities to become dementia-friendly. There is a network for Cambridgeshire that shares updates and resources from the Alzheimer's Society, and examples of successes and challenges that communities have experienced.

How much does it cost?

Typical costs that can be adapted for your grant application

Item	Description	Estimated annual costs
Physical improvements	E.g. A rest bench, new signage.	£1500
Venue hire	Community venues for meetings, events and training. Many communities don't have these costs as they negotiate free use of community halls and spaces.	£100
Refreshments	Tea, coffee, squash and other sundries for meetings, events and training.	£75
Publicity materials	Promotional materials to help spread the word.	£75

What do I need to do next?

Every community is different, so you will need to do some research and scoping to see what dementia-friendly initiatives and physical improvements are right for your community *before* you apply for funding. We recommend seeking advice from the **Alzheimer's Society** by emailing DementiaFriendlyCommunities@alzheimers.org.uk

Pre-application advice is offered by county council officers before each funding round. You will need to make an appointment to discuss your application proposal before submitting. The grant application form and further details about the fund, including application deadlines and pre-application advice appointments, may be found at <https://www.cambscf.org.uk/cultivate-cambs>

Further information and resources:

Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friendly Communities programme

<https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/WEBArticle?page=dementia-friendly-communities>

Alzheimer's Society – Guidance on becoming a dementia friendly community

<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-involved/dementia-friendly-communities/how-to-become-dementia-friendly-community>

A series of Dementia Friendly Guides may be downloaded here:

<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/dementia-friendly-resources>

St Ives Dementia Friendly Community - inspirational video clip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2w3oc6nYW4A>