



Innovate & Cultivate Fund

Start up a Good Neighbour Scheme with a grant from the Innovate & Cultivate Fund

Good Neighbour Schemes come in all shapes and sizes to suit the needs of the community. There are already several Good Neighbour Schemes supporting residents across Cambridgeshire. They can be set up by a new or existing community organisation, such as a community group, voluntary organisation, residents group, or a Parish or Town Council.

Cambridgeshire County Council would particularly welcome applications to the [Innovate & Cultivate Fund](#) to set up Good Neighbour Schemes in communities across Cambridgeshire. You can apply for a £2000 start-up grant to cover the first two years of a Good Neighbour Scheme.

What is a Good Neighbour Scheme?

Good Neighbour Schemes are a group of local volunteers offering support to anyone in their community who may need a helping hand such as older people, people with disabilities, single parents and young mothers, or anyone who is ill or isolated.

Volunteers provide simple tasks such as:

- running errands
- shopping or collecting prescriptions
- doing household tasks or gardening
- lifts for appointments and activities
- organising coffee mornings
- preparing emergency meals
- visiting people
- giving carers a break for a few hours
- help with pets

Good Neighbour Schemes can complement specialist care, professional services and tasks that are appropriate for qualified people.

What makes Good Neighbour Schemes suitable for this fund?

Schemes provide help at an informal, personal level, and can help both participants and volunteers play a role in their community. They can help neighbours to maintain a good quality of life and remain independent in their own homes if they wish to. Good Neighbour Schemes can:

- Increase community involvement and promote residents' well-being
- Reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness
- Offer informal information and support
- Prevent carer breakdown



- Allow some people to retain their independence and remain in their homes for longer than would be otherwise possible
- Prevent or delay the need for more costly intensive or specialist care
- Strengthen connections between younger and older members of the community, and also between newcomers and more established residents

What do you need to start a Good Neighbour Scheme?

A good understanding of your community: What local projects, groups and businesses already exist in your community? Talk to them about how a Good Neighbour Scheme could complement and add value to the great work they do. Find out how many potential volunteers there are, and how many residents say they would use a Good Neighbour Scheme and what types of activities are required. This can be done through a door-to-door survey, a questionnaire, a public meeting or a social event. You can also learn more about your community from the County Council Parish Profiles -

<https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/parish-profile/>

People: Good Neighbours Schemes need enthusiastic volunteers – a team of volunteers who can help others, a co-ordinator or two who can be the main point of contact for those that need support and match them with a volunteer who can help, and a steering group or committee who can oversee scheme, monitor progress and sort out any problems.

Committee: It's useful if your committee includes a GP or health team, vicar, a parish, district or county councillor, and members of other community organisations. Some of the more traditional routes to generate interest in volunteering are word of mouth, flyers and/or posters in libraries, churches, parish magazine or in a community centre. Use social media such as Facebook and Twitter to generate interest - these will all raise awareness of your group and can encourage people to join in.

What we can provide:

Start-up Funding: You can apply for a start-up grant of £2000 over two years for your Good Neighbour Scheme from the Innovate & Cultivate Fund. The chart below is a guide to typical running costs of an average Good Neighbour Scheme with 20 volunteers and should be adapted for your grant application form. Funding may also be available from sources such as your Town or Parish Council, local businesses, charitable grants and your own fundraising efforts. For funding opportunities please see: <https://www.idoxopen4community.co.uk/supportcamb>

Support: A package of support from Care Network Cambridgeshire to help get you started including training, advice and sample documentation. Care Network can help you consult with the community, and identify potential volunteers and co-ordinators. They can also advise on:

- Recruiting and retaining volunteers
- Administration of the scheme
- Running a committee
- Insurance and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks
- Keeping people safe – safeguarding

- How to resolve problems
- Providing a toolkit
- Producing publicity
- Policy and procedures
- Data protection and confidentiality

Evaluation: Care Network Cambridgeshire will support you to evaluate the impact of your Good Neighbour Scheme at the end of the funding period.

How much does it cost?

Typical annual costs that can be adapted for your Innovate & Cultivate application

Item	Description	Annual Costs
Care Network Cambridgeshire Support Package	25 hours of start-up support including training, advice and networking.	£500 (First year only)
Volunteer expenses	Reimbursement of volunteer expenses. DBS check administration expenses of £10 per person.	£200
Transport/travel costs	Reimbursement of volunteer drivers' mileage expenses at 45p/mile.	£100
Office costs	Could include: photocopying and printing, telephone and a mobile phone for use by scheme co-ordinators.	£150
Venue hire	Community venues for meetings, coffee mornings or other activities. Many Good Neighbour Schemes don't have these costs as they negotiate free use of community halls and spaces.	£75
Promotional materials	Printing of leaflets and flyers to recruit scheme users and volunteers and promote events.	£75
Refreshments	Tea, coffee, squash, and other sundries for meetings and events.	£50
Insurance	Public liability and volunteer insurance.	£200
Total		£1,350

What do I need to do next?

Every community is different so you will need to do some research and scoping to see if starting a Good Neighbour Scheme is right for you and your community *before* you apply for funding. If you would like to seek advice from Care Network Cambridgeshire, please contact 01954 211919 or admin@care-network.org.uk

We are also encouraging applications to set up Timebanks, Men's Sheds and Dementia-Friendly Communities, and the fund is also open to applications for any projects that reduce pressure on County Council services and/or offer direct savings for the Council.

The Innovate & Cultivate Fund application form and further details about the fund including application deadlines and pre-application advice sessions may be found at <https://www.cambscf.org.uk/icf.html>.

Good luck!

Further information and resources:

- Rural Community Council of Essex - Good Neighbour Scheme Information Pack
<https://www.essexrcc.org.uk/Docs/Community%20Led%20planning/Good%20Neighbour%20Scheme%20Information%20Pack.pdf>
- Hastings Voluntary Action – Good Neighbour Scheme Toolkit
<https://hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk/sites/default/files/project/GoodNeighbourSchemeWholeBookletA4pages.pdf>
- Diocese of Hereford and Herefordshire Council – Good Neighbour Scheme Guide
https://cofehereford.contentfiles.net/media/assets/file/Good_Neighbours_Scheme_Guide.pdf
- Buckden Friends in Deed - <https://www.buckdenroundabout.info/village-organisations/30-advice-support/112-buckden-friends-in-deed>