

Small projects run by local people

You might have a good idea that you can achieve with some money and a small amount of support from Plymouth Community Homes. For example, a local gardening or growing scheme, tool lending libraries or food growing co-ops. That's something we'd love to support and we're happy to receive applications from groups who want to deliver and/or run the project themselves.



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The Money Tree Fund



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What is it?

Money to help improve your area, to make it look better, feel safer and to bring people together. It's for neighbourhoods, for outdoor spaces, for green spaces.

How is the money allocated?

Each of the four local housing office areas has an amount of money available. Sheltered housing also has a pot of money but this is not for any particular area, it is for sheltered schemes only, anywhere in the city. Between October 2009 and April 2010 there is **£100,000 per housing area, plus extra for sheltered housing**.

Each housing area plus sheltered have an Advisory Group whose job it is to consider applications. Each Advisory Group consists of: housing office staff, capital programmes staff (the technical people), local residents and local group representatives. The Advisory Groups consider each individual application on its merits based on:

- Value for money.
- Benefit to the local community.
- Benefit to the local environment.
- Benefit to Plymouth Community Homes.

When to apply

Applications can be taken any time. Advisory Groups will probably consider applications at least quarterly but this could change depending on demand. It's not a good idea to apply if your project will only work with immediate funding – the process takes a while.

If your application is for a project that will cost less than £250 in total, it can be considered by the housing team leader for your area. That means you won't need to wait for an Advisory Group meeting until you get a decision. So for small projects, it's definitely worth applying whenever you're ready.



How to apply?

Residents who have an idea for improving their area can get an **Application Pack** from their local housing office, Trevor (The Transfer Trailer) or the Resident Involvement Team.

The pack has advice to make it simple for applicants to complete and simple for those reading to check through. Help with filling out the forms is available from the local housing office, Trevor or the Resident Involvement Team. Individuals or groups can apply but they will need to show the following:

- A rough plan of what they want to do/want done.
- The agreement of near neighbours/stakeholders.



- Ideas about who will be doing the initial work (with contact details if appropriate).
- Ideas about who will be maintaining the project (with contact details if appropriate).
- What the timescales might be.
- An idea of the costs if it's something you'd like to do yourselves.
- Whether any other agencies need to be involved, i.e. Parks department, Highways, local businesses - either for support or permissions.
- Any added value or positive outcomes the project will bring to the area and/or residents.



Residents receiving the fund would also be expected to:

- Give interviews and pictures for Plymouth Community Homes News. (We will always respect people's right to say NO to pictures and publicity).
- Give other tenants thinking of applying for the fund some support by talking/writing about their experiences, i.e. what worked, what didn't.
- Notify Plymouth Community Homes of changes to the projects and or those involved.

Plymouth Community Homes would also:

- Advertise the scheme in Plymouth Community Homes

News, in local housing offices and on Trevor.

- Give information about how to consult with your neighbours and how to record those responses.
- Handle the grant through local housing offices for those residents/groups who don't have or don't want a separate bank account.
- Complete a risk assessment (and advise on Health and Safety issues).
- Give honest feedback about why an application has been turned down i.e. not do-able, not supported, not sustainable, not safe, not affordable.