Frequently Asked Questions with new dates for extended deadline

Community Grants Fund for Barnsley 2040 Consultations

What is Barnsley 2040?

Barnsley 2040 is a borough-wide engagement programme. It seeks to build a shared long-term vision for Barnsley by listening to residents, communities and organisations about their hopes, aspirations and priorities for the future. Barnsley 2040 is intended to be more than a one-off consultation exercise; it aims to create an ongoing conversation with residents and ensure communities are actively involved in shaping the borough's future.

While engagement is already taking place in a variety of ways, we want to reach more people through their trusted networks and existing community activity, supporting local groups to lead conversations themselves. As part of this programme, Barnsley Council have asked Barnsley CVS to manage a grants programme so that charities and community groups are supported to help achieve this ambition.

What is this funding for?

The funding is to run a consultation event in your community. This needs to take place sometime between 24th November and Christmas: all feedback from the consultations will need to be submitted by 24th December. The consultation event could take place as part of an existing meet up that you have planned during this time, as long as you prioritize enough time to do this well. This funding could be used to make an existing event more engaging, to have more staff or volunteers there to help run the activity and capture feedback, or to pay to stay longer in a venue to allow extra time to talk. Alternatively, it could be used to pay for an extra / separate session or event. The Council's Communications Team will come to some of the activities to film or take photos, but you can let us know if this is not appropriate for the group you are working with.

What kinds of questions would we be asking in the consultation?

Workshops will focus on gathering views about the future of Barnsley and will use a selection of agreed Barnsley 2040 questions, such as:

- If anything was possible, what would you most like to see for future generations in Barnsley?
- Imagine Barnsley in 2040 has become the best version of itself. What does it look and feel like?
- What should be the biggest priorities if Barnsley and its communities are to thrive by 2040?
- What small change could make a big difference in your community?

You can see the kinds of questions that the Barnsley 2040 team and partners have been asking here: https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/council-and-democracy/shaping-the-future-barnsley-2040/

You could focus on two questions in depth or you could go into less detail with people about more questions.

What kind of consultation could I do?

Traditional consultation involves leading a guided conversation, writing down people's ideas, or people write down their own ideas for you to take away. The 2040 team could provide "Postcards to the Future" that you could use if you want to do it that way. This approach might be appropriate for the people you work with, or you might want to do things differently! You might want to produce a song, a video, a map that's been labelled up or a picture that explains more about that group of people's vision for future Barnsley. None of these are better or worse ideas than any others – it depends who you are working with and what you think would get them interested and engaged in participating.

What will I need to feed back after the consultation?

If you have asked people to fill in postcards, or you have written down their thoughts on paper, you would send us those. If you have gone down a less traditional route, we would ask for some bullet points from you just to ensure we have a clear understanding of what you did and what points the people who participated were making (we don't want to misunderstand what they were trying to get across in a poem for example!).

Can I run more than one session?

Groups can apply to run one session that costs up to £500, so please tell us about the activity you would most like to run. However, there might be an opportunity to run additional sessions, depending on how many groups are able to get involved across Barnsley in the time available. There is a question on the application form that asks if you would like to run additional sessions, so please tell us there if you would like to be considered for one or two more sessions. Before making any decisions about funding for additional sessions, we will see if there are gaps in the places and range of people groups are planning to consult with.

Who could we include in the consultation?

We expect that most groups who apply will already be running activities, events or have a mailing list of members. These are the people whose voices we'd like to hear. **The council is already running different consultation events where they ask the wider public for their views, so we are not expecting you to run an event for people you don't already have some connection with.**

If you need to hire a venue to run the consultation, please consider the access needs of the people you want to consult with when choosing. There may be other things to consider, to make the activity accessible in other ways. For example, providing activities that can be adapted for differing needs and abilities, using plain English, removing barriers to participation where possible, and creating a welcoming and inclusive environment. Would big group or smaller group discussions work best for the people you have in mind? Is background noise or a busy environment likely to be difficult?

I've never done anything like this before, what help can I get?

We want this to be as easy as possible for you and enjoyable for people taking part, so you will have lots of chance to ask questions if you're not sure about anything in the run up to your event.

Groups would be provided with a Workshop Guide, which includes:

- A selection of questions to use in your consultation
- Tips for how to get good conversations started
- Some information about how to explain "Barnsley 2040" to people
- Activity templates (eg "postcards to the future" that you could ask people to complete)
- Guidance on how to submit feedback

Who can apply for a grant to lead a consultation event?

This funding is for local "not for profit" organisations. Grants can be for organisation such as (but not limited to):

- Registered charities of any size
- Community groups or voluntary organisations
- Faith Groups
- Community Interest Companies and other social enterprises with an asset lock

Applicants would normally already be based in Barnsley or already be delivering activities that directly benefit people living in Barnsley.

There is a total budget of £12,500 for these consultation events and the maximum is £500 per organisation. **We have ring-fenced a minimum of 50% of the budget for organisations with an income of less than £50,000 because we are really keen to hear from smaller organisations who may have fewer opportunities for their voices to be heard.**

Which costs can be included?

This list gives examples of things you might want to include. If you want to spend money on something and you are not sure if you can include it, please contact us to check. The maximum is £500, but feel free to apply for less, if you are planning something that doesn't cost as much. We can fund:

- Project costs such as hall hire, materials needed for session.
- Food and non-alcoholic drink for the session.
- Any additional salary costs or volunteer expenses you would need to pay for people delivering the session.
- You can include up to 13% of overheads to contribute towards your annual costs such as heating, phone and IT costs, insurance, volunteer training etc. We actively encourage you to build this in to your budget. If you apply for the maximum grant of £500, the overheads would be a maximum of £65.

What will you NOT fund?

We will not fund:

- Individuals or for-profit businesses
- Organisations in the statutory sector, (for example, schools may not apply) or statutory services or activities that are already publicly funded
- Activities promoting politics
- Any money spent before you have been told whether your application has been successful or after 24th December 2026

How much funding can we apply for?

Grants are up to £500 per event. Successful applicants will receive the grant payment in November. All activities must be completed and feedback / consultation responses fed back by 24th December 2026.

How do we apply?

Applications must be submitted using our application form, which is available to download from our website from Weds 14th October. If you require a paper form or help with accessibility, please contact us.

What information do we need to provide as part of our application?

You will need to provide:

- Details of what you plan to do (see application form for specific questions)
- Details of what you plan to spend the money on (on the application form)
- A copy of your governing document or constitution: the document that outlines the organization's purpose, rules of operation, and management structure. Grant makers require this to verify that the group is properly organized and that the funding will support the community.
- Bank account details in the group's name and a recent bank statement: this is so we can check the bank details we are given, to ensure that we would be paying any money into the organisation's own bank account.

When is the deadline?

The deadline is **10am on Monday 16th November 2026.** Any applications received after this time will **not** be accepted.

How long will it take to get a decision?

We will notify applicants by 24th November. Please do not start your project or spend any money until you have a funding decision.

If successful, what will we need to do?

- Run your activity or session any time between 24th November and 24th December and provide the feedback from the participants by 24th December 2026.
- Provide basic monitoring information (eg how many people attended)
- Agree to support the promotion of Barnsley 2040 (eg use logos as requested if you are doing publicity about your event and agree to photography, filming and social media activity where appropriate and where consent has been obtained)
- Participate in reasonable evaluation activity.

What support is available during the application process?

You are welcome to email or phone to ask questions during the application process. Please email funding@barnsleycvs.org.uk or phone 01226 448796 and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

How can I improve my chances of my application being successful?

Applications will be assessed against simple criteria centred around:

- Your ability to reach residents
- Quality of proposed engagement activity
- Value for money

We don't know how many groups will want to apply for this funding. If we have more applications than we can fund, then we will also look at the proposed locations and groups of people, to ensure reaching a wide range of people and areas.

Before you send in your application, please get someone else to check that:

- You have clearly explained what you plan to do and why you think it's a good way to do it. Perhaps you could ask someone to read it who knows very little about what you plan to do and see what questions they have about it.
- The figures in your budget all add up correctly and it's clear what you're planning to spend the money on.
- You have submitted the documents requested with the application
- You have sent everything in before the deadline of 10am on Mon 16th November

We look forward to reading about your plans!