

# MARSHES COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND



## General Guidance for Applicants

### 1. Overview

Frodsham Wind Farm Limited is committed to providing an annual Community Benefit Fund ('CBF') of £120,000 for community projects. Payment is made in two instalments of £60,000.

The Marshes Community Benefit Fund (MCBF) Panel will control the administration of the CBF will allow groups and organisations to apply for awards of between £250 and £60,000 from the CBF. There will be two application rounds each year. Applications will be open three months prior to the closing dates 1st December and 1st June. Applications need to be submitted before the 28th February and 31st August each year.

For applications seeking grants in excess of [£2,000], priority will be given to organisations that can demonstrate that they will also be making a contribution towards the project. This contribution might be money from the group itself, a grant from another fund that has been secured or another pending grant application. It may also be a benefit-in-kind of labour and / or materials.

In the event that no eligible awards are received the money will be rolled into the next award round.

### 2. Project Location

Projects for which grants are requested should be located within the defined CBF area. A plan showing the MCBF area is available on the project website [www.marshescbf.uk](http://www.marshescbf.uk)

### 3. MCBF Purposes

The MCBF is intended to be open to any community project which is for the benefit of local community residents.

Some examples of projects that the CBF could support are given below:

- Projects to improve public amenities (e.g. community sports halls)
- Footpath improvements, cycle paths

- Environmental and wildlife projects (e.g. public park improvements)
- Energy efficiency or sustainability projects such as additional insulation/generation/storage
- Activities / events to engage the local community

This list is not meant to be exhaustive and is there to foster ideas only.

### 4. Eligibility

The sorts of organisations that may apply include:

- Voluntary and community groups
- Parish and Town Councils
- Cheshire West and Chester Council (if it is applying on behalf of an existing community organisation and is delivering a project that has originated directly from the community – evidence of this will be required)
- Charities that are delivering local services / support
- Schools and educational establishments (delivering projects outside of the LEA requirements)
- Social enterprises (e.g. co-operatives, development trusts) that operate on a not-for-profit basis

All applicants will be required to have a written constitution, a set of rules, or a governing document and will have to have a bank or building society account with a minimum of two signatories in place before applying for a grant from the MCBF.

Successful applicants are not able to re-apply for another grant within any 12-month period unless as part of a 'large' project for which multi-year funding has been agreed by the Panel.

## 5. Exclusions

A full copy of the exclusions for the MCBF can be downloaded from the project website, but examples include:

- Commercial organisations
- Private membership-based sports clubs and facilities
- Projects that will only benefit one individual
- Projects that are religious in focus or that support a party political campaign
- Retrospective funding for works already undertaken
- Works considered a statutory responsibility, such as improvements to public highways or car parks.

## 6. Assessment Criteria

The main criteria that will be used by the Management Panel when assessing grant applications will be:

- The social, economic and environmental benefits which will stem from successful implementation / completion of the project
- The level of community support for and involvement with the project.

Other factors that will also be considered and which must be demonstrated as part of the grant application include:

- The ability of the applicant to deliver the project
- How the benefits will continue after completion of the project, i.e. its sustainability and legacy
- Value for money
- Presence of any match-funding (for grant applications over [£2,000])

## 7. The Process

When applying:

- Ensure that you and your project are eligible and that you have not missed fund application deadlines
- Complete all questions on the application form. Guidance notes on the completion of the Form are available from the MCBF website **[www.marshescbf.uk](http://www.marshescbf.uk)**
- Submit your completed application form and supporting documentation by e mail to: **[applications@marshescbf.uk](mailto:applications@marshescbf.uk)**

Please be aware:

- Applications will only be processed when all documentation has been received.
- If supporting documentation is not received within 4 weeks of the closing date for applications, the application will be deemed incomplete and will not progress any further.
- You will be notified in writing (by post / email) once your application is received and validated.

Applicants should not approach Panel members individually or outside of the prescribed communication channels in connection with any application or award decision. Failure to adhere to this requirement may result in an application being deemed void.

Assessment and Awards:

- All eligible applications will be assessed by the Management Panel. During the assessment period a Panel member may contact you to obtain further information. This may be over the telephone or in person.
- The decision reached by the Management Panel is final, cannot be changed and no discussion will be entered into.
- If a conditional grant is awarded, the requested funds will only be released when those conditions have been met.

## 8. More Information

Further details can be obtained from the CBF website ([www.marshescbf.uk](http://www.marshescbf.uk)) or by contacting the Fund Administrator on **[enquiries@mcbf.uk](mailto:enquiries@mcbf.uk)**