

Princetown Community Grants Fund 2026/27

Application Guidance

1. Welcome

We're really looking forward to hearing your ideas for Princetown.

This fund exists because local people came together to imagine a future for the village, thriving, connected, and full of life at the heart of Dartmoor. It's here to help turn that shared vision into real, practical action, led by people who know Princetown best.

The funding is provided by the Duchy of Cornwall, which has been listening closely to the community in Princetown through an extensive community engagement process, and wants to back the ideas and priorities that emerge from these conversations and from the well of creativity within the community. It's administered by Devon Communities Together (DCT), a Devon-wide charity that has spent over 60 years connecting communities and helping them create change.

Applying for funding can feel like a big step, especially if you haven't done it before, so we've written this guidance in plain language, and we're genuinely happy to help at any point along the way.

✳ *Not sure where to start, or whether your idea fits? Get in touch at any time with the grants team at grants@devoncommunities.org.uk. There's no such thing as a silly question.*

2. What we're trying to achieve

Princetown's greatest assets are its people, its landscape, its heritage, and its spirit of neighbourliness. This fund is designed to invest in local ideas and projects that build confidence, connection and opportunity across the village.

It's part of a longer journey towards a shared vision: Princetown by 2036 as a thriving, connected village at the heart of Dartmoor, where community spaces are well used, local businesses thrive, empty buildings are back in use, and people of every age feel able to take part in village life. Arts, heritage and culture are part of everyday life, and there are real opportunities for wellbeing, learning and connection for everyone. This fund exists to help make that vision real, one project at a time, helping Princetown continue its journey to becoming, in the words of the fund's own vision, 'The Beating Heart of Dartmoor'.

Your project only needs to match one of these five aims below, not all of them:

1. **Try something new.** Test a new idea, activity or approach that benefits the whole community, something developed and led by people in Princetown.

For example: a pilot repair café, a new after-school club, or a first-time community market.



2. **Bring people together.** Reduce isolation, build connections, and create chances for people of all ages, children, young people, families and older residents, to take part and thrive.

For example: a weekly lunch club, an intergenerational gardening group, or a warm, welcoming space to meet.

3. **Celebrate local history and identity.** Share Princetown's history, art, culture or heritage, and get people talking about what matters most for the village's future.

For example: an oral history project with long-time residents, a mural, or a local heritage trail.

4. **Connect people with the moor.** Help residents and visitors enjoy and care for the local landscape, improve access to Dartmoor, or balance the needs of the community, visitors and nature.

For example: guided walks for people who don't usually access the moor, or a volunteer path-maintenance group.

5. **Leave something lasting.** Build skills, confidence, relationships or facilities that will keep benefiting Princetown long after the funding ends.

For example: training a group of volunteers to run something themselves or bringing an empty space back into community use.

3. Who can apply

You can apply if your organisation is one of the following:

- A Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
- A Community Interest Company (CIC)
- A constituted community group (a group with a written agreement or constitution setting out how it runs)
- A social enterprise
- A community benefit society
- A registered charity

Don't have a governing document or constitution? That's not the end of the road - another local group may be able to be the responsible body for the funding on your behalf, and DCT can help you find the right partner.

We'll want to see that you understand the Princetown community and how your project fits one of the aims above, but you don't need a polished track record to apply. New and small groups are very welcome.

One application per organisation, for one funding amount. If you are unsuccessful, you can apply again in a future round with DCT's support and advice on what you could change in your bid. See below for more details about the process.

☼ *Not sure if your group's set-up counts, or thinking about partnering with someone?*
Just ask - grants@devoncommunities.org.uk.

4. How much you can apply for

Small Grants: £500 – £5,999

For smaller-scale projects, including ideas that expand the reach of an existing group or activity. We're looking for lasting benefit here too, not just Large Grants, even a small project should leave something behind for Princetown.

Large Grants: £6,000 – £40,000

For larger projects that reach more significant numbers of people in Princetown, and that can keep having an impact after the funding ends.

Not sure which strand fits? Think about the scale of what you're planning or just ask us. You can apply for capital costs (equipment, buildings), running costs, or core costs (your organisation's regular running costs, like rent or staff time), as long as they connect clearly to one of the aims above.

A couple of things worth knowing before you apply:

- If you're applying in partnership with other organisations, funding can only be paid to your organisation as the lead applicant.
- If you buy equipment or other capital items using this funding, they need to benefit the community for a good length of time and should be available for other community groups to borrow, unless there's a good reason why that's not practical. Capital items funded this way can't be sold on.
- We'd love to see how your project works alongside local community assets, places like community hubs, village halls, health settings, or other trusted local organisations.

5. What we can't fund

A few things this fund can't cover:

- Activity that doesn't connect to the fund's aims, have a look back at Section 2 if you're not sure
- Costs you've already spent before applying
- Filling a funding gap caused by a shortfall elsewhere
- Political or religious campaigning, though faith-based groups are very welcome to apply for projects that benefit the wider community
- Costs that should reasonably be covered elsewhere, like legal fees or meeting a legal requirement

If you're using or expecting other funding for the same project (sometimes called match funding), let us know the amount, who it's from, and whether it's confirmed yet.

6. How to apply

The application is an online form. None of it needs to be perfect first time, we're happy to talk it through with you before you submit. Here's what you'll be asked about:

- Your organisation - name, contact details, address, legal status and rough annual income
- Your project - a plain-language summary of what you'll do
- Which strand you're applying to, and how much you're asking for
- Who will benefit, and roughly how many people
- Which of the five aims your project best fits, and why
- Any local partnerships that will help your project reach further
- How you'll know it's worked - what evidence you'll collect
- The policies you have in place (safeguarding, equality and diversity, health and safety, data protection, complaints, volunteering), don't worry if you're missing some of these, just talk to us

You'll also need to email your budget sheet, governing document or constitution, and your most recent accounts (if you have them), to grants@devoncommunities.org.uk.

☀ *Want a second pair of eyes before you submit, or help putting your budget together? That's exactly what we're here for, get in touch any time.*

7. What happens after you apply

We check every application meets the basic eligibility requirements first, and if anything's missing, we'll come back to you rather than simply saying no.

This fund runs as a rolling programme, with the assessment panel, made up of a mix of representatives from the Duchy of Cornwall, DCT, and the local community, meeting monthly. Panel members look at how well your project meets the fund's aims (the most important factor), along with local need, deliverability, partnership working, value for money, and how sustainable it is. For Small Grants, apply by the 15th of the month to be considered at that month's panel meeting. For Large Grants, applications close on 15 December and are assessed at the panel meeting that follows. Either way, you'll usually hear the outcome within a week of the panel meeting that reviews your application.

If you're successful, we may ask for a little more information before confirming your award. Once your signed agreement is back with us, funding is released and your project can begin.

If you're not successful this time, we'll let you know and explain why, and where it's helpful, we can talk about whether there's a better fit for your idea, or what might strengthen a future application. You can only ever receive one award from this fund, but you're welcome to apply again in a future round with our support and advice if you're not successful first time.

Partway through your project, we'll check in with you, just a light-touch conversation and short mid-point report about how things are going. At the end, a short final report tells us what you did and what you learned. We'll expect video or film, photos, and case studies as part of your evidence, alongside quotes and stories.

8. Key dates

Milestone	Date
Grant opens	15 September 2026
Large Grants application window closes	15 December 2026
Small Grants application window closes	28 February 2027 (rolling monthly)
Small Grants monthly deadline	15th of each month, for that month's panel
Panel decisions	First week of each month
Final reports due	1 November 2027
Fund and programme conclude	December 2027

9. Common questions

I've never applied for funding before, is this still for me? Yes. New and small groups are very welcome, and we can help you through every step.

My project doesn't perfectly fit just one aim, is that a problem? Not at all. You only need to clearly meet one aim, even if your project touches on others too.

What if I'm not sure how much to ask for? Get in touch and talk it through with us before you apply, we can help you think it through.

Whatever your question, however small it feels, please just ask. We'd genuinely rather hear from you too early than not at all.

10. We're here to help

Applying for funding can feel daunting, especially the first time, so please don't feel you need to do this alone. Whether you're still shaping your idea, not sure if it fits, or just want to talk it through, get in touch.

We're also building more hands-on support alongside this fund, things like short bitesize training sessions on topics such as business planning or governance, drop-in surgeries where you can talk through your idea with our team face to face, and hands-on help getting a funding application ready. This is being shaped around what Princetown actually needs, whatever size your group is and wherever you're starting from. If you're not quite



DUCHY *of* CORNWALL



application-ready yet, that doesn't mean the fund isn't for you, tell us where you are and we'll help you get there.

Email: grants@devoncommunities.org.uk