



COMMUNITY GRANTS FUND APPLICATION

Please answer all questions which are relevant to your organisation – failure to do so may result in a delay in the determination of your application

PROJECT (In no more than 25 words)	A nature based befriending service, we will recruit and train new volunteers to visit lonely, vulnerable, isolated, and often in ill health adults in Shrewsbury.	GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED	£1,900
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Contact Details

Q1 Name of organisation making application:

Feed the Birds.

Name of contact for this application

Title: Mr

First Name: Jonathan

Surname: Mutch

Position held in the organisation: Chair

Contact Address, including full postcode:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Contact Telephone Number: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

About your organisation

Q2 What type of organisation are you?

Tick (✓) relevant category:

Registered Charity: (✓) Charity Registration Number 1208199

Q3 When was your organisation established?

May 2024 as an independent Charity, 2016 as part of Shropshire Wildlife Trust

Q4 Briefly describe your organisation.

Describe your organisation, including how many members/users you have, whether there is a subscription fee and the usual activities/services you provide.

If you are a new organisation, describe the services/activities you plan to provide.

A nature based befriending service, supporting lonely, vulnerable and isolated adults many of whom are in ill health (Alzheimer's, Dementia, Parkinsons etc). Our trained volunteers visit their client once a week for an hour, assisting in maintaining and filling bird feeders, developing a befriending relationship to alleviate loneliness and isolation. In Shrewsbury we have more than 30 volunteers and currently over a dozen clients, with a waiting list which we plan to reduce over the next few months. We do not charge any fee to clients and bird food, feeders and cleaning materials are provided free of charge.

Q5 If you are a subsidiary of a larger organisation, please state which one.

N/A

Q6 Does your organisation have an agreed Constitution or Memorandum of Association?

Please state which and attach a copy: **Governing Document; copy attached**

Q7 What is your primary source of funding?

Our primary source of funding to date has been from The National Lottery Awards for All and a Crowdfunding campaign (2024) that attracted funding from Shropshire's Shared Prosperity Fund. Additional funds have been received from a variety of trusts and foundations, including the Allen Lane Foundation and the Matthew Good Foundation, along with some funding from other organisations such as Veolia, and from events, talks and donations.

Details of the project or activity you are planning

Q8 Describe the projects/activity you plan to use this grant for.

i. Try to be specific about what you will do and how you will do it.

Our volunteers visit their client once a week, helping to maintain and fill their bird feeders, developing a befriending relationship with their client. Additional funding will allow us to identify and train new volunteers in Shrewsbury, carry out DBS checks, and purchase bird feeders and bird food. This will help us match new clients to volunteers in Shrewsbury in order to help towards satisfying the demand for our services.

ii. Please state how you have identified this need and how the project will benefit the people of Shrewsbury, together with the estimated time span. If you are seeking continuation funding for this project, please provide evidence for this continued need.

We receive new client referrals from various sources, including Social Services, General Practitioners, Healthy Lives Advisors, Shropshire Mental Health Team and Social Care Services along with other professional services. We currently have a waiting list despite not actively seeking clients. Significant research has been carried out by various national and international organisations (e.g. World Health Organisation) indicating a growing number of people suffering from mental and physical ill health due to loneliness and isolation. A wealth of evidence also shows the benefit that nature has on our mental

health. Evaluation of the Feed the Birds befriending scheme has highlighted the health, social and economic benefits this unique charity delivers. **With an increase in funding, and the support of a Community Grant, we plan to increase our number of client/volunteer matches in Shrewsbury by up to 10 in the next year.**

iii. How many people from the Parish of Shrewsbury do you expect to benefit directly from your project or activity?

30 - 40

iv. Please indicate which of the key pillars of the Council's Vision are met and how:

Pillars	Met	How
Building Resilient Communities For Shrewsbury	Y	By promoting active volunteering in the Community, providing quality training to volunteers and offering them the opportunity to help those in the Community who are disadvantaged by age, illness and loneliness
Supporting Shrewsbury Residents To Live Active And Healthy Lives Through The Provision Of Quality Services	Y	By helping clients connect with nature through feeding birds, they are given the opportunity to become far more active than they might otherwise have been. Those who are lonely and vulnerable may remain in their own homes rather than go into care. Otherwise inactive they are actively encouraged to go into their gardens to maintain and fill bird feeders. Befriending schemes and connectivity to nature have both been proven to benefit both physical and mental health.
Preserving Shrewsbury's Heritage	N	
Creating A Greener And Better-connected Shrewsbury	Y	Feed the Birds not only supports our clients, but also significantly helps nature, encouraging garden birds and small mammals in gardens across our Community.
Maintaining A Sustainable, Resilient And Efficient Organisation	Y	Our aim is to grow our organisation both in terms of the number of clients and volunteers, but also in numbers employed by the organisation. We have already trained over 110 volunteers across Shropshire and more than 30 in Shrewsbury.

Taking Positive Action To Tackle Climate Change	Y	Climate change and the nurturing of nature and wildlife go hand in hand. Our activity supports garden birds and small mammals.
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Q9 What criteria will be used to measure the success of the project and how many people from the Parish of Shrewsbury do you expect to benefit from it?

A growth in the number of client/volunteer matches and a reduction in our waiting list.

We will also conduct a survey of our clients, carers and volunteers in late 2025/early 2026 to determine the social and personal impact on those involved. The last survey of Feed the Birds, carried out by an independent organisation in 2024, showed the social, health and financial impact of our befriending service on the whole community, not just to the clients and volunteers but also to the wider social and healthcare communities.

Including clients, volunteers, carers and family members of clients we estimate that up to 40 people in the Parish will benefit.

A copy of the survey findings in 2024 is attached.

Health & Safety

Q10 What, if any, special safety issues are related to your project/activity?

Please provide the following information:

- i. What kind of insurance does your organisation have?

Public Liability Insurance

- ii. Do the leaders have the relevant qualifications and/or experience?

Yes, our paid Coordinator has run the programme from its inception within Shropshire Wildlife Trust in 2016 and has undergone a variety of training programmes. Our Trustees include several with Health Care and safeguarding backgrounds, senior management experience and volunteering.

- iii. What policies does your organisation have in place (i.e. Health and Safety, Child Protection/Safeguarding, working with vulnerable adults, Equal Opportunities, CRB Checks etc.)? *You may be required to submit copies of your policies.*

We have policies on Safeguarding, Health & Safety, Equal Opportunities, Volunteering, and Data Protection and all volunteers are DBS checked. One Trustee has primary responsibility for Safeguarding. The Chair, Coordinator and Safeguarding Lead meet regularly to discuss potential safeguarding issues.

Funding of your project

Q11 Previous Applications

If you have applied for and received funding from Shrewsbury Town Council in the past please provide details of the amount, the year and briefly what the funding was used for.

Year	Project Description	Award £
2024	Local Councillor Grants x2	2x £250
	Both grants were used to develop new marketing pamphlets and materials to support our transition from being part of Shropshire Wildlife Trust to becoming an independent charity.	

Q12 Project Funding

Please provide details of the amount of funding you need for your project and give us a breakdown of what the money is for (please enclose any relevant estimates or details).

Tell us the amount of grant requested £1,900 and provide a detailed breakdown as to how you have reached this figure

Project Expenditure Please list all items of expenditure for your project	Amount of Project
Additional bird feeders, bird food, cleaning materials for 10 new clients	£900
Additional DBS checks for 10 new volunteers	£350
Additional training for 10 new volunteers	£1000
Additional admin costs for 10 new volunteers set up	£1500
	£
Total	£
Project Income Please list how the project shall be funded	
Talks to organisations such as u3a, Rotary and others	£500
Events (bring and buy, garden party etc)	£1350
	£
	£
	£

What is the difference?	
This should be the same as the amount of Grant you are applying for	£1,900

Q13 Covering a Shortfall

If the Town Council makes an offer less than the amount requested, how will that impact on the Project and how will you cover the shortfall?

Impact will be that we will attempt to make up the short fall through donations, events, and/or public appeals for funding.

Q14 Sustainability

What plans do you have in place to ensure that your organisation becomes more sustainable and less reliant on grant funding, particularly from the Town Council?

We are actively seeking funding opportunities from large and small funders such as The National Lottery, Garfield Weston, Rayne Foundation and others to provide multi year funding of our main running costs, including our growth plans for the future. Although we currently have a cash reserve, we need to maintain this to follow Charities Commission financial guidelines, and ensure sustainability in the medium to long term.

Your Accounts

Q15 Please provide the following details from your most recent annual accounts

Total Income	£15,657 (YTD)
Less Total Expenditure	£30,933 (est 2025 annual)
Surplus / Loss	£(15,336)
Savings (Reserves, Cash, Investments)	£24,000

Please provide a copy of your most recent annual audited accounts or, in the case of newly established organisations, the projected income and expenditure for the next twelve months.

As a new Charity (May 2024, we do not as yet have a set of full year audited accounts but attach our budget for 2025, as well as our income year to date.

You need to include these documents with this application.

Account Details

Q16 Please provide your bank or building society account details

You can only apply for grant if you have a bank/building society account in the name of your organisation. We will only pay grants into an account which requires at least two people to sign each cheque or withdrawal. **These people should not be related.**

Account name: [REDACTED]

Sort Code: [REDACTED] Account Number: [REDACTED]

Bank/building society name: [REDACTED]

Bank/building society address [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Who are the signatories and what position do they hold in your organisation?

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Name [REDACTED] | Position: Chair |
| 2 | Name [REDACTED] | Position: Secretary |
| 3 | Name [REDACTED] | Position: Treasurer |

Any Other Information

Q17 Any other information which you consider to be relevant to your application.

Since becoming a charity in May 2024, we have been successful in enough funding applications to fund our operations for 2025 and into 2026. However, as we grow our client/volunteer numbers, we will need to recruit an additional member of staff in early 2026 (or before) in order to manage our growth. In doing so, we will significantly reduce our surplus/reserves in late 2025 and the early months of 2026.

Declarations

Q18 Declaration

Please give details of a senior member of your organisation.

For example, this may be your Chairperson, Treasurer or Secretary. They must read the application and sign below. **(This must not be the main contact name in Q1).**

I confirm, on behalf of Feed the Birds:

That I am authorised to sign this declaration on its behalf, and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all replies are true and accurate.

I confirm that I have read the Terms and Conditions set out in the Notes which accompanied this application and further confirm that this application is made on the basis that if successful, the organisation will be bound to use the grant only for the purpose specified in this application, and will have to comply with those Terms and Conditions and any others which the Council might attach to the Grant.

Post held in organisation: Trustee Secretary

Title: [REDACTED] First Name: [REDACTED]

Surname: [REDACTED]

Organisation address:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Signe

[REDACTED]

Date:15/07/2025

Q19 Signature of Person Completing the Application

This must be the signature of the person named in Q1 as the main contact and **not be the same person who has signed in Q18**

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information in this application from is true and correct. I understand that you may ask for additional information at any stage of the application process.

Signed: ...

[REDACTED]

.....Date: 15/07/2025

Checklist

1. Have you answered every question? Y ☐
2. Have all signatures been completed? Y ☐
3. Have you included a copy of your constitution? Y ☐
4. Have you included a copy of your most recent audited accounts? Budget 2025
☐
5. Please state any supporting documents you are submitting: ☐
Governing Document, 2025 Budget, Evaluation Document

Please return your completed application form to:

**Town Clerk
Shrewsbury Town Council
Livesey House
7 St John's Hill
Shrewsbury
SY1 1JD**

Telephone: 01743 281010
Email: Helen.ball@shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk