

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)	Responding to RSPB guidance on bird feeding in summer and supporting cancer sufferers in their own home, in a project with Lingen Davies.	GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED	£2,435
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Contact Details

Q1 Name of organisation making application:

Feed the Birds

Name of contact for this application

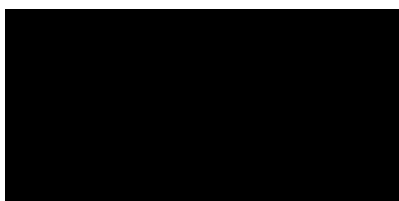
Title: Mr.

First Name: Jonathan

Surname: Mutch

Position held in the organisation: Chair

Contact Address, including full postcode:



Postcode:



Contact Telephone Number:



Email address:



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?

As an independent charity, May 2024. Previously part of Shropshire Wildlife Trust since 2017.

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 unique nature based befriending service, supporting lonely, vulnerable, isolated adults often in ill health (Alzheimer's, dementia, Parkinsons, cancer etc), our trained volunteers visit their client for about an hour. once a week to help fill and maintain bird feeders, which we provide free of charge, developing a befriending relationship to alleviate loneliness and isolation. Across Shropshire we have over 50 clients and nearly 100 trained volunteers. In Shrewsbury we have more than 30 trained volunteers and currently around 15 clients. Our service is completely free, and we supply bird feeders, bird food and cleaning materials.

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?

Governing Document, copy attached

Q7 What is your primary source of funding?

We rely heavily on funding from Charitable Trusts but have also recently been awarded a National Lottery Awards for All grant. We have also received a small grant from the Baron Davenport Foundation. We are actively pursuing numerous other funds. Previously we have secured funding from Shropshire's Shared Prosperity Fund (Crowdfunding), the Allen Lane Foundation, Shropshire Community Resources and Shropshire Town Council. We have also received some financial support from local businesses. We give talks to organisations such as the u3a, WI and business groups. We have recently partnered with Lingen Davies to provide at home support to individuals living with cancer. Lingen Davies will partly fund this programme.

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.

Currently two issues require additional funding:

- RSPB advice on bird feeding in the summer – we are following their guidance and providing fat balls and feeders to clients between May and October. This was an unexpected additional cost to the organisation as we had to replace bird seed feeders with fatball feeders and bird seed with fatballs and mealworms
 - Lingen Davies is partly funding a project to provide at home support to cancer sufferers. Often those with cancer are unwilling (cancer sufferers often give feedback that they do not want to attend group support activities with other cancer sufferers) or unable (due to their health situation or isolated location) to attend support activities provided by Lingen Davies. We intend to identify and match up to 10 additional clients with a cancer diagnosis and will recruit, train and DBS check new volunteers as well as provide bird feeders, food and cleaning materials to these new clients. Volunteers will visit these new clients in their home for around 1 hour per week during the project timeframe. At the end of the project, improvements in mental and physical health will be assessed. We expect around 5 of the new clients will be in Shrewsbury.
- 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.

The need for new feeders etc has arisen from the recent RSPB guidance on bird feeding in the summer months.

The need to support cancer sufferers at home resulted from discussions with Lingen Davies over several months. Both parties strongly believe that our befriending service will make a very positive impact on the lives of those people in Shropshire living at home with cancer. This project will particularly support those cancer sufferers who are unwilling or unable to attend group activities outside their home. Our trained befrienders will assist in filling and maintaining bird feeders, encouraging their client to become more mobile and active, thereby improving not only their mental but also their physical health. Not only will our clients benefit, but also carers (often family members) who will have an hour of respite from their caring responsibilities while the volunteer engages with the client. The broader family will also benefit from knowing that their relative is benefitting from our visits. Volunteers will benefit from training and also from an increase in self esteem and recognition that they are contributing to the community in which they live. The project will initially run for 1 year, but assuming it has successful outcomes it could become an ongoing part of our service and partnership with Lingen Davies.

More generally, we receive continuous new client referrals from Social Services, GPs, Healthy Lives Advisors, Shropshire Mental Health Team and Social Care Services, as well as from family members via our website and Facebook page. We currently have waiting lists in several areas. We have increased our clients in Shrewsbury by around 40% in the past year.

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

25-30

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	YES	By supporting vulnerable people in our community, offering high quality volunteering opportunities, together with training, we are developing a strong community spirit in Shrewsbury. Partnering with Lingen Davies is a very positive step towards different charities providing an integrated care service in The Community.
Supporting Shrewsbury Residents To Live Active And Healthy Lives Through The Provision Of Quality Services	YES	We regularly assess the impact of our befriending service on both our clients and volunteers. These assessments confirm that clients become more active than previously, often simply by getting out of the house and into their garden. Befriending schemes as well as connecting with nature have both been proven to improve both mental and physical health.
Preserving Shrewsbury's Heritage	NO	
Creating A Greener And Better-connected Shrewsbury	YES	Feed the Birds, by actively encouraging an interest in nature, and by helping clients support wildlife in their gardens, is contributing towards a greener and more nature diverse environment in Shrewsbury and across Shropshire.
Maintaining A Sustainable, Resilient And Efficient Organisation	YES	As we continue to grow as an organisation, we are developing links with other organisations (Lingen Davies for example). Our reputation is growing and we are becoming well known and respected. To supplement our funding from other sources and becoming more resilient and sustainable, we are planning several key events in the coming months, will be selling branded merchandise at events, and seeking sponsorship from local organisations.
Taking Positive Action To Tackle Climate Change	YES	Supporting and nurturing nature by encouraging bird and wildlife as well as developing our clients' and volunteers' interest in nature, in a small way contributes to fighting climate change.

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?

The Lingen Davies project will be closely monitored both by experienced Lingen Davies staff and by ourselves. Expected outcomes will be:

An increase in clients' self confidence

An increase in, and connection with nature and the world outside

An improved sense of well being including taking exercise

A willingness to socialise and connect with people

Measurements will include taking more exercise, having more energy, going out to social events, engaging in activities and hobbies and possibly going back to work.

Including clients, carers, family members and volunteers we expect 25-30 people from the Parish of Shrewsbury will benefit.

Health & Safety

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

As we are an organisation providing at-home befriending to potentially vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is a key issue for both our volunteers and our clients. All volunteers undergo DBS checks and are trained in Dementia care and under the Lingen Davies project, care for and understanding of issues relating to cancer sufferers. One of our Trustees is responsible for safeguarding (we have a written safeguarding policy and procedures) who meets regularly with the Coordinator and Chair to discuss any existing or potential safeguarding issues. No major issues have been identified in the last 12 months.

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?

Our paid, part time charity coordinator has managed and run the programme since it started in 2017. She has vast knowledge of all aspects of what we do. Our Trustees include several with Health Care and safeguarding backgrounds, senior management experience (including in major National charities), and volunteering in various charity sectors.

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 Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Equal Opportunities, Privacy and Data Protection, and all volunteers are subject to DBS checks. One Trustee has primary responsibility for safeguarding and meets regularly with the Chair and Coordinator to discuss any areas of concern.

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	2x Local Councillor Grants were used to develop and print new marketing pamphlets and materials to support our transition to becoming a stand alone charity	2 x £250
2025	Community Grant was used to increase number of clients and volunteers in Shrewsbury	£900

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).

Grant requested is £2,435 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
New fatball feeders and food for 6 months for existing clients (RSPB guidance)	£875
Staff costs supporting Lingen Davies project	£2,730
Staff travel for Lingen Davise set up	£135
Volunteer travel for Lingen Davies project	£540
Additional bird feeders, bird food for 12 months and cleaning materials for 5 new clients (Lingen Davies)	£400
Additional DBS checks for 5 new volunteers	£110
Additional training for 5 new volunteers	£300
Additional admin costs, recruitment costs, marketing (posters, leaflets, handouts) for both RSPB driven costs and Lingen Davies project etc	£300
Total	£5,390
Project Income Please list how the project shall be funded	
Lingen Davies contribution	£2,955

	£
	£
What is the difference? This should be the same as the amount of Grant you are applying for	£2,435

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?

We are committed to follow RSPB guidance on bird feeding during the summer months and will provide recommended fatballs and fatball feeders to our clients. We are actively seeking sponsorship from local businesses to cover our additional costs (no success so far).

The Lingen Davies project will go ahead as Lingen Davies are providing approximately 50% of it's costs. If we do not receive sufficient funding to meet the shortfall, we will increase our efforts to find funding elsewhere.

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?

The Chair, and 2 other trustees are constantly seeking funding from charity funders, large and small. As already mentioned we have had some success since we became an independent charity, and we put considerable effort into applying for funding.

We are honoured that Iolo Williams, well known presenter of BBC Springwatch and naturalist has agreed to a public talk in support of Feed the Birds in December which will contribute to general running costs.

We are actively seeking opportunities to sell bird related merchandise (bird boxes made by Men's Sheds, knitted key rings, birds etc made by volunteers) at public talks and events.

Those interested in making personal donations can do so via our website and our Facebook page gives regular updates on our activities and encourages donations. We are actively engaging with local businesses to support us as part of their Corporate Social Responsibilities and hope to hold a gala dinner in 2027. We are developing a Gifts in Wills policy to hopefully attract legacy funding.

Your Accounts

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

Total Income	£6935
Less Total Expenditure	£33855
Surplus / Loss	(£26920)
Savings (Reserves, Cash, Investments)	£25,000

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.

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		Position: Treasurer
3	Name		Position: Secretary

Any Other Information

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

Although our most recent signed accounts (yet to be submitted to the Charities Commission) show an income for the last fiscal year of £6935 and a cash balance of £7860, we have recently received a National Lottery awards for All grant of nearly £20,000 and have a current cash balance of c£25000 of which c£7000 are unrestricted funds. Our coordinator and several senior trustees actively pursue funding opportunities with national and local charity funders. However, the support of our local Town Council is very important in validating what we do for our local community, and an award from the Community Fund in 2026 would support not only Feed the Birds, but also Lingen Davies, in providing support to lonely and isolated people and cancer sufferers in Shrewsbury.

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 Bird:

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: Secretary

Title: [REDACTED]

First Name: [REDACTED]

Surname: [REDACTED]

Organisation address:

[REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Signed:

Date: 6th July 2026

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: 6th July 2026

Checklist

1. Have you answered every question? ✓
2. Have all signatures been completed? ✓
3. Have you included a copy of your constitution? ✓
4. Have you included a copy of your most recent audited accounts? ✓
5. Please state any supporting documents you are submitting:
Latest signed accounts (not yet submitted), Governing 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