

A Space & Place Grantee's perspective

Top tips on applying for funding

Applying for a capital grants programme is a fantastic opportunity for community groups, especially rural groups, to improve their community resources and assets. The application process can be a daunting challenge and there may be many hurdles to negotiate but one small rural grantee to the programme has taken the time to carry out some self-reflection on their successful application. The group have provided a few tips for other applicants which gives the Space & Place team an early insight into a grantee's perspective of the programme.

Be Confident! - In what you are asking for. If you work out your needs, running costs and look at other examples, you should be confident (€ your sustainability of the project). Don't be greedy.

Be Patient! - It takes a lot of time and commitment to get the application done. You need to be prepared to commit a lot of personal time and energy.

Be Open to Change! - There can be a lot of development between Stage 1 and Stage 2- you are asking better questions; your community consultations and surveys may have changed for the better; and your beneficiaries needs become more developed through stronger surveys.

"It's not about who's doing what but who's benefiting from it in the community".

Use support available! - A supportive committee will go a long way to helping. Also having two people who know the project inside out is good so you can bounce off/ support each other

Gain the local council's support! - The local Council have been very supportive from a funding and staff time perspective, as over the years we have built up a great relationship with the Funding Officer who has signposted us to funding; helped us with applications; and therefore helped build capacity and skills so we are more confident to do it ourselves.

Partnerships work! - In the past we have helped other local groups with community projects (e.g. planting for an outdoor community gym).

Step back every now and then! - Sometimes you have to step back and take a breath- as sometimes you can be too close and not see the obvious (like linking up with the school which was suggested by the CFNI assessor)

'What ifs!' - You are bettering thinking through all the scenarios possible to best avoid those little hiccups and pitfalls.

Be aware! That managing £350k of funding is a huge commitment when it comes to the financial and legal technicalities and issues.

*"The hard work has made us stronger
for future applications".*

Little Rascals Community Playgroup, Limavady

