

FUNDING FOR CHURCH BUILDINGS: LANDFILL COMMUNITY FUND

FUNDING SHEET **10**

Landfill Tax is levied on operators of landfill sites, on the basis of so much per tonne dumped. Landfill operators (LOs) can pay up to 20 percent of this tax in the form of payments to environmental bodies (EBs). These must be legally-constituted entities whose objects include one or more of the approved objects defined in the Landfill Tax rules. Fortunately for us, these include the repair of churches which are open to the public and are situated in the vicinity of a landfill site. The rules of the scheme also allow for certain types of church/ community development project to benefit.

The criterion regarding opening to the public is interpreted reasonably. A church can be treated as open if arrangements exist for a key to be made available on request, but this must be clearly and fairly advertised.

LCF is regulated nationally by Entrust – www.entrust.org.uk

How churches can benefit

The Entrust website explains how funding can either be obtained from a distributive environmental body (DEB) or directly from a LO. PCCs are cautioned against using any intermediary which offers to handle a funding bid in exchange for a proportion of the sum awarded.

The vast majority of church beneficiaries from the LCF, within the Gloucester Diocese, will be using one of the two DEBs; namely the Gloucestershire Environmental Trust or the South Gloucestershire Environmental Body.

The **Gloucestershire Environmental Trust** (GET) is a DEB which channels funds arising from operations by Cory plc, at Hempsted and Wingmoor tips.

www.glos-environment-trust.co.uk

Repairs

Grants are only made to churches of architectural or historic significance. An unlisted church will need some special justification to qualify. The GET Trustees are not usually prepared to help with routine repairs, but will consider major schemes which are beyond the reach of the parish. The sort of works which may qualify for EH/HLF grant-aid (see Section three) are likely to be viewed more sympathetically than a small-to-medium project of quinquennial repairs.

Community projects

The GET is able to consider schemes for providing for improving facilities for the benefit of the local community. They are looking for innovative schemes and preference will be given to environmental factors such as energy conservation or responses to climate change.

Process

The GET will apply for Entrust project approval on your behalf. There is no need for you get involved with such questions as the distance from the church to the nearest licensed landfill site.

Deadline discipline

If you have had a GET grant before, you will need to be aware that things have changed ! Not only will we as a Diocese no longer be helping you frame your application, but we will no longer be able to warn you of impending deadlines. The GET has strict rules about:

- formal acceptance of the grant
- commencement of works within one year and
- completion of works within two years.

It is vital that you take note and comply with these deadlines, or you will **lose your grant**. It is as simple as that.

Publicity

The GET requires in return for a grant some local publicity and guidance is given on this. One task that the Diocese will still be doing for you is to prepare a laminated certificate which should be displayed on your church noticeboard.

Timing factors

It is very important to understand that the GET expects a brisk turn-round between allocation of the grant and completion of the work. Your scheme must therefore be seen as achievable and close to being implemented, when you make your application. On the other hand grants are **never** made retrospectively, or where work is already in hand.

South Gloucestershire

Parishes in **South Gloucestershire** should contact the **South Gloucestershire Environmental Body**

www.sweet-uk.com/sgeb/

They should not apply to the GET, which cannot assist projects in South Gloucestershire.

Alternative approaches under the LCF

For larger projects, it may be worth considering registering your PCC as an EB and trying to seek funding direct from LOs. If you decide to go down this route, you will have to get to grips with the complexities of the LCF.

Typically you might consider going down this road if your church – or one of your congregation – has a special link with an LO. LOs often like to support a local appeal as a way of “putting something back into the community”.

It is also worth investigating the **Biffaward** Scheme

www.biffaward.org

Biffa require eligible schemes to be within 10 miles radius of a site *where they operate*. It appears that they are now operating both at Hempsted and at Cinderford, so a wide range of projects within the Diocese are now potentially eligible.

For parishes which are not registered in their own right as an Environmental Body (EB), the maximum grant is £10,000.

If you need further advice in relation to this guidance sheet, please contact us at Church House on 01452 410022 or by email at dac@glosdioc.org.uk