Parish Resources

It is a good idea to identify two or three people to lead on fundraising as this should never be one person's responsibility. It is important that the Committee understand that one person alone cannot bring in the funds. It must be a supported team activity and everyone has a part to play and to support the sub group of Grant Makers. The sub group should be involved in the project and therefore have a clear understanding of the project specifications.

The Grant Funding sub group are responsible for researching potential funders, on-going communications, writing applications and managing deadlines. It is also a good idea for them to provide regular Committee updates on the fundraising process, amount raised to date, and any upcoming Trustee meetings, where decisions on grant allocations will be made.

You will need people who have:

- Verbal skills (to speak to funders)
- Writing skills (to complete application forms)
- Organisational skills (to keep accurate records)

A Funding Strategy

A funding strategy might be one to four pages. How the finished product looks is entirely at the discretion of your Committee but it needs to be clear and concise so the person assessing the funding application can easily understand your group's future plans.

A Funding Strategy should cover the following key issues:

- An explanation of the methodology used to create the strategy
- Key dates and targets for acquiring funds clearly stated
- Show clearly who holds responsibility for ensuring targets are met
- The effectiveness of your strategy and how it will be measured
- How it links into the long term aims of your organisation

Being clear on your needs and preparing a budget will help you to search for funding. There are many different sources of funding available, depending on the type of project. Bear in mind the rule of thumb that 80% of funding comes from 20% of your donors, and that often, at least 10% of your funding will come from one donor (individual, trust or fund).

Identify funds you already have, and consider whether you can make savings or generate additional revenue in any way? This is basically compiling a list of the different sources of funding that you are going to try. It is sensible to start locally and move outwards.

Your list might look something like this:

1. Church Fund

You may have some reserves or a project fund available.

2. Church Assets

You may have a hall or other building that you could consider selling.

3. Congregation

Ensure that a percentage (large or small) of the total amount comes from the congregation. It's their church and they need to support the project both emotionally and financially. Approach the congregation for donations, pledges, gift aid etc.

4. Community

Community fundraising can be hard work, but it is a vital way of involving the local community. It is also a good way of promoting your project. Do not underestimate the importance of local fundraising as some funders will expect to see a percentage of the money raised by the local community as it is evidence of local involvement and commitment. Your community appeals could include fundraising activities, sponsorship e.g. 'buy a brick'.

5. Local Businesses

Local businesses are often keen to help and support community projects, often providing 'in kind' support. They might offer to provide prizes for fundraising events, resources, materials, volunteer staff etc.

6. Local Trusts and Foundations

Local Trusts and local funder's e.g. local authorities and charities will be interested in local visible projects. Some may have specific criteria and interests so ensure that your project meets their funding requirements.

7. Trusts and Foundations

There are a lot of large grant giving Trusts and Foundations out there who although will not fund religious purposes, will fund, and have a particular interest in, church community projects.

8. National Funders

National Funders e.g. National Lotteries - it is especially important to check you match their criteria and that they fund church building community projects.