

Subject: Access for All and Community Nature Fund - funding opportunities for Town and Parish Councils within the Forest of Bowland



***** Sent on behalf of LCC colleagues in the Forest of Bowland *****

Dear Town or Parish Council,

We are excited to be able to tell you about two significant pots of funding and support that the Forest of Bowland National Landscape is launching in June.

Community Nature Fund

The first is our new Community Nature Fund, which offers grants in the region of £2500-£5000 for projects that provide space for nature and/or opportunities for people to enjoy and connect to nature.

We want to support projects that create new spaces for nature - for example small copses, hedgerows, meadows or ponds; or manage existing nature rich spaces that can be improved and extended and/or opened up to people. People-based projects might include citizen science or action based projects such as 'swift groups' or hedgehog-friendly villages. They might also include the provision of spaces where communities and visitors can experience nature such as bird hides, accessible nature trails or special events to celebrate nature.

Information is available NOW and **applications are welcomed from 29th June until 3rd August. All projects must be completed by 1st March 2027.**

More details are attached and also available here

<https://www.forestofbowland.com/community-nature-fund>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact
cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk or Daniel.holden@lancashire.gov.uk

Funding for Access for All Projects

Secondly, in a drive to make the National Landscape more accessible in a range of different ways, we are pleased to announce that the National Landscape has

secured continued funding for Access for All Projects. We are therefore now able to fund and deliver projects on behalf of communities which improve accessibility and that **can be completed before 31 March 2027**.

Examples of eligible projects include:

- upgrades of paths
- upgrades of gates/stiles/access infrastructure especially where it created an accessible route
- upgrades of sites and/or facilities
- rest stops / benches / accessible tables for key routes or visitor locations
- accessible vehicles such as Trampers/ all terrain wheelchairs
- new or upgraded disabled facilities such as toilets/ changing places facilities
- capital assets which improve accessibility in a variety of different ways e.g. for visually impaired or deaf visitors

The purpose of this email is to invite your project ideas for consideration for spending this funding in the best possible ways in the Forest of Bowland National Landscape. Please note this is not a grant scheme, we are asking for your help to identify a list of projects which we will then select from and implement directly. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah to discuss these further.

Please submit your project ideas to Sarah by 30th June by emailing sarah.dornan@lancashire.gov.uk including the following information at this stage:

- What is proposed?
- Location
- Briefly, how this proposal will improve accessibility of the National Landscape
- Estimate of cost
- What permissions may be required?

What we won't fund:

- General maintenance to rights of way, which includes signage
- Replacement of stiles, unless they are co-located with a gate or kissing gate

We are also developing a pipeline of projects for future years, so if there are projects which are not possible this financial year but may be in the future, please do also let us know.

Sarah Dornan

Countryside Access Officer

Forest of Bowland National Landscape