

Sandbach Clean Team

FUNDING

These notes are a brief explanation of some of the ways that Sandbach Clean Team has found to be successful. They are NOT a definitive guide, only comments on our experience that might be helpful to other organisations.

We look at two aspects of funding. The first is **CORE FUNDING** for our main activity of litter picking including all the administrative and operational costs associated with this. The second is **PROJECT FUNDING**, which is the costs of running special projects over and above our core activities

We have found that funding for the core activities of our Clean Team is reasonably easy to obtain. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, the amount of money required to run a Clean Team is not great. Secondly, there is a wide range of funds, or goods in kind, that are available. I will deal with each of these in turn

CORE FUNDING

AMOUNT OF MONEY REQUIRED.

We have a membership of over 100, with approximately 20 new members each year. This means that we need about 20 new sets of equipment a year for the new members. A set consists of a hi-vis vest, a litter picker, protective gloves and a plastic bag hoop (to help to keep plastic bags open). These sets cost £20 each maximum, giving £400 per year on new equipment. Our annual administrative and operational costs which include insurance, website registration, printing (general copying and a quarterly Newsletter), postage, stationery and some travel expenses, come to about £1000.

This gives our total operating costs per year at £1,400

SOURCES OF FUNDS.

We have found that two or three bids for funds each year meets our basic requirements to keep our Clean Team running for the year with the £1400 required. Below are some of the sources of our Core Funds.

Local authorities

Most local authorities allocate some funds from their budgets to award in the form of grants to voluntary groups. These might not be great, but usually there are grants of between £100 and £1000 that may be available to organisations such as Clean Teams. Local authorities also often administer other funds for projects associated with recycling and community development.

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Local Housing Trusts

Housing trusts are identified with specific areas where previous local authority housing is now run by a housing trust. They will often have a community development officer, sometimes with a budget. They can be helpful if you can identify that your activities are specifically directed to the areas covered by the housing trust.

Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)

There will be an organisation locally called this (or sometimes Voluntary Action). They have no funds as such, but are a mine of information about grants that are available, both locally and nationally. They should know about all the local grants, whether that would be appropriate for a Clean Team bid, and they would possibly also give you help in completing the application forms. There is a programme that our local CVS has called “Grant Finder” where you can search for sources of money. Sandbach Clean Team has had excellent help from our local CVS on this matter.

Local organisations

Organisations such as Rotary, Round Table, Probus and others of a similar nature, can often be persuaded to sponsor a particular event or litter pick. Their members will often also participate in some Clean Team activities. They can be a source of some funding and are well worth investigating.

Local and National Businesses.

These can help in a number of ways. Several of the larger often have a “community responsibility” element, often organised from their head office. These can be investigated from their websites and can be a possible source of Funds. This is especially pertinent when they are expanding into your area and are looking for publicity.

Local businesses can quite often be a source of equipment, especially if they are already using what you are after. Such items as hi-visibility vests and protective gloves are often available, and firms will sometimes help with your printing or stationery requirements.

The business community is always worth approaching, they will often surprise you with their generosity. They might require some publicity to accompany their involvement with your Clean Team.

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PROJECT FUNDING

We do also undertake some special projects generally associated with our core purpose in which our members wish to get involved. These will be in addition to the core activities above and we identify the funding required for these projects and deal with each of them as and when they arise. In our experience they can vary from as small as £50 to (our largest to date) £3200, from four different sources.

Many of the sources mentioned above are suitable for applications for Project Funding and can be pursued with success quite often. However there are a number of special “pots” of money, often associated with local or national government initiatives. These range from recycling, urban and/or rural regeneration, through to community building and partnership working. We have found that the local CVS are a very good source of information for these, and this organisation will often bring these opportunities to our notice. With these a very detailed examination on the eligibility criteria is necessary, but with care you can find ones where such activities as litter picking can “tick all the right boxes”.

GENERAL

There are funds available for the running of Clean Teams. It is in your local authority’s interest to have a successful clean team operating in their area, it saves them £1000s of pounds, and they should be reminded of that at every opportunity, particularly the elected members.

Keep on trying, and if success is not achieved from any one particular source first time around, keep on trying. Many of these organisations need to be persuaded of the error in their ways if they refuse a perfectly legitimate request for funds. Whatever is said, the money is there if you dig long and hard enough. Good luck, and **DO NOT GIVE UP!**

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