

SENTINEL HOUSING COMMUNITY CHEST GRANTS

Sentinel Housing Association has developed Community Chest Grants because we know that many tenants/leaseholders want to be directly involved in improving their neighbourhood.

Through this scheme you can apply directly to us for a grant to carry out small improvements or community projects for your neighbourhood. Each year we set aside a part of the Neighbourhood Improvement Budget for this.

The Neighbourhood Improvement Budget is a small budget available to the four Neighbourhood Teams, which is used to pay for small works that benefit groups of residents. It is used for work such as fencing, work to trees or rubbish clearance.

Other improvements to your home and community, such as new doors, kitchens and bathrooms are funded through the large Capital Works Programme Budget each year. Such works cannot be done using a Community Chest Grant.

All physical improvements done via this Scheme have to be made on Sentinel land, so they become the property of the Association and are managed by us. If a physical improvement is made outside of this criteria then it will be at the discretion of the Neighbourhood Panel.

What type of projects are eligible for the grant?

Examples of projects that will be considered are:

- Benches
- Security Lights
- Plants for communal gardens/open spaces
- Community projects that will benefit residents in Sentinel neighbourhoods

This list is not exhaustive and all applications will be considered provided that they meet the criteria (given later in this leaflet).

The maximum amount to be spent on any one project application will be £1,000 including VAT, the Neighbourhood Panel has the discretion to provide more than this. It is expected that any contributions which the panel makes to the project will be match funded above £500. If there are any repair and maintenance service charges to be levied, all tenants and leaseholders will be consulted before the work is carried out where applicable.

How do I make an application for a grant?

Simply complete the application form in this leaflet and return it to us.

You can apply for a grant as an individual tenant or leaseholder or as a residents' group by completing the application form. You **MUST** show that you have consulted with and have the support of other residents in your area (please attach a list of names and addresses of consulted people).

Before the application is presented to your Neighbourhood Panel (but not necessarily before the initial application is submitted to Sentinel) it must have attached:

- A photograph or illustration of any equipment included in the application.
- Estimate of the cost to supply equipment or supply and install the equipment by qualified tradesmen.
- A map showing where the improvement is proposed.

Whilst providing this information remains your responsibility, the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator and Surveyor for your area can advise and assist you with this.

Depending on the nature of the project, it may be that you take responsibility for getting the estimate from a supplier chosen by Sentinel. If the application is successful we would pay the supplier directly, based on the submitted quotation or invoice.

If you wish to discuss your application before submitting it, please contact your Neighbourhood Co-ordinator or the Customer and Community Involvement Co-ordinator on **0800 195 5515** from a landline or **0300 666 5515** from a mobile, who will be happy to help.

How are the applications assessed?

Your Neighbourhood Panel usually meets on the first Tuesday and Wednesday of the month (Hart Tuesday and Basingstoke Wednesday). At these meetings they will consider any Community Chest Grant applications. When your application is received it will be considered at the next available Neighbourhood Panel meeting. Ideally your application should be with Sentinel two weeks prior to the date of next meeting.

Although each application is considered on its merits, you must show that:

- There is a good level of support for the application within your neighbourhood, and;
- That you and your neighbours will have equal access to the improvement and that the needs of the elderly, the young, any ethnic minorities and those with special needs have been considered.

In addition, each application must contribute to at least one of Sentinel Housing Association's four relevant Neighbourhood objectives:

Your Environment

- All communal areas to be clean, green and pleasant to use for all.
- Improving the "look" and "feel" of the neighbourhood.

Your Community

- Making it safe, inclusive and sustainable.
- Reducing crime or the fear of crime in your neighbourhood.
- Reducing anti-social behaviour in your neighbourhood.

Your Wellbeing

- Raising educational performance.
- Supporting financial inclusion.
- Improving work/training.
- Promoting healthier lifestyles.

Your Say

- Involving residents to make a difference in your neighbourhood.
- Developing community spirit.

As Sentinel fund the community chest applications, it is vital that applicants demonstrate how the scheme/project has involved and will benefit its residents and the wider community?

If your application demonstrates that it meets these criteria, then a grant will normally be given, subject to available funds. However, if your application does not meet at least one of the criteria above, then it will normally be refused. The issue of a grant is at the discretion of the Neighbourhood Panel.

Sentinel must ensure that the benefits of this scheme are shared by as many residents and neighbourhoods as possible. Sentinel encourages projects which aim to benefit the whole community. The Neighbourhood Panel will pay specific attention to this area.

How is the scheme monitored?

Once your application is approved the Surveyor for the neighbourhood will be responsible for organising and monitoring the work and the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator will be responsible for monitoring the spending of the money.

Details of successful grant applications will be published in the newsletter and reported to the Board of Management. In addition the policy will be periodically reviewed.