

North Norfolk Big Society Fund

Remember that grant awards of up to £15,000 are available for community projects. Since the Big Society Fund started in 2012, NNDC has awarded over £1,764,481 to 232 community projects.

If you have any ideas for community projects that would benefit from funding, please get in touch with the officers who will assist with your application. Full information including contact details are given in the [Fund's page](#) on the District Council's website.

The Big Society Fund Grant Panel meets in December but the deadline for applications to be considered at that meeting has passed. The Panel will meet in March 2019 to consider applications received by early February – I will advise when the dates are confirmed.

North Norfolk Big Society Awards 2018

North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) has announced that the latest Big Society Volunteer Awards will take place at Sheringham Little Theatre on 29th November. These awards are to thank the people, the organisations and the projects that have contributed to creating a strong community.

Out of the seven categories, five were open for public nomination. (Nominations for the awards are up by a third from last year). NNDC invited projects which were awarded a Big Society Fund grant between June 2016 and June 2018 to make nominations in two other categories.

The nominations will be whittled down to three finalists in each of the seven categories. The judging panel has some tough decisions to make!

The categories are:

1. Big Society Community Project Award for projects that are based in or benefit people in the district
2. Big Society Voluntary Services Award for Sport - for someone who has made an outstanding contribution to sport in the district
3. Big Society Voluntary Services Award – Young People for someone who has made an outstanding contribution for young people in the district
4. Big Society Voluntary Services Award – Older People for someone who has made an outstanding contribution for older people in the district
5. Big Society Voluntary Services Award – Good Neighbourhood for someone who has made an outstanding contribution to their neighbourhood
6. Outstanding Contribution to a Big Society Funded Project by an Adult
7. Outstanding Contribution to a Big Society Funded Project by a Young Person aged under 18

North Norfolk Business Awards 2019 (#nnba19)

These awards give us the chance to highlight the diversity and excellence of businesses across North Norfolk and to celebrate, promote and unearth the many great things that are happening in North Norfolk - showing how this really is a better place to do business.

This year there are eight categories, including the new category of Small Business, which we have added following feedback from last year. It is free to enter, and you can enter as many categories as you would like.

The window for entries is now open, and you have until 6 January 2019 to send your nominations. See the NNDC website for details – <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/nnba>

Training Events

Details of training events run by NNDC for local residents, businesses, parish councils and other groups.

- Workshop – Using social media to recruit staff
 - North Norfolk District Council is offering a FREE two-hour workshop for local businesses with tips on how to use your website and social media accounts, such as Facebook and YouTube, to promote the benefits of working for your organisation. Learn about employer branding – if you don't your competitors will.
 - 27th November 2018
 - NNDC Offices
 - Free
- Workshop – How to write a successful funding bid
 - Local businesses, community groups, charities, town and parish councils based in North Norfolk are being invited to a half-day workshop that will offer guidance and tips on how to write successful grant applications and funding bids.
 - 5th December 2018
 - NNDC Offices
 - Free
- Food safety training
 - Training to help you ensure that staff are appropriately trained in food hygiene – Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIE)H Foundation Certificate in Food Safety.
 - 24th January 2019
 - Fakenham Sports and Fitness Centre, NNDC Offices, Merchants Place (Cromer)
 - Fee applies

See the NNDC website for details – <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/events>

Number of Empty Homes Reduced by 20%

North Norfolk District Council has been pioneering an award-winning approach to bringing empty homes back into use across the district.

Using an 'enforcement board', collaborative approach for the last four years the Council has helped to bring hundreds of homes back into use through a wide range of action from working together with owners to support renovations, demolition and re-building to taking enforcement action and undertaking compulsory purchase where owners fail to make positive changes.

Currently, less than 1% of North Norfolk's housing stock is classed as being empty which is below the national average. In the last twelve months, North Norfolk District Council has reduced the number of empty properties by 20% from 603 to 482.

Where necessary, an application for a Compulsory Purchase Order could be made, which would see the homeowner instructed by the Government to sell their property to the Council. In February this year, the Council successfully completed the compulsory purchase of two properties in Sculthorpe that were left empty since they were built in the late 1990s.

In many cases, long-term empty properties are associated with anti-social behaviour, including illicit drinking and drug-use and blight local communities. Properties left empty can fall into disrepair and become dilapidated and dangerous very quickly. North Norfolk District Council will take action against owners who are not prepared to get on with the job of returning a property back into use and will use enforcement powers where necessary.

Councillor Vincent FitzPatrick, Priory Ward

<https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk>