

Increasing Allotment Provision in Swansea, Gwynedd & Wrexham Grants Policy

October 2020

You may have heard in the news, the announcement in the First Ministers Manifesto Pledge of 'doubling the number of allotments in Wales' over the next few years. This pledge has led to the creation of the '[Welsh Allotment Regeneration Initiative](#)' with an investment of £130,000 to fund more allotments, in the areas with most need. Social Farms & Gardens are taking the lead on. This is an exciting and high-profile project which will have benefits for the Local Councils, Housing Associations, and Community groups that get involved.

Background

Over the last six months, Social Farms & Gardens has been mapping the current provision of allotments. The research revealed many sites in Wales where there are large waiting lists and limited provision. The new funding will target these areas first; **Gwynedd, Wrexham & Swansea**, and now we are offering the opportunity to be involved.

You can apply for one of our specially designed support packages. We have up to £26,000 (in capital) to award as small grants in each of the three local authority areas. [Click here to find out more and to access the short application form.](#)

We need to ensure that all the groups that work with us can complete the project by **March 2021**. The Grants round will open on 12th October and close at midday on Friday 6th November. Due to the very tight turnaround, we would appreciate your quick response to this opportunity through the application process.

Grant Schemes

The Small Grants Scheme is for grants of £3,000, £5,000 or up to a maximum of £10,000 and application is through a competitive process. The funds will be targeted to deliver the **maximum number of new allotment plots in each of the three Local Authority Areas, through plot creation and regeneration**. This will be done through supporting a number of projects from a variety of different types of organisations. Eligible bodies are: Local Authorities, Town and Community Councils, Housing Associations and constituted community groups.

Funding for this Grant stream come from the Welsh Government, and as public money and a key principle of this policy is to ensure that grant expenditure is open and transparent. This policy is designed to act as guidance for both applicants and the grant committee when considering applications.

Points to Note:

- SF&G will not fund: hospitality, salaries or projects with party political links.
- SF&G will only consider one application from an organisation (as the applicant), however an organisation can feature as a partner on more than one application.



- This scheme is for capital expenditure only

Applying for a grant

- Applications should be made on the application form and include all information requested on the form. An application will not go to committee until all required information has been provided. We may come back to ask you supplementary questions before a decision can be reached or alternatively offer a conditional grant (e.g. subject to gaining planning permission).
- We are asking you to provide details of match funding that you are able to provide to make the grant money go further. This should be as cash, materials, or labour/ volunteer time (valued at £7.50 per hour for volunteer time and £20 per hour for professional services).
- The project will need to be delivered by the end of February 2021 which means that;
 1. Landowner permission will need to be in place
 2. That gaining planning permission will not delay the project significantly
 3. Public liability insurance will need to be in place
- A clear vision for the project will need to be detailed in the application form including an idea of what the funds will be spent on. The more evidence that can be included with the application including photos, site maps, and details of who will benefit from the project will help us to quickly assess and appraise your application on its merits. Without adequate information to provide this clear vision applications may be rejected.
- If the site is not publicly accessible then please explain how the site will bring value to the community/ the groups of people that you work with.

Assessment of applications

- Application is through a competitive process.
- Applications will be scored highly on the number of new allotment plots created first and foremost.
- The value of award per Local Authority Area is limited to £26,000 and the panel will seek to support a number of applications from a variety of different types of organisations to deliver maximum benefit to the community.
- A grant making committee of no less than 3 persons (including 1 or more independent/ non-SF&G staff) has been established to make decisions about grant allocations.
- Decisions by the panel are final, although a number of reserve projects will be outlined for funding if other applications choose not to accept/ withdraw.
- Feedback on unsuccessful applications will be available to individual projects on request (where capacity allows).

Conditions of the grant

An application under the grant scheme shall indicate agreement to the following conditions.

- Recipients shall complete an evaluation as required. They will provide information on how many new allotments will be created/ brought back into use (through clearance/ improving access / improving security). We have divided the allotments into sizes / uses for this purpose;
1. Allotment plots for individuals based on a plot being $\frac{1}{2}$ a traditional allotment plot size or 120m² approx
 2. Allotment plots for individuals based on a plot being $\frac{1}{4}$ a traditional allotment plot size or 60m² approx
 3. Micro-allotment plots of individuals (based on a plot being 8m² or greater)
 4. Shared allotment plots for community groups & other creative solutions
- Grant recipients must make themselves available for an evaluation meeting/ phone calls and failure to do so will result in breach of the grant conditions.
 - Evidence of expenditure and photographs to demonstrate “before and after” will be required as part of this evaluation.
 - SF&G reserves the right to reclaim funds not spent in accordance with the approved grant application, left unspent after one year of receipt or in full/partially for breach of conditions.
 - Recipients are expected to positively promote SF&G and Welsh Government.
 - Recipients should acknowledge the financial support received from SF&G and Welsh Government in press releases and publicity relating to work funded by the grant, in accordance with the grant conditions signed on receipt of the grant.
 - SF&G will provide logos for use to indicate its support.
 - Recipients must advise SF&G prior to disposing of any resources or equipment funded/part-funded/supplied by SF&G as part of a grant application within two years.
 - SF&G may apply any additional conditions it deems necessary as part of the grant award.

Recipient of grant

- Successful applicants will be notified in writing and will be required to sign an agreement to the grant conditions in advance of receipt of the grant. If grant conditions are imposed prior to grant award, then this evidence must be provided prior to grant payments being made.
- A flexible approach to the financial administration of payments and claims will be agreed with each project.

Privacy, accessibility and questions

We value your support and are committed to protecting your privacy. You're always in control. For more information please visit our Privacy Policy - <https://www.farmgarden.org.uk/about-us/privacy-cookies>

If you require this form in a different format please contact us on 02920 225942 or contact the email address below.

If you have any further questions please contact wales@farmgarden.org.uk