Bridlington Community Shed

A place to Make, Share, Belong

Purpose

The Bridlington Community Shed Social Fund exists to reduce financial barriers that may prevent individuals from taking part in Shed activities. The fund provides targeted, discretionary support to enable inclusive participation while protecting the sustainability and integrity of the charity.

Who the Fund Is For

The Social Fund is available to individuals who:

- Are current members, or are in the process of becoming members, of Bridlington Community Shed
- Would otherwise be unable to participate fully due to financial hardship
- Live within the geographical area served by the Shed

Eligibility Criteria

An individual may be eligible for support if they meet one or more of the following:

- Are on a low or fixed income (including pension credit, universal credit, or similar benefits)
- Are experiencing temporary financial difficulty due to life circumstances
- Are at risk of social isolation were financial barriers to limit participation

Eligibility is assessed on a case-by-case basis and does not require formal proof of income unless deemed necessary for audit or due diligence purposes.

What the Fund Can Support

The Social Fund may be used to support:

- Membership fees
- Contributions towards activity or workshop costs
- Essential participation costs linked directly to Shed activities

The fund will only be drawn down when a member makes their agreed contribution, ensuring that support is directly linked to participation and engagement.

What the Fund Will Not Support

The Social Fund will not be used for:

- General living expenses
- Costs unrelated to Shed activities
- Retrospective payments for past activities

Application and Decision Process

Requests for support can be made informally and confidentially to a nominated trustee or committee member.

- Decisions are made by at least two trustees to ensure fairness and accountability
- All decisions are recorded without unnecessary personal detail
- Trustees may apply discretion in exceptional circumstances without setting a precedent for future applications.

Confidentiality and Dignity

All applications and decisions are handled sensitively and confidentially. The Shed is committed to ensuring that accessing the Social Fund does not carry stigma or affect a member's standing within the organisation.

Review and Oversight

- The Social Fund and this policy are reviewed annually by the trustees
- Fund usage is monitored to ensure alignment with charitable objectives and funder requirements
- Adjustments may be made in response to demand, funding levels, or audit recommendations

Approval

This policy was approved by the Trustees of Bridlington Community Shed and will be reviewed bi-annually or sooner if required.

Agreed: 01/05/2026

Next Review 01/05/2028