

Neighbourhood Portion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Bath Grant Application

Project name:

Action Pantry

Organisation:

Mercy in Action

Project location:

Twerton

Locality or Ward which will benefit from this project:

Twerton

Target start date:

1st July

Target completion date:

1st August

Have you or your organisation previously applied for funding from Neighbourhood Portion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Bath?

No

Description of project:

Our project, 'Action Pantry', is a community food club for BANES residents on a low income, that has now been running for 3 years. Members come to our pantry on a weekly basis and are able to choose their 'shop' for between £3-£5, dependant on the size of their household.

Coupled with our array of staple food items such bread, pasta, eggs and long-life tins of beans and soups, we offer a wide range of fresh fruit and vegetables, meat and dairy products. This enables us to offer our clients food products for a much more affordable price, so that they needn't compromise their health due to their financial situation. We currently have 160 households on our books. Alongside our pantry, we run a 'clothesline', which our clients can also access. Through our clothesline project we are able to offer free clothing for children up to the age of 15.

Mercy in Action believes that it has been proven how having access to fresh food, nutritional advice, as well as signposting, leads towards achieving positive outcomes for both children and their families. It is for this reason that we continue to run our pantry project in the hope that we can maintain our supportive relationships and assistance offered to our clients in order to help them achieve such outcomes for both themselves and their families.

Reasons for supporting this project:

We are in need of support with our project primarily due to our upcoming relocation of the pantry. To date, the pantry has been run from the Jubilee Centre (The Hollis centre on the lower Bristol road). However, due to the redevelopment of this site, the project is now homeless. Whilst the new build will have provision for smaller scale Mercy in Action activities, the absence of parking means that it will be unsuitable for the pantry. On account of the unprecedented growth we have seen over the last year in terms of pantry clients, coupled with the cost of living prices worsening by the day, it is expected that our number will only rise further still. As a result of this, Mercy in Action has bought outright a shop unit on the Twerton high-street (formally known as 'guru fitness') in order to facilitate our numbers and space needed for the pantry. This space is something which we require help with in order to redevelop it in time.

When action pantry was started 3 years ago, it was intended for 30 families. We now have 160 households on our books. Such growth highlights the significant need across the city for access to more affordable food, especially in light of the hardships experienced by many during COVID-19. Whilst the project was initially set up to cater towards local families, during lockdown we decided to expand our geographical boundaries, instead covering the entirety of BANES. This is something which we continue to maintain to date. Our clear objective going forward is to be able to continue offering our pantry service to as many individuals in need as we can possibly facilitate.

It is hoped that our new pantry location will allow individuals to access our service more easily since the previous main hurdles of both parking and 2 flights of stairs to climb to access our pantry have been eliminated. This means that we can better accommodate even more individuals across the BANES area who are in need.

Is this a new project or does this project link into an existing project?

Although our pantry is not specifically a new project, it is to be located in a brand new site.

Breakdown of how we plan to allocate our funding*:

- Renovation of both the inside and internal space including the reconfiguration of rooms (this includes the instillation of toilet facilities and replumbing that needs to take place)
- Kitchen fittings and appliances (including instillation, excluding commercial fridges and freezers which we have ample amounts of currently and are therefore not in need of).
- Flooring throughout the entire space
- Outside painting and signage

- Additional fittings for food display

*all of the listed items above also includes electrical fittings and installations.

Once open all the normal everyday costs are all covered from our own funding

Project milestones and targets:

Due to the need to vacate the jubilee centre by the first of August, we have to move quickly. Completion on the purchase of this property is this coming Friday (of the new property we're buying). This is a huge milestone for us as it will allow us to comfortably host all of our current clients with the intention of being able to expand our current numbers.

If planning permission is required for this project has it been granted?

N/A

Are there any planned changes that will have an effect on the premises or location where your project is to be located?

N/A

Are there any planned changes in circumstances to your organisations operation that we should be aware of?

N/A

How does the project address the specific impacts of the new developments from which the funding has been generated?

Our service will continue to benefit the clients of our project in and of itself given its developmental nature of benefitting the local residents receiving our food. Our new space is much more user friendly to individuals which will ensure it is more accessible to individuals wish push chairs and those who have previously been unable to manage to walk up our stairs in our previous jubilee location.

In addition, our project will able be more environmentally friendly, especially due to our new location being situated in an area where many of our clients will be able to walk to, rather than have to drive or take other forms of transport.

In regards to infrastructural development, the development on lower Bristol road is beneficial in accommodating students moving to the city, whilst our new location based in Twerton Ward will become transformed into a welcoming and open space for the community to use as a pantry that was previously further away.

How does the project provide links to the locality in the area where development has taken place?

See the above section.

Please provide evidence which shows how the community has been listened to and what support exists for your project:

In our previous location, clients had to walk up 2 flights of stairs which was often challenging for individuals, especially our more elderly clientele. It was fed back to us that this was difficult for pantry members to carry their food down the stairs, which meant that we as Mercy in Action staff and volunteers had to assist individuals with carrying their food to prevent injury to those who struggled more with carrying their bags as they were unable to hold the railing at the same time. It also meant that mums or dads with push chairs had to leave these downstairs, at times unattended, whilst they came up to collect their food. This proved an issue as it meant babies and toddlers had to be carried around the pantry as parents or carers who were by themselves could not leave their children downstairs, nor could the push chair be carried up and then down.

Parking was also a problem faced by our pantry members who found it extremely difficult at times to park on the busy main road, pulling across traffic. Most notably, there were limited car parking spaces causing issues when many pantry members overlapped in arriving and leaving the pantry – something which was also fed back to us.

The project must show that it either supports the development of the relevant area by funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure, or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on the area:

It is hoped that our pantry will assist in the regeneration of the Twerton high-street. Not only does our new location move traffic away from the main Lower Bristol Road, but it will enable and encourage individuals using our relocated pantry to take advantage of other local facilities such as the pharmacy or shops. We will also be using our new location to signpost other local organisations as well.

Total cost of project:

£158,000

Amount of funding sought from Neighbourhood Portion of CIL Fund:

£20,000

Does this project benefit from any source of matched funding?

No

Additional Funds which have already been agreed:

No

Funds which have been applied for but are awaiting a decision:

None

Volunteering hours:

38 hours per week

Breakdown of the costs for the delivery of this project:

Item	Amount
Cost of the new building	£138,000
Renovation of inside of internal space including reconfiguration of rooms (Instillation of toilet facilities and replumbing)	£9,600
Kitchen fittings and appliances (we already have ample commercial fridges and freezers) -- including instillation	£5,300
Flooring throughout	£1,900
Outside painting and signage	£1,500
Additional fittings for food display	£1,300
Total	£157,600

Once open all the normal everyday costs are all covered from our own funding