

Neighbourhood Portion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Bath

GRANT APPLICATION FORM

1) Contact Details:

Name:	Ainslee Ensom (Secretariat)
Organisation:	World Heritage Enhancement Fund Board c/o Bath Preservation Trust

2) Project Details:

<p>2.1 Have you or your organisation previously applied for funding from Neighbourhood Portion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Bath</p>
<p>No</p>
<p>2.2 Please provide a clear description of your project proposal – including your outcomes and objectives (maximum 300 words)</p>
<p>The World Heritage Enhancement Fund is a grant fund which aims to fund, promote, and organise conservation, improvements, and education in the City of Bath World Heritage Site and to organise volunteers to carry out such work.</p> <p>It has 3 aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To initiate and organise enhancements to the City of Bath World Heritage Site 2. To assist and encourage others to undertake such work. 3. To organise volunteers for the same purpose <p>The Bath Preservation Trust provides £5,000 a year for distribution through the WHEF. It is proposed that this is matched by £20,000 a year, for the next five years, through the Neighbourhood Portion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Bath.</p>
<p>2.3 Reasons for supporting this project (maximum 300 words)</p>
<p>The City of Bath World Heritage Site was inscribed in 1987. The Site is exceptional in that the inscription covers the entire city, not just the central suburb or individual monuments. This is a situation paralleled in very few other sites world-wide and means that all of the needs of a thriving modern city must be balanced with conservation of the outstanding heritage.</p> <p>The current state of conservation in Bath is exceptionally good. The city has a long tradition of caring for its heritage. It also has a strong and experienced network of</p>

stakeholders committed to delivering the aims of the plan, represented by the World Heritage Advisory Board.

The principal challenge the World Heritage site faces is to manage the impact of considerable growth and change whilst sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value for which the site was inscribed. The economy of the city is changing, with former traditional employers moving out, and new industry moving in. A significant swathe of the valley floor which formally housed heavy industry is undergoing re-development. This housing and employment growth in the city represents the most significant physical change that the city has seen for a generation.

Delivering this sensitively is a priority. Addressing and financing a response to this, in the face of diminishing public funds, remains a priority issue. The WHEF provides one way in which the impact of this development on the Heritage Site may be managed, by providing grants to projects that fund, promote, and organise conservation work and improvements to the City of Bath World Heritage Site as it copes with the impact of more residents, employees, and visitors to the city.

2.4 Is this a new project or does this project link into an existing project? (Include a breakdown of how you plan to allocate the funding)

The WHESF has run for 11 years and organised or participated in over 60 schemes totalling over £300,000. As a result of its work to date, four structures have been removed from the Building at Risk register.

To continue the WHEF, it is proposed that £100,000 is committed from the Bath portion of Neighbourhood CIL, to be spread over five years.

2.5 Target Start Date
January 2024

2.6 Target Completion Date
December 2029

2.7 What milestones and targets have you included in the delivery of this project?

The WHEF is managed by the WHEF Management Committee on behalf of the World Heritage Advisory Board, with secretariat provided by Bath Preservation Trust. Grant applications are invited throughout the year and a committee reviews applications and allocates funds. Spending against project plans is monitored by the Project Coordinator and reported to the World Heritage Advisory Board.

**2.8 If planning permission is required for this project has it been granted?
If Yes - please include the dates and reference numbers for these permissions.**

n/a. Where consent is required, individual projects will seek it.

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

n/a

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

n/a

3) Criteria

- **3.1 How does the project address the specific impacts of the new developments from which the funding has been generated? (You may consider this on a ward basis, a locality basis, or a city-wide basis.)**

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The WHEF is designed to directly address the impact of new housing and employment development on the city by funding projects that fund, promote, and organise conservation work and improvements to the City of Bath World Heritage Site.

For example, one project which received £620 from the WHEF in December 2022 was Granville Road Tree Planting. This project was designed to screen the impact on Bath's skyline created by the housing development on Granville Road. Bath's skyline is an important element in the Picturesque Landscape setting, cited as one of the city's Outstanding Universal Values. The planting was carried out by volunteers from Charlcombe Parish, Bath Preservation Trust, and Levels 1 & 2 City and Guilds Practical Horticulture students from Grow Yourself, a Bath-based Community Interest charity. More Trees, a Bath and NE Somerset charity which receives donations to plant trees, also contributed £1,000 to this project.

- **3.2 How does the project provide links to the locality in the area where development has taken place? (If your project has city wide impact you will need to demonstrate how the broader community in the city will benefit)**

Projects funded by the WHEF are designed to conserve and enhance the World Heritage site, but also to educate residents and visitors about the city's distinctive features. Projects are always delivered with community and volunteer support and respond to priorities identified in wards and by resident groups.

For example, The Jewish Burial Ground is important evidence of a small Jewish community in Bath dating back to the 1750's. The land was acquired from local quarry owners in 1812 and in use for burials from then until 1921; it is a rare survivor, and significant culturally as a focal point for understanding the hidden diversity of Bath. The site was falling into dereliction until the Friends of the Jewish Burial Ground, an active group established about fifteen years ago, began a comprehensive restoration programme. The surrounding walls have been repaired, many of the tombs conserved, and a small quarryman's cottage on site is being restored to provide an interpretation and education centre. The WHSEF has supported this programme together with other funders, including the Leche Trust. £650 was contributed in 2013 towards the conservation of the Georgian chest tombs of Joseph Sigismund, a prominent Georgian dentist in Bath, and his wife Catherine. A further £3,500 in this year has assisted the conservation of other fragile memorials and of the Blue Lias flagstone floor in the quarryman's cottage, by Sally Strachey Conservation. The Burial ground is open regularly for Heritage and other Open Days, and by appointment.

- **3.3 Please provide evidence which shows how the community has been listened to and what support exists for your project?**

Projects funded by the WHEF are always delivered in partnership with community groups, charities, and national partnership bodies (such as the National Trust).

For example, one project delivered in 2021 was the improvement to the Canal Towpath at Bathwick Hill Bridge. The Canal and River Trust recently carried out a large scheme, at an overall cost of £206,363, to improve the safety and amenity of the Kennet and Avon canal as it runs through Bathwick. The scheme was funded by contributors including the Canal and River Trust, the Council, Wessex Water and Widcombe Residents Association. Part of the scheme involved repairing and making safe the steep ramp down to the towpath from Grade II Listed Bathwick Bridge. This ramp is surfaced with historic setts which had become damaged and uneven; they are slippery when wet and were provided with an inadequate handrail. The setts have now been conserved and repaired, and a narrow resin-bound path installed along the bank side of the ramp, safe for use by pedestrians and cyclists in all weathers. The WHEF contribution to the scheme funded the cost of a bespoke hand-forged handrail for the new path in a simple but sympathetic design appropriate for the historic setting.

3.4 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.**

Important Note:

This section is the key test that must be met for neighbourhood CIL funding to be allocated.

You will need provide an explanation of whether this project relates to infrastructure or to something else that is concerned with addressing the demands arising from development.

An explanation is needed to show of how this project supports development of the area of in planning terms.

The WHEF is designed to directly address the impact of new housing and employment development on the city by funding projects that fund, promote, and organise conservation work and improvements to the City of Bath World Heritage Site. The Fund supports projects that maintain community infrastructure, protect, and enhance assets at risk of impact from high numbers of visitors/residents in the city and respond to community needs.

For example, in 2020 the Fund covered the cost of a building survey for the Grade II* Listed Elim Church, which enabled the church to identify and quantify structural repairs to this well-used building (helping to maintain this important piece of community infrastructure).

Example 2, in 2018 the Fund contributed toward projects to improve Hedgemoor Park identified by the Friends of Hedgemoor Park. This included the restoration of a drinking fountain and repairs to the Grade II Listed folly The Bastion Tower, which is one of 5 Listed features within the park.

Example 3, the Fund has twice helped in repairing iron railings to the steps in George Street where damage resulted from vehicle collisions.

4) Project Contact Details:

Project Name	World Heritage Enhancement Fund
Project Location	City of Bath World Heritage Site
Locality or Ward which will benefit from this project	All Bath city wards

5) Funding:

5.1 Total Cost of Project:	£25,000 per year over five years = total investment of £125,000
5.2 Amount of funding sought from Neighbourhood Portion of CIL Fund:	£20,000 per year over five years = total investment of £100,000

5.3 Does this project benefit from any source of matched funding? (Include below the sources, dates funds agreed/expected and the amounts)	£5,000 per year direct match from the Bath Preservation Trust = total £20,000
5.3.1 Volunteering Hours:	On a project-by-project basis volunteering often supports delivery
5.3.2 Additional Funds which have already been agreed:	£25,000 from BPT
5.3.3 Funds which have been applied for but are awaiting a decision:	n/a

5.4 Please provide and breakdown of the costs for the delivery of this project
<p>It is proposed that £20,000 is made available each year from Bath Neighbourhood CIL for the World Heritage Enhancement Fund.</p> <p>The World Heritage Enhancement Fund will release a project list for the CIL contribution two weeks prior to the CIL Advisory Board Meetings. After each meeting, the CIL Advisory Board will confirm project acceptance.</p> <p>The funds will be held in the Neighbourhood CIL budget, and as projects are agreed upon, the funding will be transferred. Underspends may only be carried forward with the CIL Advisory Board's agreement.</p> <p>The World Heritage Enhancement Fund will provide an annual report highlighting funding commitments. This will be provided to the World Heritage Advisory Board and the CIL Advisory Board.</p>