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New funding available to help grow community networks across West Northants

19 October 2026



Community organisations and Town and Parish Councils across West Northamptonshire are being encouraged to apply for the latest round of Welcoming Spaces funding, helping to strengthen local support networks and provide safe, inclusive places for residents to connect with others and access support within their communities.

Funded by the UK Government through the Community Coordination element of the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF), £100,000 has been allocated to the refreshed Welcoming Spaces programme, which introduces a new tiered approach to recognise and support organisations as they expand and streng their community offer.

The framework includes three levels:

- Bronze – providing a safe, welcoming and inclusive space for local residents
- Silver – demonstrating increased community participation and engagement
- Gold – delivering strong local impact through partnerships, collaboration and community leadership

Funding is linked to each organisation's tier and development journey, with grants ranging from £1,000 for Bronze organisations to £3,000 for Gold organisations.

Applications will be assessed against the Welcoming Spaces standards, as well as local and hyperlocal need. Consideration will be given to local priorities, available data and intelligence, and the support and facilities already available within each area.

This approach will help ensure funding is targeted where it can make the greatest difference, supporting high-quality community provision while complementing existing services and responding to local need.

Cllr Charlie Hastie, Deputy Leader of West Northamptonshire Council and Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, said: "Welcoming Spaces play an important role in bringing communities together, helping to tackle isolation and ensuring residents have access to support close to home. This funding will help local organisations continue to provide welcoming, inclusive environments while strengthening the valuable contribution they make within their neighbourhoods. We encourage eligible organisations to apply and be part of this growing network of community support across West Northamptonshire."

Organisations interested in applying should email **WelcomingSpaces@WestNorthants.gov.uk** to request the guidance pack and application form. Applications close on 6 November 2026.

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