# Community Consultation for Grant Seekers

So, you've got a fantastic project in mind, or perhaps your existing work could benefit from our funding. Demonstrating community support is crucial. This guide will help you engage with your community effectively, whether you're applying for a brand-new initiative or seeking core funding for ongoing work.

## Step 1: Identify Your "Community"

* **New project?** Determine who will benefit most. Are you supporting young people, addressing loneliness among older adults, or revitalising a neglected green space? Defining your target group is essential.
* **Existing work?** Consider who is already involved. This includes users, volunteers, and anyone impacted by your efforts.

## Step 2: Engage in Meaningful Conversations

* **Be clear and approachable** – Avoid jargon and communicate your goals in a way that resonates with people.
* **Listen actively** – This isn’t just about presenting your ideas. Take in feedback on your project or ongoing work. What do people appreciate? What could be improved?
* **Stay open-minded** – Be willing to refine your project based on community input. Fresh perspectives can strengthen your impact.

## Step 3: Demonstrate Your Impact

* **New project?** Use sketches, mock-ups, or prototypes to help others visualise your idea.
* **Existing work?** Showcase testimonials, photos, and impact reports to illustrate success.
* **For both:** Share real stories. Let the voices of your community highlight the value of your work.

## Bonus Tips for Effective Consultation

* **Think creatively** – Host workshops, conduct surveys, or organise pop-up events to engage with people.
* **Collaborate with others** – Partnering with local organisations can enhance your consultation process and strengthen your application.
* **Promote your consultation** – The more voices you include, the more robust your case for support.

## Final Thoughts

* Whether applying for funding for a new project or seeking support for existing work, the goal remains the same: demonstrate community backing and impact.
* We’re committed to funding projects that truly matter. By actively engaging with your community, you show that your work is meaningful and aligned with their needs.

Good luck with your application! If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to contact James or Catherine – we’re always happy to help.