



# Ward Flexibility Funding Application Form

Thank you for your interest in Stockport Council's Ward Flexibility Fund. To give your group the best chance of success please read the guidance notes and the questions on the application form carefully.

Please ensure that all boxes on this form are completed. You must also include all additional information that is requested.

## 1. About Your Organisation

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### 1. Name of Organisation/ Group

Twisted Trees Productions

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### 3. Main Contact Details (for correspondence)

Title:

Name:

Role:

Address:

Postcode:

Home Phone Number:

Mobile Phone Number:

Email Address:

Return to:  
Democratic Services  
Town Hall, Stockport SK1 3XE

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**4. Please provide your bank account details**

Account Name: [REDACTED]

Account Number: [REDACTED]

Sort Code: [REDACTED]

N.B. This account is solely dedicated to the activities and funds of Twisted Trees Productions. We are applying for a name change to our organisation's account and adding a second signatory.

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**5. What is the status of your Organisation/ Group?***Please Tick*

- |                                |                                     |                                  |                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A New Group                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Voluntary Organisation           | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| A Registered Charity No.       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Company Limited by Guarantee No. | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Applying for Charitable Status | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Unregistered Association         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Friendly Society               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Other (Please specify)           | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Housing Association            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                                  |                                     |

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**6. Please describe the main activities of your Organisation/ Group**

Community art events.

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**7. When was your Organisation/Group established?**

September 2019

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**8. Does your organisation have the following policies and procedures in place?***If you are awarded a grant you will be required to send copies of all relevant documents as part of the grant agreement.*

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| A governance/management committee              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| A Constitution/governing document/set of rules | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| An Equal Opportunities Policy                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| A Child Protection Policy (where necessary)    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| A Health and Safety Public liability           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

## 2. About Your Application

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### 9. Please give us a brief description of your proposed/planned project or activity

*You may wish to include details of what activities will take place, where will it happen, how often and who will take part. If you are applying for equipment you can tell us what will it be used for and why is it needed.*

#### **Theme and event**

We are planning to create a Romiley wide art trail. The art will be made by the people of Romiley for the people of Romiley and will be showcased in the windows of the homes and voluntary organisations and community buildings of Romiley. The residents become artists; the village becomes a gallery.

Our theme for the artwork is: Spring, Growth and Hope.

The work will be on show from March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in the homes and community buildings around Romiley.

- Our short-term mission is to make visible the voluntary/not for profit organisations in Romiley.
- Our medium-term aim is to create a network of voluntary organisations with a representative from each organisation.
- Our long-term vision is to initiate/facilitate a network of volunteers to further create events/projects to enrich the wellbeing of the residents of Romiley and encourage sustainability.

This project is intended to meet our short-term mission

See attached files:

- Targeted voluntary groups.
- Project planner underway N.B. This is a working document.
- SurveyMonkey results from our first window art trail.
- C.V.
- Public liability insurance certificate.

For evidence of the previous window trail, please see

<https://www.instagram.com/twistedtreesproductions/>

For our initial visual stimulus for this project see

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/twistedtreesproductions/romiley-window-art-spring/>

#### **Materials**

The artwork will be made from inexpensive materials; tissue paper and tracing paper which acts on the window of the building by being illuminated from inside. This turns the room effectively into a light box so the art glows as daylight falls. The work is also effective during the day as it is coloured so can be viewed in daylight. This kind of work is simple, lightweight and relatively easy to make by the average inexperienced person. We successfully trialled this on a single street in Romiley during December 2020. We also had several homeowners from around the centre of Romiley joining in with the project as the idea spread by word of mouth.

We intend to offer packs of materials that can be bought by organisations or individuals with a 'how to' guide inside. Some of our funding will go towards supplying materials for harder to reach communities such as the families supported by the food bank run by Cherry Tree Youth.

At the end of the project any households or organisations that do not wish to save their work for display in the future will be able to recycle the work making the project as low impact on the environment as possible.

## Workshops

- We will be offering 6 two-hour sessions over Zoom totalling 12 hours of artist workshop time for both voluntary organisations and individuals. This will include practical make a sample making, developing makers' designs and troubleshooting.
- We will also be offering 2 two-hour bookable slots for those who do not have internet access, covid safety allowing. Cherry Tree Youth have kindly offered use of their new premises. We expect to be able to reach 12 individuals; either hard to reach families and/or a representative from organisations, via a booking system. This is to ensure that the project is available and supported for those unable to access services via the Internet.

All participants under the age of 18 whether engaging by Zoom or face to face will need to be accompanied by adult.

It is our experience that the public can be very nervous when using new materials and that guidance is needed to help realise designs that are workable. This project is challenging because residents are displaying their own artwork in their own home, the work is not anonymous because most people are displaying things that they have made in the window of where they live. This makes people a little more nervous about taking risks but also gives huge rewards when that risk is taken and overcome. We supported people to overcome this on Carlton by doing 2 socially distanced bookable 'drop-in' sessions in Romiley Park. The Zoom workshops will meet the need identified from our survey for technical help, self-esteem and confidence to display work. We are both very experienced teachers and are skilled in communicating, inspiring and reassuring participants. We have comprehensive experience of delivering sessions on Zoom from previous work.

## Sustainable investment

Short term:

**Pledge:** We will also be offering the chance to reflect on the response to our theme of *Spring: Growth and Hope*, by inviting participants to consider making a pledge, either as an individual or a group, to some form of hopeful growth.

We will prepare some suggested pledges to inspire ideas. Some will be based on reducing carbon footprint, some will be based on how we use our time. For example:

- reducing car journeys, committing to walking children to school at least once a week if the usual school run is by car.
- to only buy British beef to reduce our food carbon footprint.
- the brownies my pledge that they will help on the friends of Tangshutt Fields task day three times over 6 months.
- individuals may choose that their pledge will be to join one of the voluntary groups and help to nurture our community.

**Visibility:** Some groups might choose to incorporate their pledge into their artwork. We will produce a small token (eg laser cut wooden leaf) with the materials pack on which individuals can record their pledge. We will seek to display the pledges centrally. We feel that this will improve the visibility of the project and help reinforce a sense of community investment by the participants. The visibility of the pledges would provoke consideration about investing in the community from others who maybe did not want to make the art but want to feel a part of transforming Romiley. Pledges can be made by anybody. This will promote cohesion and positive change through commitment to new behaviour.

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## **10. Who will benefit from this grant?**

*e.g. local residents, young people, older people and how?*

**Short term:** Residents and Window Makers of the art trail.

**Medium term:** Volunteer organisations and Twisted Trees Productions by establishing a Romiley volunteer network.

**Long term:** The people of Romiley via the volunteer network share ideas and work together to enrich life in Romiley.

### **Participants; Residents, Window Makers, Voluntary Groups**

#### **Window Makers: The village as artists...**

We surveyed our earlier project participants; 21 window makers responded (100%). We have attached the survey results.

We can prove benefit to participants across all the categories that we named. The biggest benefit was 'pride in where you live' (85%) and anecdotally, the residents of Carlton felt a lift in self-esteem as a community that offered a positive creative experience for the rest of Romiley to enjoy. 'Satisfaction of creating something new' (66%), 'learning new skills' (61%), and 'joy of making' (61%) all rated very highly amongst participants as the benefit of taking part. This testifies to the well-being benefits of a creative project. 50% of our window makers found 'connecting and meeting new' people in a covid safe way as an important benefit to taking part. Our proposed project addresses isolation in our community at a time where this issue is pertinent to everyone's well-being. 57% of our window makers identified 'coming up with ideas' as a significant benefit, demonstrating how our creative project encourages focussing thoughts in a positive, creative direction. Much needed in these times.

The window makers on Carlton Ave shared a common purpose and resulting shared joy and pride from being the community that offered something more to Romiley during the difficult Christmas. We expect that when this project is scaled up across the village, the benefits to the community will be more far-reaching.

#### **Residents: The village as a gallery...**

Carlton Avenue was a go to destination over December. Many families took their daily exercise via the street to enjoy the lights and art. The road was referred to as 'better than Blackpool' by locals!

- FRPS (Friends of Romiley Primary School) cited street's lights and art as inspirational in their 'Light Up Romiley' Christmas Trail. This drew many more residents to the art. We will be producing our own digital map (and physical map if sponsorship allows) which will promote the window makers and the voluntary organisations represented.
- Cherry Tree Youth used the trail as their Christmas socially distanced social activity to engage teens by voting on their favourite window art.

The aim of the project is that it will reach the whole community of Romiley in various ways. Our mission is to enhance the wellbeing of the wider community as art makers and/or art viewers. We are also aiming for the window trail to increase awareness and visibility of the different voluntary organisations. The artwork which reflects each individual organisation, linked by a walking trail of different individuals' residences and community buildings taking part will create a physical network that reflects and celebrates the volunteer activities of our local community. A digital map will aid navigation and engagement. The printed map will act as a souvenir of Romiley's first village as a gallery and an information source for voluntary organisations. We will be forging connections between people by highlighting the commonalities between groups that are different, but all serve their community in their particular manner. Thus, acknowledging equality and diversity in our community.

This will be a catalyst to further projects. We will build longevity by developing a network of these organisations that work in the community for the community.

### **Voluntary Groups in their community...**

The longer-term aim is to facilitate connection of these groups in the community at large, make the different voluntary organisations aware of each other and foster the potentiality of community groups working together. This could promote intergenerational connection such as the Brownies making work for the residents of Ben Davis Court (a housing association complex designed for the elderly).

We speculate the project could also lead to an increase in the number of people willing to take part in voluntary organisations or community activities across Romiley, thus building connection and a stronger community infrastructure. This is also crucial as unemployment rises and skills in the workplace might need to be made in the voluntary sector to aid employability. This could be measurable; by auditing the numbers of participants at the onset of the community project and asking members if their numbers have increased over the course of the project and then again in a further three and six months' time. This could be followed up by a further community art project in the summer and another trail in the lead up to Christmas, reconnecting the groups and reflecting the on-going hopes and celebrating the joys of living in the community.

### **Individual household window makers who are not associated with voluntary organisations...**

We would also like to invite individual households to make window art. The households might like to reflect any other voluntary work that they undertake, or they may wish to offer up their own thoughts on *Spring: Growth and Hope* in whichever way they choose. We know taking part promotes well-being within households. This activity could get the family to come together over a shared project; it is when undertaking these kinds of activities that conversations open as people work alongside one another. What are known as side-to-side conversations can be hugely beneficial to people's well-being. It is well documented that creative activities promote relaxation and well-being as one gets into 'flow,' the state of being absorbed and allowing the brain to rest from its other concerns.

### **Businesses and other organisations**

As word spreads in the community, if local businesses and other organisations wish to be part of the window art trail, they would be very welcome. They would be welcome to join our Zoom workshops and be included on the digital (and physical) map. We would hope that this would encourage businesses to make a pledge about how they would like to contribute to the positive future of the community in which they operate. We would hope that this would raise the

awareness within local businesses about the community in which they are based. This could further promote support from local businesses to local organisations.

### **Twisted Trees Productions**

We are an arts organisation in its infancy whose work was challenged by covid. This project will bring new skills to our small team which we then intend to bring back to the community in which we live and work, i.e. Romiley. We have years of experience of working creatively with children, young adults and adults through our professional work as teachers in a variety of institutions and in the community on different arts projects (see attached C.V.s). This opportunity will raise the profile of our arts organisation and we intend it to lead to further work in our community with different groups. We also intend to activate a sense of Romiley as a creative place with a focus on considering how we live in harmony with our environment. We hope to recruit volunteers to work alongside us which will then spread our skill set to new companions on this creative journey.

#### **10(a) How Many Stockport residents will benefit?**

The benefits of this project are far reaching. As the project will transform the residents into artists and the village into a gallery, the benefits to those passing the artwork and experiencing the delight of coming across something extraordinary in an ordinary setting will be enhanced and immeasurable.

Our test run on Carlton led to 20 out of 57 houses, over a third, up-take on just one street. A further 8 households and the local school also took part. This suggests that the project has momentum, and we will have a good response to a call out for window makers. The legacy of the Carlton Christmas Window trail means that many residents already understand what the artwork is and how it works. Some families were heard to say “I want to do that” as they walked down the street. The artwork created a buzz in the community. We will be contacting over 20 voluntary groups in Romiley, (see attached list of voluntary organisations), calling out to individual households etc via social media and a print campaign, and welcoming to local businesses, so the number of window makers is hard to predict but we are confident that there will be significant interest.

With publicity and reasonable behaviour within covid restrictions this could include people from places bordering Romiley that could come to Romiley to experience the joy of being in the village gallery.

We intend to spread information about the project via social media platforms and a small print campaign in the centre of Romiley village and at other points where residents often pass. We will be able to support up to 100 households per zoom session as this is the maximum number of participants in a Zoom room. We will calculate the number we can realistically support at once. We will be approachable outside of the zoom sessions to help troubleshoot designs via online within reason.

This indicates that there will be benefit to a large number of residents in Romiley and possibly bordering communities.

#### **10(b) Are there any restrictions on who will benefit from the funding?**

We found that on Carlton there were households who wanted to take part but felt unable due to lack of time and/or lack of skills. We were able to overcome these barriers in most of the situations. We did this by undertaking a large commission ourselves, producing the artwork for

two large windows on a double fronted residence. In another circumstance, we were able to partner a household with highly creative skills with a household unable to find time and worried about their ability. We believe that we will be able to find creative people in Romiley who would like to help individuals or businesses with their artwork. We recognise that barriers exist in self-esteem and we intend to address this in our publicity and Zoom sessions. Art made by non-professionals needs gentle encouragement, nurture and this would be a core message in our communications- *we are all makers*. Again, we are confident in our experience that we have inclusive, 'have a go', encouraging natures which are infectious in activating creativity in others.

Zoom will be used to overcome the barrier of not meeting and not being able to introduce people to each other. Face to face bookable slots will address those who do not have internet access.

We intend to use some of the budget to support low-income families to take part by subsidising materials. We would find these families by seeking guidance from Cherry Tree Youth and Romiley Primary School.

Other restrictions will include mobility to see the work, which we can share over social media platforms.

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## 11. Your Project's Budget

Please provide a breakdown of cost for your project including VAT where applicable and submit any estimates for the purchase of equipment or work to be done.

### BUDGET: ROMILEY WINDOWS 2021

Work/tasks	HOURLY RATE/UNIT COST	ESTIMATED NO. OF HOURS/UNITS	COST
COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ADMINISTRATION	£9.00 Administrator's Fee	30	9 x 30 = £270.00
POSTERS (Printing/lamination)	Sponsor (local company) TBC	Not accounted in this budget	Estimated: £100.00
Zoom Room	Monthly charge £11.99	Not accounted in this budget	£35.97
Pledge Token	Offcut from sponsor	Not accounted in this budget	£0.00
Registration with Window Wanderland	One off fee	Not accounted in this budget	£50
SUBSIDY FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES FOR MATERIALS	<b>LARGE WINDOW(4m2)</b> £8.00 <b>MEDIUM WINDOW(2.3m2)</b> £6.00 <b>SMALL WINDOW(1.1m2)</b> £4.00	Average price of pack £6.00 30 households @ £6.00 = £180 We might be able to subsidise slightly more or less depending on window size	£180.00
WORKSHOPS	£25.00 Artist Fee	12 Zoom (6 x 2-hour workshops) 2 weeks inc weekday, eve and weekend to reach most participants  4 hours face to face workshops (2 x 2 hours at Cherry Tree Project rooms or St Chads community centre): bookable drop ins, 20-minute appointments to reach a representative of 12 households/organisations	12 x 25 = £300.00  4 x 25 = £100.00 Total: £400
TOTAL			£950.00

### **11(a) How much will the project/activity cost in total?**

£950 will deliver the basic project ie short term aim.

£50 Window Wanderland registration met by Twisted Trees Productions.

Estimated material costs to be recouped by selling materials.

Estimated print budget to be sought in sponsorship.

Estimated materials for pledge to be sought in off-cuts ie donation.

Estimated Zoom cost to be met by Twisted Trees Productions.

With more money or volunteers, we could build our website to help connect participants and celebrate the work. We see this as a longer-term aim which we can seek further funding/support with, hence it is not covered in this initial bid for funds.

### **11(b) Tell us about other any other sources of income you have already applied for or raised so far in relation to this project**

We have a small seed fund generated by private art classes held before covid. We reinvested all monies, therefore making us volunteers. Due to the pandemic, we have been forced to reassess our practice of engaging with the community. We were pleased to find innovative and creative ways of increasing our social engagement in our last project on Carlton. We subsidised that project using some of our seed fund. Most money was recouped by charging for materials at cost and by using volunteers. This new project is the first project we are seeking financial support with to make the art trail grow. We are exploring crowd funding and sponsorship in addition to this application.

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### **12. How much are you applying for from the Ward Flexibility Budget?**

£950

### **12(a) If the amount you are applying for covers only part of the project/activity, then please tell us how do you intend to fund any shortfall?**

The budget will be able to deliver the basic project outlined.

- With further investment we could have a website up and running and more extensive promotion and therefore potential engagement.
- We are relying on volunteer work to cover some of our administration.
- Twisted Trees Productions seed fund
- Sponsorship from local business
- Crowd Funding

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### **13. What is the planned timescale for spending this grant?**

Start January 2021

Finish April 2021

### 3. Which Wards are you Applying to?

You may tick more than one box. Please note that no grant of more than £1,000 in totality will ordinarily be made.

Please tell us for each ward you wish to make an application to:-

- (a) how many people will benefit in that ward; and
- (b) what proportion of funding from your overall application you are seeking from each ward.

	Number of beneficiaries	How much funding you are seeking
<b>Bramhall &amp; Cheadle Hulme South Area Committee</b>		
Bramhall North	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Bramhall South & Woodford	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Cheadle Hulme South	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
<b>Central Stockport Area Committee</b>		
Brinnington & Central	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Davenport & Cale Green	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Edgeley & Cheadle Heath	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Manor	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
<b>Cheadle Area Committee</b>		
Cheadle & Gatley	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Cheadle Hulme North	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Heald Green	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
<b>Heatons &amp; Reddish Area Committee</b>		
Heatons North	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Heatons South	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Reddish North	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Reddish South	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
<b>Marple Area Committee</b>		
Marple North	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Marple South	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
<b>Stepping Hill Area Committee</b>		
Hazel Grove	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Offerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Stepping Hill	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
<b>Werneth Area Committee</b>		
Bredbury & Woodley	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Bredbury Green & Romiley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£ 950.00
<b>Totals</b>		£ 950.00

This total should add up to the figure you provided in **Question 12**



## 4. Application Checklist and Declaration

1. I am authorised to make this application on behalf of the above organisation
2. I certify that the information contained in this application is correct
3. If the information changes in any way I will inform Democratic Services accordingly.
4. I give permission for Democratic Services to contact my organisation and/or myself by phone, mail or e-mail with information about its activities and funding opportunities.
5. I/ we agree (if required) to attend an Area Committee meeting to explain how the proposal will improve the environmental, economic or social wellbeing of the area and to answer any questions.
6. Our details can be used for promotional purposes should this request be successful
7. I/We will use this grant for the proposed project/activities stated in our application.
8. I/we will not use the grant for any other purpose prior to contacting Democratic Services in order to seek authorisation.
9. I/we will provide appropriate proof of expenditure to Democratic Services, within 12 months from the Grant being made.
10. I/we will highlight the support of the Area Committee in recent publicity material.
11. I/we agree to providing information to assist in the future monitoring of the effectiveness of the funding including reporting back to the Area Committee on how the grant has been spent and what difference it has made.
12. I/we agree that the content of this completed application form and any supplementary information provided may be published on the Council's website and other publications as part of the application process.

Print your name:

Signature: .....

**or** if submitted electronically tick this box to signify your agreement to the above terms

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Return to:  
Democratic Services  
Town Hall, Stockport SK1 3XE