



## **Bluefield Solar Income Fund Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund**

### **Criteria and Guidance**

The solar farm at Lower End Farm through Bluefield Solar Income Fund is providing £2,500 per year for use as a community fund for Worton. The Parish Council are the Fund holders and will decide which applications are supported. Their decision is final.

These guidelines are designed to be used by community members who are interested in the fund as well as by the community fund distributors.

#### **About Bluefield Solar Income Fund**

Bluefield Solar Income Fund (BSIF) is an investment company focused on the acquisition and long-term management of renewable assets in the UK. Though the fund focuses primarily on large scale solar PV farms, it can also invest a minority of its capital into wind and storage technologies. BSIF views its relationships with local communities as highly important and supports a number of community benefit schemes across its portfolio

#### **Projects must benefit the community within the Parish of Worton**

Preference will be given to applicants based within this area, but applications from organisations based elsewhere will also be considered providing they can demonstrate significant benefit to the target area.

#### **Who can apply?**

The following not-for-profit organisations will be considered:

- Registered charities
- Voluntary groups
- Community groups
- Clubs
- School / pre-school parent associations (subject to conditions below)
- Individuals <sup>1</sup>(may apply but only with relation to a specific project with a community focus)

Both Worton Parish Council and Bluefield Solar Income Fund are keen that projects which receive funding build upon the community's existing social, economic or environmental sustainability.

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<sup>1</sup> Funds must be paid through a registered community group or entity.

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Applicants need to have their own bank account with a minimum of two signatories and its own constitution or set of rules.

Applicants can apply for further grants each round; however, they may not receive priority over organisations that have previously been turned away or those who are applying for the first time.

### **What projects are not eligible for funding?**

Unfortunately, there are some types of project that aren't eligible for funding such as:

- Projects that are the designated responsibility of local authorities or government
- Projects of a political or exclusively religious nature
- Projects where the grant is to be used for the financial benefit of an individual or an unusually narrow group of individuals.
- Projects that aim to improve/increase the value of the applicant's own private property (or private properties of a narrow group of individuals to the exclusion of the wider community)
- Projects that (i) materially increase existing net carbon emissions, (ii) promote the use of fossil fuels, nuclear fuel or the extraction, production and processing of natural gas (including through hydraulic fracturing) or (iii) are contradictory to Bluefield Solar Income Fund's mission of avoiding catastrophic climate change.
- Projects that are, or which Bluefield Solar Income Fund reasonably considers might be, illicit, illegal or unlawful or immoral.
- Projects that are retrospective – i.e., projects that have already completed or are in the process of completing when the application is received.

If you aren't sure if your project can be funded, get in touch with the Parish Clerk.

### **Examples of the kind of projects eligible for funding**

To give you an idea of the sort of projects that the Worton Parish Council would look to award grants to, here are a few examples (this list is not exhaustive):

- Community projects
- Community groups
- Community halls
- Community spaces (including outdoor ones)
- Educational projects
- Environmental projects
- Community events

### **How the application process works**

Each application will be assessed on its individual merit. Particular emphasis will be placed on the following criteria; however, this is by no means an exhaustive list:

1. Projects run by the community, for the community– the project must demonstrate that it will generate community involvement, engagement and ownership both in its set up and operation.

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2. Match funding – applications may be given priority if they can demonstrate that other funding sources have been explored.
3. In-kind contributions as a means of demonstrating match funding.

This type of ‘cost’ is considered a contribution to your project. It is where materials, equipment or peoples time and skills are donated to the project at no actual “cash” cost to the project. These contributions can be made either by the applicant or by others either directly or indirectly involved in your project.

These contributions should be shown as a cost value to show how much your total project cost would be if you actually pay for all of them.

The following Table may give you an idea of how to calculate in kind contributions:

Type	Example	Hourly rate	Day rate
Unskilled task or labour	Weeding, rubbish collection, general helping out	£9.00	£67.50
Skilled task or Labour	Operating machinery such as a JCB, or electricians or builders giving their time for free	£18.75	£150.00
Professional Services	Volunteer or pro-bono Accountancy or legal costs in helping with the project	£50.00	£350.00

4. The maximum an organisation can apply for is 50% of the total annual donation received, which is currently around £1,400.
5. Geographical location – the service/project being funded should benefit the target area defined above.
6. Environmental benefit – for example, the project may be creating a nature area or installing energy efficiency/ renewable generating equipment on a community building.
7. Accountability – how will the project be monitored and reported on.

### When can you apply?

You can apply at any time of year and your application will be discussed at the next available Parish Council Meeting. The Council meets on the first Monday of every month except August.

Please ensure your application is submitted at least 10 days before the meetings to allow enough time for your application to be processed.

Please note that donations are received annually in June each year, and therefore the entire “Pot” of money may be fully spent before the next donation is received. The Parish Clerk will keep the running total, so please do ask if there are still funds available before you apply.

### Making an application

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Please find an application form on the Parish Council website. Please include how much is asked for, what it is for, total cost of project and sources of other funding, and how it would enhance Worton. Also, it is important you answer the other questions regarding the community nature of your project, match funding, geographical location, environmental benefit and accountability, and send it to the Parish Clerk whose contact details are below.

Please note, that along with your application, you will need to provide the following documentation:

- Two references (this should be people who are not directly involved with the project and are not family members)
- Documentation proving your group/organisation is not for profit and has charitable purposes e.g., a constitution or governance document.

Following the receipt of a full application, Worton Parish Council will then publish your application in The Bridge and on their website and will consider and decide your application at their following meeting.

### **Publicity**

Bluefield Solar Income Fund and Worton Parish Council may from time to time wish to use your community project as a case study or in promotional materials. Please therefore only provide photos that which have full permission for us and Bluefield Solar Income Fund to use.

### **Obligations**

The recipient of the funding must provide Worton Parish Council with an annual update of the project which will be used for monitoring purposes. Bluefield Solar Income Fund will also receive a copy of this report.

### **Contact information**

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