

City of Glasgow Common Good Fund

What is it?

The Common Good Fund (CGF) is money meant to be used for the benefit of the community. It has been built up over the years from land, buildings, and other valuables gifted by the Scottish monarchy and nobility to the old Burghs. These burghs were then absorbed into bigger local authorities. The value of the fund in Glasgow now stands at about £13.5 million but could be much bigger. The Council refuses to complete the list of assets – Pollok Park was only added in 2009

So whose money is it now?

The fund belongs to you, the citizens of Glasgow; in legal jargon the citizens have 'beneficial ownership'. Over time, the city council – instead of looking after it on the citizens' behalf – has used this money, and sold land & buildings from it, as if it was part of their normal revenue from council tax and central funding. We believe this is wrong and the Scottish Government agrees with us

What does Glasgow use the fund for now?

As far as we can tell – to pay for councillors' lunches, their mobile phone bills and civic receptions. This is not what was intended when it was set up as far back as the 15th century.

What should it be used for?

In other Scottish cities it is used to fund community projects - 'having regard to the interests of the inhabitants' according to a 1973 Act – for instance in Aberdeen, Scotland's largest CGF, it has been used to provide the elderly with tea dances and a festival for older people. In Edinburgh it has paid for disabled access provision

Who can ask for a grant from the Glasgow CGF?

Any citizen of Glasgow as long as it's for a community purpose. Unfortunately the council hasn't set up a mechanism for this. We would like to see this changed and we're lobbying the council and the Scottish Government

I'd like to apply for a CGF Grant. How do I do it?

If you represent a community group, youth organisation, school or any other community body especially registered charities we suggest you write to the council's Chief Executive using the form letter overleaf. Specify why you think you deserve a grant – just think of it as a local form of the Lottery!

How can I support your campaign?

e-mail [HYPERLINK "mailto:info@GlasgowBelongsToMe.org"](mailto:info@GlasgowBelongsToMe.org) info@GlasgowBelongsToMe.org

Website

www.glasgowbelongstome.org/

Make up your own or download an application form

http://www.citystrolls.com/z-temp/text-pdf/CG_fund-app.pdf

SAMPLE LETTER

George Black

Chief Executive

Glasgow City Council

City Chambers

George Square

Glasgow

G2 1DU

Dear Mr Black,

APPLICATION FOR GRANT FROM COMMON GOOD FUND

We (name of organisation) would like to apply for a grant from the Common Good Fund to help pay the costs of a community project for the benefit of citizens of Glasgow.

The project is (describe the project, those it will benefit and the time scale)_____

Please contact us as soon as possible and advise what supplementary information you require to make a decision.

Yours sincerely

cc: Local councillors

Tell us if you have applied:
info@GlagowBelongsToMe.org