**Welwyn Garden City BID – Innovation Grant Scheme**

 **What is the Innovation Grant Scheme**

The WGC BID Innovation Grant Scheme aims to provide support to businesses within the BID area by helping them to adapt and diversify in response to the new challenges posed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Successful businesses will use the funding to adapt and deliver innovative new ways to improve their trading circumstances.

The fund will be managed by the WGC BID Board’s Grants Committee. Successful applicants will be able to claim up to £1,500 for an innovative project of their choice.

Funds are limited to the budget allocated by the Board.

**The Grant**

You can get a grant of up to £1,500 for any project of your choice.

**Eligibility**

You may be eligible if your business

* Is part of the Welwyn Garden City BID
* Is currently trading in Welwyn Garden City town centre

The WGC Board will have discretion about how to prioritise the funding.

**How To Apply**

You can fill in a very simple application form found on the website [www.wonderfulwgc.co.uk/bid](http://www.wonderfulwgc.co.uk/bid) highlighting the project you would like funded and the timeline and outputs.

**When Will You Know**

WGC BID will aim to respond to all applications within 3 weeks.

Once we receive your application, it will be initially assessed against the eligibility criteria before being assessed by the WGC BID Board’s Grants Committee to ensure the project meets the requirement. The WGC BID may need to perform further checks including a credit check before final approval is given.

If there are more applications which meet the eligibility criteria than funds available, then the WGC BID Board Grants Committee will decide which of the projects should be awarded the grant.

The decision of the WGC BID Board’s Grants Committee is final. If you are awarded the fund, you will be contacted by the WGC BID to confirm the amount. For further information contact bid@welwyngarden.co.uk

**WGC BID Innovation Grant – Application Form**

**Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Your Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Sum Requested (up to £1,500):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Tell us about your project** - Please outline how the project will benefit your business and how will it benefit those using our town centre. Let us know you would use this funding, should you be successful.

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| --- |
| *For example: We would like to expand our outdoor dining area to accommodate workers, set up co-working spaces.**This project will increase dwell time in the area by encouraging visitors to plug in their laptop and work from the café. It will be a good opportunity to promote on Social Media how WGC is a great place to work with its wide open spaces.*  |

**How much money would you require and how will it be spent?** - Please provide a budget with estimated costs, showing how you would use the grant. Please provide this in a list if possible. Should you be successful, you may be asked to provide a detailed report on expenditure following the completion of the project.

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| *For example:**Required: £800**To purchase 8 solar charging points to be installed on our tables and chairs outside.* |

Bank Account Details

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Account Holder Name |  |
| Account Number |  |
| Sort Code |  |
| Name of Bank/Building Society |  |
| Reference (please let us know if you require different) | WGCBIDGrant |

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Terms and Conditions

1. You confirm the money will be spent on the project approved and set out in your application form.
2. No changes to the project will be made without the WGC BID’s agreement. You must also inform us at bid@welwyngarden.co.uk of any proposed change relating to grant expenditure.
3. You agree to allow WGC BID representatives to see the work funded by the grant if requested and share the photographs and stories on social media, website, the press and any other media.
4. You agree that WGC BID may publicise the grant and, if relevant allow us to produce a case study on your project.
5. The decision of the funding assessment panel is final.
6. You agree that WGC BID may perform a credit check on your organisation based on the information provided.
7. You confirm that all of the details provided in the application page are correct.