ASHFIELD CREATES COMMUNITY COMMISSIONS

ROUND 3: Spring 2026
CREATIVE COMMUNITY EVENTS

About Ashfield Creates

Ashfield Creates is a programme designed to transform how everyone who lives, works and studies in Ashfield gets to access and participate in arts and creative activities. Through this Arts Council England funded project, Ashfield Creates will work with communities and residents across Ashfield to discover creativity and creative skills, empower local artists and bring people and creativity together.

Creative Community Commissions

As part of the Ashfield Creates programme, we want to support as many local organisations and artists to lead great arts and creative experiences across the district.

Over the course of the Ashfield Creates programme, we'll be investing £55,000 into small-scale commissions of between roughly £500 - £1000 to support events, arts projects and creative opportunities led by community groups, organisations and local residents in all parts of the district. There will be roughly 10 rounds of the Creative Community Commissions up until Summer 2027.

The process is designed to be as simple as possible to apply to, and all successful applicants will receive support from the Ashfield Creates team to make your event and project as successful as possible.

Round 3: Spring 2026 Creative Community Events

For Round 3 of our Creative Community Commissions, we're looking for local community groups and those connected with communities in Ashfield to apply to produce exciting arts and creative events to bring their local community together this Spring.

Do you have an idea for a creative event or workshop to bring people together in your local outdoor spaces? Do you want to showcase artforms involving nature? Are you looking to test new ideas or would you like to host activities in your community space? Then this round of Community Commissions could be for you!

You can apply for up to £1000 as part of this round of commissions and we're looking to support events and ideas of all sorts (music, dance, visual arts, theatre, crafts and more).

Some examples of arts events might include:

- A Creative Workshop Fair
- A large-scale 'Art Attack' in a community space
- A photography course for young people
- A music evening in your local community centre
- A paint or sketch in the park
- A nature based collage
- Creating recycled sculpture for your community garden / hall (with permission)

Your idea might include anything from puppetry to hip-hop to sewing, providing it is creative in its output and brings people together.

Who can apply?

This opportunity is open to anyone who is living or working within Ashfield. We're particularly keen for community groups or individuals connected to specific communities within Ashfield to apply. You might even be an organisation already delivering work in the area, or an independent artist or creative who wants to create something closer to home.

If you have previously applied for a Community Commission you are welcome to re-apply for this round, whether you were successful or not. However we will prioritise previously unsuccessful and new applicants.

What's the timelines for Round 3 of the Community Commissions?

Applications are now open and need to be submitted by midnight on the 26th of April 2026.

Successful applicants will be contacted the week 4th of May 2026.

Your activity needs to have taken place between 18th of May to the 4th July

Q&A sessions:

If you have not applied for a commission before or if you have burning questions which are not answered below in our FAQs, come along to one of our Q&A sessions:

In Person: : Tuesday 17th March 12.30- 1.30pm, Sutton-in-Ashfield Library, Idlewells Shopping Centre, Sutton-in-Ashfield, NG17 1BP

Online: Tuesday 17th March, 6.30- 7.30pm, via Google meets.

A meeting link will be sent to you on the day of the session if you sign up to this session.

To sign up for either of these sessions please fill in the form linked below. We will send reminders closer to the time as appropriate:

Community Commissions Q&A sign up form

FAQS:

This is the frequently asked questions and guidance page for the Community Commissions!

Below you can find guidance on how the process works, what you can apply for, and what to expect through the process.

If you have a question that isn't covered in the below please feel free to reach out to us on hello@ashfieldcreates.co.uk or come to one of our Q&A sessions.

What type of event/project/idea will you support?

We can support anything that has a creative focus, this could be:

- A series of creative workshops such as portrait painting, button making, or origami animals
- An event like a concert showcasing local musicians, or funday of family activities
- A Creative Workshop Fair
- A large-scale 'Art Attack' in a community space

- A photography course for young people
- A music evening in your cosiest event space

Your idea might include anything from puppetry to hip-hop to sewing, providing it is creative in its output and brings people together. Have a read through past successful projects here.

A key thing to remember is that you are responsible for the delivery of the event/project/idea you apply with- Ashfield Creates can support you to do so, but you are being commissioned to run the activity, so you will take the lead on the organising and running of the event.

What can I spend the money on?

You can utilise the money as you need to enable creativity to happen as part of your project. Maybe you need to hire a room, get materials or work with a workshop leader/performer.

You will also need to make sure you cover the costs of any permissions or licenses you need to run your event safely and legally (i.e. Temporary Events Notices).

Up to 10% of your budget can be spent on refreshments. You must not use this money to purchase alcohol.

Example costs:

- Venue hire for the activity
- Workshop leader/artist fee
- Producer fee (paying for the time that it takes to organise the event)
- Refreshments

What can't I spend the money on?

- Projects or work that is not taking place within an Ashfield postcode.
- Buying equipment such as laptops, speakers etc.
- Improving buildings
- On religious activities
- On gambling activities.
- Organisational costs, like paying your bills/rent if you own the venue
- Projects or activities that feature no arts as the main activity.

If you have any questions about the above, please reach out to us over email and we can help!

Can I use the money to pay people?

Yes you can. If you plan on doing this please ensure you show us how much you expect to pay yourself and/or any artists or practitioners you bring on to work on your event within your budget outline in your application.

If you are working with artists/facilitators, you must ensure they are being paid appropriately, and for any preparation they may need to do to deliver the event.

How accurate does the budget have to be?

This can be an estimate based on what you think it would cost to deliver the project, but please be considerate so that you are able to work within the budget you are awarded.

Please ensure costs are fair and reasonable, research and collect quotes for materials and people's time if you are unsure how much to put in your budget.

If your budget is above what you are applying for it must be clear where the extra funds are coming from and whether they are confirmed. Without this we will be unable to consider your application.

How will Ashfield Creates support?

During application:

If you require support with your application please get in touch.

Maybe this is the first time you've written an application like this, or perhaps you have a specific access need. We will be happy to discuss this with you to see how we can help.

If you have any clarifying questions, such as advice on how much you should be applying for to cover your event or whether an idea is 'creative enough' to be considered, please drop us an email or attend one of our Q&A sessions.

During the event's production:

We're keen to be actively involved in the work we're directly supporting. Our team has a wealth of experience in delivering projects and creativity across Nottinghamshire. You might need help with logistics, finding a venue, marketing support, or how to budget.

Whatever it is, the Ashfield Creates team are here to support you.

Successful applicants will be supported with check-in points with a member of our team:

1) A mandatory meeting at the project kick-off to support you getting the ball rolling
2) An optional second meeting just before the event starts

3) Another mandatory meeting after the event has taken place to review the activity

Can the activity take part in different parts of Ashfield?

Yes, as long as the project takes place only within the District of Ashfield, it can take place in as many or as few locations as you like.

Can the activity be part of something else?

Yes! We know these commissions aren't huge, so if your work or activity is part of something bigger and we're able to support this as part of the fund, that's great, just let us know in your application, and ensure it is clear which part of the activity the commission application is for.

Can I charge for this event?

Ashfield Creates will prioritise accessible activities which are free to attend.
However if you would like to charge for your event please ensure this is detailed in your application.

All ticketing and bookings will be run through the Ashfield Creates ticketing platform, however if you do charge for your event any profit will be passed on to you after the event (minus ticketing platform booking fees).

Please reach out to us to talk through ticketing if you have any concerns/questions.

I've applied before, can I apply again?

Yes! We will prioritise groups and organisations that we haven't supported before, but that doesn't stop you from applying again with something new.

I've applied, but I've been unsuccessful, now what?

If you haven't been successful in applying for a round of community commission, we endeavour to open up a conversation about how we can develop the idea into an actionable project.

We may be able to support the project through other aspects of the Ashfield Creates programme, or alternatively we may be able to support you to develop the idea to apply again in a future round.

Good Luck!

Application Form questions:

*Questions with a * are mandatory and must be completed*

1) Name*

2) Email*

3) Contact Number*

4) Contact Organisation
If relevant.

5) Address*
We aim to ensure that a range of areas across Ashfield are supported through our Community Commissions so it is important we understand where different applications are coming from.

6) Proposed name of your idea
If you have one.

7) A summary of what you want to do*
Who, what, where, when, and why. (2000 characters maximum).

8) How many people do you realistically expect to engage / will take part in your activity?*
Please use your best estimate if you are not sure.

9) When will your activity happen?*
Please write your ideal date(s), even if it isn't confirmed yet. All activity must take place between 18th May to 4th July

10) Where will it happen?*

Please give address of the venue(s) you are planning on using, or if you are unsure, say to-be-confirmed

11) What's your experience of delivering creative activities and/or working with communities?*
1300 characters maximum.

12) You can include links to previous projects or examples/websites if you have any.

13) Please outline any permissions or licenses you envision you may need to organise for your event. Please also include what you already have.
i.e. Temporary Events Notices

14) Do you intend to charge for tickets to your activity/event?*
If so, please explain why and how much you expect to charge. For more detail

on ticketing, please see the FAQ

15) Please tell us the total amount you are requesting.*
Please choose a figure between £500 and £1000.

16) Do you require any additional funds to make your work accessible?*
Eg. Having a BSL interpreter, specific print for braille or working with a translator. Please detail how much and what for.

17) The Ashfield Creates team is dedicated to supporting you as you develop, deliver and evaluate your event. Is there anything specifically you might want support with during this process?*

For more information on how we can support, please see the FAQ's

18) Budget: We want to get an idea of what you would spend the commission money on. Please upload a copy of your draft budget.*
This can be estimated for now, but it will give us a sense of where our commission is going to be spent. Consider including: (for more advice, see the FAQ's)
- Artist / Professional costs
- Materials
- Venue Hire
- Marketing
- Accessibility
- Contingency
- Anything else!
- Total amount

19) If the total in your submitted budget is above the amount you are requesting from Ashfield Creates, please detail below where these other funds are coming from and whether they are confirmed:

20) Are you happy to fill in our diversity questionnaire?*