

Appendix

Application

The following grant application has been received for consideration:

		<u>Previous Grant Award</u> £	<u>Current Grant Request</u> £
Canalside Heritage Centre Trust	1	-	6,200*
			<u>6,200</u>

*This includes a capital grant request of up to an estimated £5,150, with the balance being considered a revenue contribution.

1. CANALSIDE HERITAGE CENTRE TRUST

The Canalside Heritage Centre Trust ('the Trust') was established in 2014 with the aim to renovate and restore the weir cottages at Beeston Lock into sustainable use as a heritage, education and arts centre for all.

Since then, the Trust has become a community hub for the local and wider community to come along and connect with other people through a range of activities they deliver. These include educational activities and workshops, art and craft groups, wellbeing groups among others. The Trust also facilitates a Tea Room and shop and has an exhibition space with rotating exhibitions.

With a strong and active volunteer base, who support delivery of activities and help to maintain our centre and garden areas, the Trust considers itself to be established as a place for people to come along and improve their mental wellbeing by being near the water and the natural environment and by taking part in Trust activities.

The Trust estimates that approximately 80,000 people (around half of which are Broxtowe residents) visit the centre each year and has provided detailed narrative on the benefits it brings to the community, as follows:

Community Facilities and Social Opportunities

The Heritage Centre operates as a community hub where local residents can meet, learn and take part in activities. Facilities include:

- Community rooms used for social groups, arts and crafts, reading clubs and wellbeing sessions
- Regular social activities such as craft groups, family sessions and large community events
- Affordable tearoom and meeting space encouraging social interaction
- Volunteer opportunities that help residents gain skills and confidence.

These activities help reduce isolation and promote community cohesion.

Heritage and Educational Benefits

The Trust preserves and shares the history of Beeston's waterways and local heritage by:

- Providing exhibitions and interpretation about canal and river history
- Running educational workshops and school visits
- Offering heritage related events, exhibitions and learning activities
- Engaging schoolchildren with local history and conservation.

This supports lifelong learning and helps residents connect with the area's history.

Health and Wellbeing Benefits

The centre promotes physical and mental wellbeing through:

- Walking and outdoor activities along the canal and river
- Social groups and creative activities supporting mental health
- Access to a peaceful environment and community garden
- Wellbeing programmes held at the site
- Providing opportunities for co-curated community led exhibitions.

These opportunities encourage healthy lifestyles and social inclusion.

Environmental and Outdoor Facilities

Residents benefit from:

- A community garden and green space maintained by volunteers
- Wildlife friendly planting
- Access to scenic walking and cycling routes.

This supports environmental awareness and outdoor recreation.

Cultural and Economic Value

The centre contributes to the cultural life of Broxtowe by:

- Hosting and delivering exhibitions, workshops and community events
- Supporting local artists and craftspeople through exhibitions and shop sales
- Acting as a recognised heritage asset in the borough
- Preserving and making accessible a collection of museum artefacts.

Financial Information

As a registered charity, the Canalside Heritage Centre Trust holds both unrestricted and restricted reserves.

For the year ended 31 March 2025, unrestricted income totalled £15,516, comprising primarily of grants, donations and income from fundraising efforts. Total expenditure was £39,007, consisting entirely of charitable activities relating to the running of the centre. Unrestricted reserves as at 31 March 2025 were £19,684 (2024: £43,175).

Restricted reserves, which relate entirely to the renovation of the Weir cottages at Beeston Lock, as at 31 March 2025 were £610,958 (2024: £679,232).

The Trust has stated its cash balance as at the date of this request to be £52,315.

Grant Request

For 2026/27, the Canalside Heritage Centre Trust has requested a grant of £6,200 as a contribution towards the cost of a Community Heritage Exhibition in September 2026. This includes a capital grant of up to an estimated £5,150, being the cost of restoring the Mission Hall Banner (below) which is intended as the central exhibit, with the balance being considered a contribution to the revenue costs associated with the exhibition event itself.



In support of this, the Trust has provided detailed narrative, as follows:

This project will deliver a community heritage exhibition in September 2026 celebrating the social history and community life of Beeston Rylands, with the restored Mission Hall Banner (1926) as the central exhibit.

The exhibition will explore the history, people, and traditions of Beeston Rylands and highlight the role of the Mission Hall as a focal point for community life during the twentieth century. Through photographs, documents, and personal memories, the exhibition will bring together the stories of local residents and showcase the area's rich heritage.

The restored Mission Hall Banner will feature as a key part of the exhibition. The banner represents an important piece of local heritage and reflects the values, beliefs, and community spirit of earlier generations.

The project will begin with a series of workshops where residents will have the opportunity to discover the artefacts in the care of the Canalside Heritage Centre. Through these workshops the local community will also be encouraged to share memories and their own historical materials. This will help ensure the exhibition reflects the voices and experiences of the community.

The exhibition will be free and open to all.

Project Aims

The project aims to:

- Celebrate the heritage of Beeston Rylands
- Preserve and share local history
- Strengthen community identity
- Encourage participation from local residents
- Increase access to local heritage
- Showcase the restored Mission Hall Banner.

Project Activities

Activities will include:

- Community research and memory collection
- Preparation of exhibition materials
- Restoring and displaying the Mission Hall Banner
- Public exhibition in September 2026
- Opportunities for schools and community groups to attend
- Bringing together individuals and/or their family members to attend exhibition and provide memories.

Beeston Rylands has areas where residents experience social and economic disadvantage, and there are fewer opportunities to access local heritage and

cultural activities. One specific area of Beeston Rylands is in the top 40% deprived LSOA's in England.

This project has been designed to ensure that residents who may not normally engage with heritage activities are able to take part and feel represented.

Improving Access to Heritage

The project will:

- Provide a free exhibition open to everyone
- Be located within the local community
- Be accessible to people with limited mobility
- Use clear and easy-to-read interpretation.

By holding the exhibition locally, the project removes barriers such as travel costs and unfamiliar venues.

Community Participation

Residents will be invited to:

- Share photographs and memories
- Contribute stories
- Help with research
- Volunteer during the exhibition.

This approach helps people feel ownership of their local history.

Reducing Social Isolation

The project will provide opportunities for people to meet and share memories. Older residents in particular will be encouraged to contribute their experiences of life in Beeston Rylands.

Activities such as memory sessions and talks will help bring people together.

Supporting Young People

Local schools and youth groups will be invited to visit the exhibition.

Young people will be able to:

- Learn about their local area
- Connect with older generations
- Develop a sense of belonging.

Celebrating Local Identity

People living in disadvantaged areas often feel their history is overlooked. This project will highlight the importance of Beeston Rylands and the contribution of its residents.

The exhibition will show that local stories matter and deserve to be preserved.

Long-Term Benefits

The project will:

- Create a permanent record of memories and photographs
- Strengthen local partnerships
- Encourage future heritage activities
- Build confidence within the community.

In addition to the above, such an award would be in line with the Council's Grant Aid policy for the following key reasons:

- The services provided by The Canalside Heritage Centre Trust benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- The activities of The Canalside Heritage Centre Trust target the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of the community, in particular helping to combat loneliness and social exclusion within the Borough, as well as providing educational and co-curricular benefits to local children.