MATSON & ROBINSWOOD PRIDE IN PLACE

Small Improvements Grants 2026/27

Guidance for applicants — grants of up to £10,000 for quick, visible improvements that residents can see before the end of March.

How much?	Up to **£10,000** per project. No minimum — small ideas are very welcome. We expect most grants to be between £2,000 and £5,000.
How much is there?	**£55,000** in total, to be spent this financial year.
What for?	Lasting, physical improvements people can see and use — benches, planters, noticeboards, green spaces, play areas, community buildings, community equipment.
Where?	Matson, Robinswood and White City.
Who can apply?	Residents and neighbourhood groups (with a host organisation), local community groups and charities, and schools, faith groups and housing associations.
Deadlines	First deadline **Thursday 26 November 2026**, decided at the Board meeting on 27 November — **please apply by this date if you can**, as the budget is limited. Second and final deadline **Thursday 21 January 2027**, decided on 22 January.
Finished by	**31 March 2027.** Your project must be complete, with receipts and photos sent in, by this date.
How to apply	Fill in the form, send a voice note or video, or talk to Board members in person. See section 9.

1. About Pride in Place

Matson and Robinswood — now including White City — is one of the neighbourhoods chosen for the Government's Pride in Place programme. Over the next ten years the area will receive up to £20 million, with decisions led by local people.

The programme is run by a Neighbourhood Board made up mainly of residents and people who work in the area. Over the winter the Board is listening to the community and will submit a plan to Government in February 2027.

But we don't want people to wait for a plan to see things happen. The Small Improvements Grants are about doing something now — turning ideas residents have already told us about into real changes on the ground.

2. What the grants are for

The grants have three aims:

- **Quick responses** — residents ask for something and see it happen within months, not years.
- **Good investment** — money spent in the neighbourhood, with local groups, local suppliers and local workers wherever possible.
- **Showing Pride in Place means business** — visible change that builds trust for the ten years ahead.

3. How much you can apply for

You can apply for **up to £10,000**. There is no minimum — a few hundred pounds for a planter or a noticeboard is just as welcome as a bigger project.

We expect most grants to be between £2,000 and £5,000, with room for some very small projects and one or two larger ones. In total we hope to fund around 15 to 20 projects.

4. What we can and cannot fund

What we can fund

The grants are for **physical improvements that last** — something you can see and touch. For example:

- benches, picnic tables, planters, bins, noticeboards and signs;
- improvements to green spaces, community gardens, play areas and sports areas;
- small improvements to community buildings and spaces;
- equipment that will last, held by a group or organisation for community use.

These are examples, not a fixed list. If you have an idea that is not listed, please get in touch.

What we cannot fund

- Running costs — staff, wages, events, food or activities.
- Work on private homes or gardens, or anything that benefits one person rather than the community.
- Anything that is the council's or another body's responsibility, or that they would be doing anyway.
- Ongoing maintenance costs.
- Work that has already started, or been paid for, before a grant is agreed.

5. Who can apply

Residents and neighbourhood groups

You don't need to be a formal group. Neighbours who have come together around an idea can apply. Because the grant is public money, it has to be paid to an organisation, so you will need a **host organisation** — a local group or charity that agrees to receive and manage the money for you.

If you don't know a group that could do this, tell us when you apply. We will help you find one.

Local community groups and charities

Local not-for-profit organisations can apply directly. That includes registered charities, community interest companies, community benefit societies, charitable incorporated organisations and constituted community groups. You need to be based within the Pride in Place area, or able to show a track record of work with residents here.

Schools, faith groups and housing associations

You can apply for work on your own land or buildings. You will need to show that the idea has come from the community, and that it goes beyond what you would normally have to do.

> **The Pride in Place area** covers Matson, Robinswood and White City. Your improvement must be made **within the boundary shown on the map** on our website at www.mrprideinplace.co.uk. If you are not sure whether your idea is inside the area, ask us.

6. What every project must show

Every application needs to meet these ten tests. Don't worry if you can't answer all of them straight away — we can help you get there.

1	**Community-led**	Local people have asked for it, want it and support it. Show us how you know — conversations, a petition, a meeting, photos, letters or messages. The idea should come from the community, not from an organisation's own plans.
2	**Community benefit**	It benefits the community, not one person.
3	**Something physical that lasts**	It creates or improves something you can see and touch (this is called "capital" spending).
4	**Done by the end of March**	It can be finished by 31 March 2027.
5	**Permission in place**	You have written permission from whoever owns the land or building, and any planning or other consents needed. If you do not know who owns the land, ask us — we can help find out.
6	**Looked after**	Where it needs it, someone has agreed to look after it — who, and how.
7	**Extra, not instead**	It does not pay for something that is the council's (or another body's) job, or that they would be doing anyway.
8	**Fully costed**	You can tell us what everything will cost.
9	**Buying local first**	Labour, materials and equipment are bought locally as far as possible (see section 8).
10	**Within the rules**	It fits the Government's Pride in Place guidance. We will check this for you.

7. What we will look for

If there are more good ideas than money, the Board will favour projects that:

- are led by the community, and will be owned by the community or a charity;
- help spread the money fairly across Matson, Robinswood and White City;
- are designed so that everyone can use and enjoy them — including disabled people — and nobody is left out;
- are open to the public, where that makes sense;

- are visible, with Pride in Place branding where appropriate;
- bring in volunteer time, donated materials or other funding (welcome, but not required);
- are good for the environment, where that applies.

8. Buying local

We want this money to go round the local economy as many times as possible. As far as you can, please buy labour, materials and equipment in this order:

1. From businesses in Matson, Robinswood and White City, or run by people who live or work here.
2. From businesses in Gloucester.
3. From businesses in Gloucestershire.
4. From further afield — only if none of the above is possible.

You **do not need several quotes**. Buying locally may mean there is only one suitable supplier, and the cheapest price is not the only test. But you do need to tell us what everything will cost, who you will buy from, and where they are based.

9. How to apply

We want applying to be easy for everyone. Choose whichever way suits you best — every route is treated equally.

1. Fill in the form	2. Send a voice note or video	3. Talk to us
Complete the application form online, by email or on paper. Paper copies are available from the project team. You can post or drop off your form to FAO The Pride in Place Board, The Ewe Space, Matson, Matson Avenue, GL4 6LL.	Record up to five minutes telling us about your idea, and send it as a WhatsApp message to 07925 509181 or by email to chair@mrprideinplace.co.uk. Use the questions below as a guide.	If you would find it hard to apply in writing or by recording, you can tell Board members about your idea in person. We will write it up with you and check you are happy with it.

If you send a voice note or video

Start by saying your name and how we can contact you. Then try to cover:

1. What is your idea, and where would it go?
2. Who has asked for it, and how do you know local people want it?
3. Who will it help, and how will you make sure everyone can use it?
4. Roughly what will it cost, and who would you buy from?
5. Who owns the land or building, and have you asked them?
6. Who will look after it once it is done?

It doesn’t need to be polished, and you don’t need to know every answer. We will be in touch to help fill any gaps — usually the costs and permissions.

If you would like to talk to us

Email chair@mrprideinplace.co.uk or send a WhatsApp message to 07925 509181 and tell us you would like to talk about an idea. Two Board members, or a member of the project team, will arrange to meet you at a time and place that suits you. You are welcome to bring a friend, family member or

support worker. Let us know if you need anything to take part — for example an interpreter, British Sign Language, large print, or a step-free venue.

Help to apply

The project team and Board members can help residents and small groups turn an idea into an application — whichever route you choose. Just ask.

What to have ready

- A description of your idea and exactly where it would go.
- Evidence that local people want it — for example a petition, photos, letters, messages or notes from a meeting.
- A list of costs, with suppliers and where they are based.
- Written permission from the landowner or building owner (or tell us where you are up to).
- Details of your host organisation, if you are applying as residents or an informal group.

10. What happens next

How decisions are made

Applications are decided by the Neighbourhood Board at two meetings:

- applications received by **Thursday 26 November 2026** are decided at the Board meeting on **Friday 27 November 2026**;
- applications received by **Thursday 21 January 2027** are decided at the Board meeting on **Friday 22 January 2027**.

We will let you know the outcome shortly after the meeting that considers your application.

> **Please apply by 26 November if you can.** The budget is limited. If it is all committed in the first round, there may be little or nothing left for the second.

Anyone on the Board with a connection to an application declares it and takes no part in the decision. All decisions are recorded with reasons, and the grants awarded are published.

If your application is successful

- You will receive a simple grant agreement to sign. The money is paid to the lead or host organisation, not to individuals.
- The organisation receiving the money will be asked for some basic documents — for example its governing document, bank details in the organisation's name, and appropriate insurance.
- Keep all invoices and receipts, and take **before and after photos**. Send these to the project team when your project is complete, by 31 March 2027 at the latest.
- We will celebrate every project. Please agree any wording with Pride in Place before announcing your grant yourself, and display Pride in Place branding where appropriate.

If your application is not successful

We will explain why. Where we can, we will suggest other ways forward — and every idea we receive will help shape the Pride in Place plan for the next ten years.

11. Key dates

Now	Grants open.

Thursday 26 November 2026	**First deadline.** Please apply by this date if you can.
Friday 27 November 2026	Board meeting decides first-round applications. We contact applicants shortly afterwards.
Thursday 21 January 2027	**Second and final deadline** — if money is still available.
Friday 22 January 2027	Board meeting decides second-round applications. We contact applicants shortly afterwards.
31 March 2027	All projects complete. Receipts, invoices and before and after photos sent to the project team.

12. Questions

We are happy to talk through any idea before you apply.

Email: chair@mrprideinplace.co.uk
WhatsApp (messages only): 07925 509181
Post or drop off: FAO The Pride in Place Board, The Ewe Space, Matson, Matson Avenue, GL4 6LL
Website: www.mrprideinplace.co.uk