

COMMUNITY FUND NOW OPEN

BITMO's Board has made five new funding opportunities available for individuals, groups, and the Belle Isle community to benefit from:

Estate Enhancement and the Green Agenda; is there an area of the estate that you think needs a makeover? You can apply for money to pay for fencing, seating, planting or green energy solutions where the land or building is managed by BITMO and there is local support for the improvements.

Training, development and qualifications for tenants and their families; is there a training course or qualification that you want to access but can't pay all the fees for? You can apply for 50% of your fees, up to a maximum of £500.

Contribution to decorating costs for vulnerable people in hardship; are you 65 or over and need help towards redecorating your home? You can apply for half the costs of redecorating one room every three years, up to a maximum of £600.

Belle Isle Stories

Were there times during lockdown when you saw people really help each other out?

What's the most surprising thing that's ever happened to you in Belle Isle?

Are there any Belle Isle legends that have passed down through generations?

What was your first day in Belle Isle like?

Who is a local unsung hero?

What do you love about your community?

Household goods to improve the living conditions of vulnerable tenants; are you (or do you support) a vulnerable tenant who needs funds to improve their living conditions? You or your support worker can apply for up to £300 for household goods to help sustain a tenancy.

Community group or activity; is there a community group or activity that you want to set up and need some money to get it going? You can apply for up to £500 a year.

If you would like to discuss our grants and application process further, please contact our Community and Tenant Support Team on 0113 378 2190 or email gate@belleisletmo.co.uk



These questions and many more will be answered as part of Belle Isle Stories!

Residents have been telling their stories and some have taken part in writing and acting classes. The results will be filmed and made available online and in showings at BITMOs GATE and around Belle Isle.

We hope there will be a live performance at the BITMO Annual General Meeting in September. It's not too late to tell your story. Get in touch through BITMOs GATE – drop in or phone 0113 378 2190.

A Community Garden for Belle Isle

The old garage site off West Grange Road could have a new life as a community garden. The entrance is opposite Lonsdale Close—not far from the Sporty Space multi-use games area (MUGA). The site has been left since the garages were knocked down. It's overgrown and because the site is not secure, it is used for dumping.

Residents in the area have been consulted. While there was 100% support, there were some worries the site would get vandalised. Some people have volunteered to form a steering group. Work is starting soon to move the gate and part of the fence to make the site secure.

Customer Service

Over the last few weeks, we've had several instances in-person and on the telephone where staff have been subjected to abuse. Our staff at BITMO are committed to providing a professional and fair service to everyone we

Community Meals

To support households dealing with rising food and fuel costs, Belle Isle TMO are offering free meals to everyone in your household - *both children and adults* – during August. The meals will be served every Tuesday and Friday.

During the last week of May, BITMO provided 182 individuals and families with free meals.



What happens next is up to you!... should we include raised beds for planting vegetables, fruit trees and bushes, gardening lessons, a shed, outdoor events. What do you think?

You can read more information on the BITMO website at <https://tinyurl.com/WestGrangegarden>



work with, and in return we ask that our staff are treated with respect. We understand that sometimes people may feel disappointed or frustrated, however we will not tolerate threatening, abusive, racist, or violent behaviour.

With the help of our volunteers (*pictured with BITMO CEO Deborah Kelly*), we were able to serve a variety of meals each day from our community resource centre, the GATE. We also distributed 34 meal packs were also distributed to households in need.

Hot and cold meals will be available on Tuesdays from 26 July to 30 August between 3pm to 5pm.

We are extending the breakfast club to include cereal, toast, jams and juice from Friday 29 July to 3 September from 10am to 12pm. A full English breakfast is available – or you can choose items from eggs, bacon, sausage, beans, tomatoes, toast or a hot sandwich.

No booking is required, simply come along at the times above. Further food packs, events and family activities will be available to all BITMO households throughout August. For further information please visit our social media pages, call in to the GATE or contact use by calling 0113 378 2190.

Activities and Services in the GATE

The GATE hosts sessions, classes, and activities each month to support you to live healthily and happily in your home. You can come along to:

- **Monthly Cinema Club on Friday 24 June at 4pm**
- **Employment and Training drop-in Thursdays from 4pm to 6:30pm**
- **Walking Group for all abilities from 10am to 11am every Monday**
- **Breakfast club every Friday 10-11.30am - pay as you feel.**

Alongside activities in the GATE, we have sessions and guest speakers in our communal rooms at 26 and 58 Belle Isle Circus and Broom Nook. These take place on the first Wednesday of every month. Come along to listen to speakers from West Yorkshire Fire

Volunteer in Belle Isle

Becoming a volunteer could:

- Build your confidence and improve mood
- Help you meet new people
- Give you a chance to try something new or learn new skills
- Lead to training, a college course or a job

We are looking for more volunteers:

Walking group leader– full training provided

Gardening– could you be part of a group to help people who are struggling to maintain their gardens?

Computer support– could you provide help to people in the GATE who need support to get online – for example to help them read their emails, update their Universal Credit accounts or complete online applications?

An afterschool group one day every week – for parents and children with activities and a snack or basic meal.

We also always need volunteers on the day for events during the year – like the Belle Isle Community Gala, parties for older residents and the Christmas Market.

Service on Wednesday 6 July from 1:30pm at Broom Nook and 3pm at 58 Belle Isle Circus.

Julie's Ancestry Group is held every Friday morning (during school term-times) at 26 Belle Isle Circus from 10am.

If you would like to see other activities in the GATE or the other centres, please call in to BITMOs GATE to discuss your idea, email gate@belleisletmo.co.uk or call 0113 378 2190.



As a volunteer you would receive:

- Training on working with groups
- DBS clearance (police checks)
- Health & Safety and fire training
- Safeguarding awareness training
- Office experience
- Mentoring and one to one support.

The programme is built around you, and designed to help you reach your goals, whatever they might be!

We would love to hear from you if you are interested in becoming a volunteer – or just want to learn more. Contact us by emailing gate@belleisletmo.co.uk, call us on 0113 378 2190 or drop in to the GATE.



Community Fund application form. Please complete and return to gate@belleislethmo.co.uk or drop in to the GATE by 26 August 2022.



Application Form

Please ensure all sections are complete. Please use one application per submission. If you need help filling out this form, please contact BITMO's Community and Tenant Support Managers.

Contact Information

Name:	
Address (incl. postcode):	
Mobile number:	
Email:	

If you are applying on someone else's behalf, please give your name, contact information, and state your connection with that person:

Which budget are you applying to? (please tick one)

- Estate enhancement and the Green Agenda
- Training, development and qualifications for tenants and their families
- Contribution to decorating costs for older tenants
- Household goods to improve the living conditions of vulnerable tenants
- Community group or activity

Please use this space to tell us more. What will the money pay for? If you need more space, please use up to one additional side of A4.

Important phone numbers

Report a repair call **0113 378 2188** or **0800 389 5503**

Make a rent payment call **0113 378 2187**

Report anti-social behaviour **0113 378 2188**

Report issues with bins and bin collections to Leeds City Council on **0113 222 4406** or download the **Leeds Bins** app

You can find out all the information you need about BITMO on our website:

- ⇒ Repairs
- ⇒ Rent
- ⇒ Help & Support
- ⇒ News from Belle Isle
- ⇒ Information on BITMO's performance



Go to www.belleislethmo.co.uk or scan the QR code

This newsletter is available in large print on request by phoning 0113 378 2188.

