# Make It Happen:
## small grants with BIG community impact

**The Make It Happen fund is a collaboration between Islington Giving and Housing Associations Peabody; Hyde; Southern Housing Group; and Newlon, supported by Help On Your Doorstep, Voluntary Action Islington and Octopus Community Network.**

The funding programme, launched in 2021, is designed to offer grants of up to £500 to support local ideas that benefit the community across Islington. Grants are given to residents whose project ideas help contribute towards **happier, healthier and more connected communities**, providing residents with opportunities to come together to build a greater sense of belonging.

Make It Happen grants have brought into life a wide range of inspiring ideas in Islington, such as women's dance classes, junior football sessions, activities for refugees new to Islington, communal gardening projects, Queen's Jubilee celebrations, neighbourhood dog shows and street parties, just to mention a few. Many project ideas were influenced by personal reasons: people recalled a particular challenge they were faced with in the past, and tried to address this so others don't have to go through the same situation.

❝ **I've just completed the She Can Empower Pole course. It's been amazing. I have never felt so strong, so free, so empowered. It's been amazing working with such a lovely group of girls. (A participant to women's pole dancing workshops at the Factory Gym)**

❝ **The garden project fostered a therapeutic and trauma-informed environment. It has created a space for staff to have meetings, support sessions and activities such as assisting young people with developing crafts, gardening skills, creating an outlet to release stress and anxiety. (Creators of a sensory garden at Islington Young Peoples' Assessment Centre)**
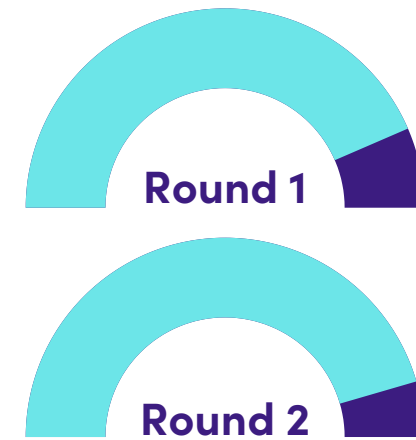
❝ **It was a special and uplifting experience which demonstrated how the simple act of hosting a river walk could bring ogether a temporary community. Local Artists, academics, a podcast presenter, art professionals, children, English teacher, retired parson, all met over this events and enjoyed talking to each other. (A participant to a group walk along New River Walk)**

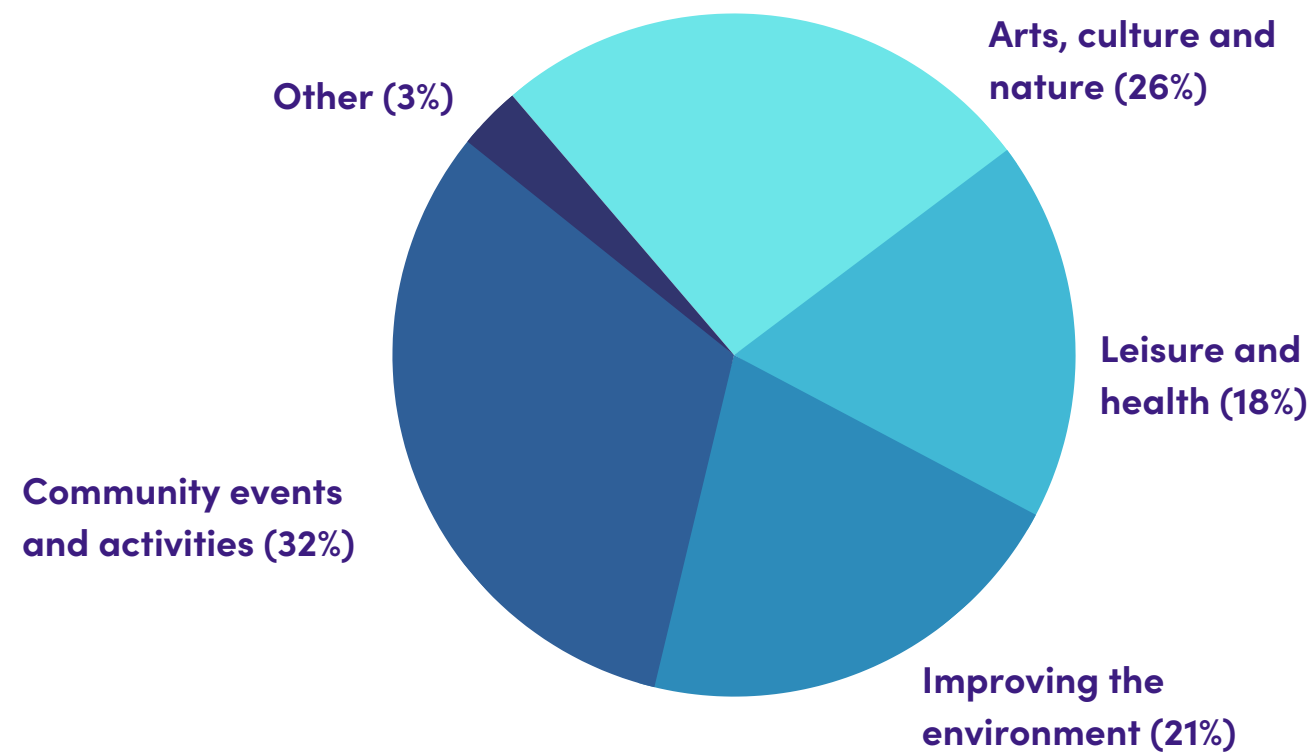# High success rates & varied project ideas

Applications for Round One opened in November 2021 and we received 15 applications, 13 of which were successful.

Applications for Round Two opened in March 2022 and we received 23 applications, 21 of which were successful.

71% of applications were made through established voluntary and community groups.

**Round 1**

**Round 2**

## Main project themes

Other (3%)

Arts, culture and nature (26%)

Leisure and health (18%)

Community events and activities (32%)

Improving the environment (21%)

" Make it Happen literally saved our flower beds! Without the water trucks and hoses, the hottest and driest summer on record would have resulted in many of the plants and bushes dying. (Myddleton Square Gardening Group)

Islington Giving has been working closely with Housing Associations for a number of years now, primarily through joint funding Help on Your Doorstep's Good Neighbours Schemes. Make It Happen Fund 2021/22 was delivered in partnership with Islington Giving, Southern Housing Group, Peabody, Newlon Housing Trust, The Hyde Group and local community organisations Octopus Communities, Voluntary Action Islington and Help on Your Doorstep.

We were also pleased to work with some of our resident panellists to review the grant applications. The coalition members work collaboratively, pooling resources, and sharing information, financial capital and resources, and each partner has an equal yet a different voice.

We are proud to say we reached our key objectives of increasing our impact in Islington through small funding grants, and making it easier for residents to access grants.

The Fund will have more grants to deliver in 2023, with a new funding partner Clarion Housing joining the coalition.