

SMALL POPPY NEIGHBOURHOOD GRANTS

Tips for starting up a neighbourhood tool library



LOCAL PEOPLE + GOOD IDEAS + ACTION = A BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD

Power tools, Garden tools and other household tools can be an expensive purchase. Most people have a few but rarely do we have every tool to do every job.

A neighbourhood tool library is a great way of pooling the resources of many households so that everyone has access to a greater number of tools. Not only does everyone get to use a wider range of tools you may also make new friendships with people in your neighbourhood that you didn't know before.

Step 1: Put the idea out there.

Design a flyer or leaflet to letter drop around your neighbourhood explaining the concept of the tool library and the benefits. Arrange for people to contact you if interested via email or phone. Organise a neighbourhood meeting at someone's house to discuss how the scheme is going to work and what tools people have to offer.

Step 2: Have a meeting and lay down the ground rules.

Discuss topics such as:

- Forming a contact list and tool register
- Laying down ground rules for how the borrowing will work – i.e. how long people borrow tools, the condition of the tools when they are returned to the owner, who is responsible for any damage or breakage.
- Investigate the feasibility of insurance coverage or have a contract/agreement drawn up that all the members of the Tool Library sign accepting that borrowers are responsible for damage or breakage.

Step 3: Put it all down in writing

Make sure everyone agrees to the conditions of the Tool Library. Get signatures and if insurance is needed, make it a condition of joining the library that each member must pay their share of the insurance premium.

Step 4: Enjoy your new resources.

Once the tool library is up and running, consider maybe running in tandem to it a skills resource library also.