

Premises Improvement Grant Scheme

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Background

1. The grant programme aims to improve the overall appearance of the town centre by assisting businesses to improve premises and encourage the take up of vacant properties.
2. The grants scheme is a tool used to encourage private investment in town centre buildings; the outcome of this investment is an aesthetic improvement to the town centre and in turn increases retail and public confidence in the area. The grants can encourage the use of vacant buildings as they can reduce the overall cost of changing the exterior of the building to suit the needs of the incoming business.
3. All business premises within the defined town centre boundary are eligible for a 50% grant up to a maximum of £3000, for improvements to their premises. Premises improvement grants are administered by Economic Development staff. The Economic Development Team supports the applicant throughout the application process.

Nelson

- In the financial year of 2024/25 Nelson Town Council agreed to support this Grant Scheme by adding £15,000, making a total amount for Nelson of £30,000
- In 2024 for the purpose of this grant scheme only the boundary was extended to include more of Scotland Road, Leeds Road and Manchester Road. This has had a positive impact on the amount of enquires received by the team.
- In Autumn 2024 the Economic Growth team conducted a leaflet drop within Nelson Town Centre which had a very positive response of 30 enquiries by 31st March 2025.

Successful Applications

Applications completed and Grant given

- 78 Leeds Road, formerly the New Rice Bowl it is now occupied by Secret Sssh.. £3,000, this Business is now applying for support through Nelson Town Deal to support internal improvements.

Applications Approved and work in progress

- 20 Scotland Road, Building Bridges £3,000, this business is also applying for support through Nelson Town Deal to support internal improvements.
- 81 Leeds Road, My Burger Bar £1,750
- 71 Scotland Road, 625 Art Studio £3,000
- 9 Scotland Road, Games @9 £1,250

The 2 applicants on Leeds Road are a direct result of widening the Boundary.

Remaining enquiries from 2024/25 who have all received an application form and criteria from the team – 22

For 2025/26 – 2 new enquiries have been received from 102 Leeds Road and Cross Street.

Any Obstacles

- Planning Permission – understanding the need for Planning Permission and the process of it
- Tradesman – sometimes Applicants face delays submitting an application back to the Team as getting Tradesman to come out can be difficult, however we have noted this in previous years and Committee agreed to the Team accepting 2 quotes rather than 3 per eligible item. The team have found this has helped applicants on the whole.
- Understanding what a Grant means under this scheme and the Applicant doesn't always have the financial means upfront so doesn't proceed.

Building Bridges



- Work is nearing completion on the Building Bridges premises at 20 Scotland Road, the work here was fitted at the end of May 2025.

Secret Sshhh!

The property has benefitted from the boundary criteria being extended and has brought back into use a vacant premises.

Before and After photos



81 Leeds Road

The property has benefitted from the boundary criteria been extended and will be brought back into use.

Work is underway and hoping to complete in the next month

