

Tornado Hardship Fund Appeal Case Study



On Thursday 28 July 2005 a tornado hit parts of Kings Heath, Moseley, Sparkbrook, Highgate and Sparkhill. The tornado which was approx. 135mph caused extensive damage to buildings, vehicles and gardens and 19 people were injured.

The clean up process with regards to the structural damage was well underway almost immediately, but the issues affecting the local community still needed to be addressed...

...**The Tornado Hardship Appeal** was a joint initiative of the Birmingham Foundation and the Tornado Affected Neighbourhoods Group (TANG), which represented people affected by the Tornado of 28th July 2005.



The appeal aims were to make small grants available to combat hardship experienced by individuals as a direct result of the Tornado. Grants were only made to cover costs that could not be met from another source, such as insurance.

Administration for the fund, governance etc, rested with the Birmingham Foundation.

In Summary:

- ⊙ A total of **156** applications were received;
- ⊙ Applications covered a wide range of requests, from the replacement of personal and household items through to the replacement of sheds, garden furniture, fencing, cars and even loss of income, the initial hardship criteria was agreed as being the replacement of; bedding, beds, clothing;
- ⊙ As funds grew this was extended to cover carpets, curtains, toys, some kitchen items and electrical goods, and later extended to include other items lost or damaged which accounted for some of the early applicants receiving more than one award;
- ⊙ Building works and repair to motor vehicles were judged too expensive for the fund to meet and therefore excluded;
- ⊙ These priorities were set by meetings of an appeal panel of representatives from the Birmingham Foundation and not-for-profit local organisations that knew and worked in the area. Whilst proceedings of the panel were confidential, to protect both applicants and panel members, the process was audited and details on general outcomes are available if required.

Number of Grants Distributed:

- ⊙ Based on agreed priorities, grants were awarded to over **140** families/households;
- ⊙ The amount of grants to individual families/householders ranged from **£40** for a single person to just over **£3,000** to a family with 6 children who, like many others, had to move out of their home when the tornado struck. Some families were unable to return to their original home!
- ⊙ The average grant was in the order of **£805**.

Tornado affected Streets:

Please find listed below a list of the affected streets in which one or more families / householders were successful with a grant:

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Abbotsford Road | Chesterton Gardens | Henley Villas | Queenswood Road |
| Alder Road | Chestnut Road | Herbert Road | Roshven Road |
| Alfred Road | Church Road | Hickman Road | Runcorn Road |
| Anderon Park Road | Clent Villas | Ivy Avenue | Sandford Road |
| Aukland Road | Clifton Road | Kensington Avenue | South Range |
| Birchwood Crescent | Copperbeech Drive | Ladypool Road | Stoney Lane |
| Birchwood Road | Dearman Road | Matlock Villas | Taunton Road |
| Brighton Road | Eton Road | Pembroke Road | White Street |
| Brunel Close | Farm Road | Poplar Ave | Woodhurst Road |
| Brunswick Road | Grantham Road | Queen Street | Woodstock Road |

Funds Received:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| ⊙ Corporate Donations: | £ 15,509.02 |
| ⊙ Birmingham City Council Donation: | £ 100,000.00 |
| ⊙ Individual Donations: | £ 4,504.96 |
| ⊙ Individual Gift Aid (tax claim) | <u>£ 463.40</u> |
| ⊙ Total: | £ 120,477.38 |

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Tornado Hardship Fund Appeal.

...What happens now?

Unfortunately all the funds have been fully utilised and the programme came to an end on the 30th November 2006 and we can no longer accept any applications.

We are pleased to have been able to help victims of the Birmingham Tornado and the Birmingham Foundation continues helping communities throughout Birmingham and the Black Country.

If you wish to learn more about us log on to www.bhamfoundation.co.uk/givefs.html

For further information about the Tornado please visit:

<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/tornado.bcc> or

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/west_midlands/4726643.stm

Other links:

- © Birmingham Post press release 7th February 2005 – [Residents grateful for Tornado Fund](#)
- © [Letter received by a resident affected by the Tornado](#) (pdf file)