



Levenshulme Old Library

Heritage | Arts | Community

Common Space

**Affordable space, shared resources
and community partnership.**



levenshulmeoldlibrary.org.uk
hello@levenshulmeoldlibrary.org.uk
July 2026



Common Space: Helping Community Ideas Grow

Every year, Levenshulme Old Library invests thousands of pounds in making our space and resources affordable for community organisations, artists and grassroots groups.

We call this Common Space. We offer reduced hire rates to organisations whose work helps make Levenshulme a more creative, connected and inclusive place.

Each year, Common Space supports around 40 different community organisations delivering over 1000 hours of activity.

What Makes a Good Common Space Partner?

We welcome ideas that bring people together, create opportunities, or help make Levenshulme a more connected, creative and inclusive place.

This might include:

- Arts, culture and heritage projects
- Community meetings and resident groups
- Creative workshops and classes
- Health and wellbeing activities
- Learning and skills development
- Support services and advice sessions
- Family and intergenerational activities
- Activity celebrating the diversity of our local communities
- Projects tackling isolation or inequality

Common Space is open to a wide range of organisations and individuals, including charities, community groups, artists, CICs, social enterprises, schools, informal collectives and local residents. We look at each proposal on its own merits rather than applying strict organisational categories.

Getting Started

Every organisation is different. To help us understand your plans, determine whether Common Space is the right fit and make sure our investment in affordable space and resources reaches the people and organisations who will benefit most, we may ask for:

- A short description of your organisation, project or activity
- What you'd like to use the space for
- Who the activity is aimed at
- How often you'd like to use the building
- Typical participant numbers
- Whether there is a charge to attend, and if so, how pricing has been set
- Your website or social media (where available)
- Your charity number or company registration (where applicable)
- Details of any safeguarding, insurance or licences required for your activity
- Depending on the nature of the activity, we may also ask about:
 - The community benefit your project creates
 - Whether the activity is commercially operated or intended to generate profit
 - Any funding or partners supporting the project
 - Accessibility arrangements and any support needs for participants
- We keep our requests proportionate and don't expect lengthy applications or complicated paperwork. In most cases, a conversation is enough.

What We Ask of Common Space Partners

Common Space is built on partnership. In return for affordable access to space and resources, we ask organisations to help us demonstrate the value of the programme and contribute positively to the life of the building.

This may include:

- Sharing basic information about your activity and attendance when requested.
- Working with us to capture photographs or stories about your project, where appropriate and with the necessary consent.
- Acknowledging Levenshulme Old Library in promotional materials and using our logo where appropriate.
- Helping us promote your activity through our website and social media where possible.
- Creating a welcoming, inclusive and respectful environment for participants.
- Looking after the building and leaving spaces ready for the next users.
- Letting us know if your activity changes significantly, so we can review your partnership if needed.

Every organisation has different levels of capacity and we aim to keep these expectations proportionate. Our goal is to build long-term partnerships that strengthen both the organisations we work with and the wider Levenshulme community.

Activities That May Not Qualify

Common Space is intended to support activity that delivers a clear public benefit. While we welcome a wide range of organisations and ideas, not every booking will be eligible for community pricing.

The community rate will not usually apply to:

- Activity primarily intended to generate private profit rather than community benefit.
- Corporate events, commercial training or business functions.
- Commercial workshops, classes or services where participant charges are significantly above typical community rates.
- Private parties, celebrations or personal events.
- Activities that are exclusive in nature and offer limited wider community benefit.
- Activity that conflicts with the charitable aims, values or operational requirements of Levenshulme Old Library.

Charging participants or generating income does not automatically make an activity ineligible. We recognise that many community organisations need to recover costs or generate a surplus to remain sustainable. We consider each request on its own merits, taking into account the overall purpose, accessibility and community impact of the activity.

Reviewing Common Space Activities

Common Space is designed to support organisations as they grow and evolve. We recognise that activities can change over time, and we'll occasionally review partnership arrangements to make sure they continue to reflect the nature of the activity and the best use of our limited community resources.

In some cases, an organisation may initially receive the community rate while establishing a new project, with hire arrangements reviewed if the activity becomes commercially established, significantly expands, or changes in nature.

Our aim is always to work collaboratively and give partners plenty of notice if any changes are needed. We'll always seek to have an open conversation before making any adjustments to pricing or partnership arrangements.

Great community spaces are shaped by the people who use them. If you have an idea, a project or an activity that could make a positive contribution to life in the Levenshulme area, we'd love to hear from you. Get in touch for an informal chat about how Common Space could support your work, and how we might build something together.



levenshulmeoldlibrary.org.uk
hello@levenshulmeoldlibrary.org.uk