

GRANT AID SCHEME GUIDANCE NOTES AND CONDITIONS OF FUNDING

Introduction

The Town Council wishes to assist local voluntary organisations with or without charitable status which provide services to residents within the Parish of Burntwood.

Please ensure that you read the Guidance Notes and Conditions of Funding before completing the application form. Failure to meet the conditions will mean that your application will be disqualified.

Guidance Notes and Conditions of Funding

1. Grant Aid Applications can only be accepted from organisations that provide a service to the local community or enhance the image and identity of the Parish of Burntwood.
2. These notes have been prepared to explain the Council's Grant Aid Scheme and include the Council's Policy with regard to grant aid applications from faith-based organisations (Appendix A). Please read these carefully before you complete the grant application form.
3. There is a limited Grant Aid budget each year and the total amount requested by applicants usually exceeds the amount available. It is therefore important that all the questions on the application form are answered as fully as possible to provide a detailed picture of the activities of your organisation within the Parish.
4. The scheme provides start-up grants for new organisations as well as grants to organisations already operating.
5. All applicants completing an application form will be deemed to have read and agreed to the requirements outlined in the "Guidance Notes and Conditions of Funding".
6. Applications will not be considered from individuals.
7. Applications will not be considered from organisations intending to support or oppose any particular political party, or to discriminate on the grounds of race, gender, age, sexual orientation or religion.
8. Applications will not be considered from private organisations operated as a business to make a profit or surplus.
9. Applications will not be considered from "upwards funders", i.e. local groups whose fundraising is sent to their central headquarters for redistribution.
10. Applications may be considered from national organisations or local groups with access to funds from national "umbrella" or "parent" organisations, provided funds are not available from their national bodies, or the funds available are inadequate for a specified project.
11. Education, health or social services establishments for whom the Central Government, Health Authority, District or County Council are the appropriate funder will not be grant aided.

12. The organisation must have clearly stated aims and objectives set out in writing and endorsed by the governing body.
13. The organisation is required to provide a written Constitution that has been formally adopted by the members of that organisation.
14. The organisation must provide, or propose to provide, an activity or service that will be of benefit to the Burntwood community or to a particular group of residents in that community.
15. The organisation is required to submit audited accounts or accounts that have been independently examined by a suitably qualified person, for the previous two financial years or, in the case of a newly formed organisation, a comprehensive budget and business plan.
16. The organisation is required to have a bank account in its own name with at least two authorised representatives required to sign each cheque.
17. The organisation must complete the Grant Aid Project Assessment Sheet and give an explanation of how it meets any of the criteria outlined on the Assessment Sheet.
18. Grants may be claimed at any time during the financial year on provision of evidence that the money has been used for the purpose stated. In the case of an advance payment, written confirmation will be required stating that the money will be used for the purpose requested, as well as completion of a monitoring and evaluation form at the end of the project period or the financial year (i.e. 31 March), whichever is the sooner.

(Grants will only be paid after evidence is submitted to and verified by the Town Council that the money has been used for the purpose agreed).

19. The Town Council reserves the right to reclaim the grant in the event of it not being used for the purpose specified on the application form.
20. Organisations that receive a grant will be required to acknowledge the Town Council's contribution on all publicity/printed material so as to promote public awareness of the role of the Town Council in promoting the work of voluntary organisations.
21. All applications will be considered on their merits, but it must be fully understood that there is no guarantee of a grant or a continuing grant.

If you have any questions, require further information or would like to discuss your circumstances before submitting a formal application please contact:

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