



## Community Support Grants awarded by High Wycombe Town Committee

### Introduction

Community support grants are awarded to not-for-profit voluntary and community sector groups based and operating in one of the unparished Wards of High Wycombe. The maximum award is £1,500.

Grants are capital monies awarded for one-off projects/events/activities which will be delivered over a defined period. Applicants must provide proof that they are offering a service to their local communities which will be of direct benefit to residents living in the unparished wards of High Wycombe. Evidence must also be provided to show that a grant will provide value for money in terms of what can be achieved for residents.

### Main Criteria

A project/event/activity must meet at least one of the Council's 2020-2023 priorities. The Council has identified four key priority areas against which all applications will be assessed. No group is expected to meet every priority; however, there may be a strong synergy between the priorities and actions in one area that may contribute to the delivery of more than one priority.

The Council's key priorities are:

- **Strengthening our communities**
- **Protecting the vulnerable**
- **Improving our environment**
- **Increasing prosperity**

For further information on Buckinghamshire Council's priorities, please see our [Corporate Plan for 2020 - 2023](#).

### Examples of Successful Applications

Examples of the type of application which would meet the criteria are listed below. This is by no means an exhaustive list.

- Community days
- Children's activities
- Festivals
- Activities to promote understanding of different faiths
- Activities to celebrate different cultures, biodiversity and conservation projects
- Sports activities including assistance to sports clubs
- Sports/hobby clubs e.g. equipment, events
- Community projects
- Children's Holiday Play schemes\*\*

**Typically, we award funding to:**

- constituted voluntary-led organisations with charitable aims
- registered charities
- charitable incorporated organisations (CIO)
- social enterprises
- community interest companies (CIC)
- companies limited by guarantee that have charitable aims
- membership groups

**We are unable to accept applications from groups that:**

- do not have a bank or building society account in the name of the organisation/group, with a minimum of 2 unrelated cheque signatories (we are unable to send funds to personal bank accounts)
- have not returned evaluation reports for previous projects
- are subject to an investigation by the Charity Commission, the police, or any other organisation in a legal capacity
- fail due diligence or do not comply with Charity Commission guidelines, for example we would not provide funding to organisations that had related bank signatories, several related trustees, income well more than the threshold for charitable registration etc.

**We are unable to fund:**

- unspecified contributions to general fund-raising appeals or large projects (if your proposal is part of a larger project, you may be eligible for Community Board Funding)
- for profit or commercial elements of charitable organisations
- public bodies to carry out their statutory obligations and for activities that are supported by other statutory bodies
- direct replacement of statutory or public funding
- political activity or campaigning
- contingency funding
- fundraising activities
- sponsored events, multiple trophies, or prizes
- individuals
- profit making or business ventures, including start-up costs
- activities that are primarily about the promotion of worship/ faith activities (faith organisations may apply for funding towards a project/activity that is open to the whole community and has wider social benefits)
- recurrent projects or events
- contribution to salaries (we can support sessional costs within a project)
- a group funded in the previous year

**We do not normally fund:**

- projects that exclude community access
- retrospective projects or where expenditure has already been incurred/committed i.e., there must be at least 6 weeks between receipt of applications and the start of

activities for the assessment process to be completed and proof to be provided to show a grant is needed

- national or regional charities, although we can support local branches of national charities if they are financially independent and locally managed
- salaries
- organisations whose free reserves include more than 12 months of running costs
- medical research and equipment
- organisations that do not have their own bank account (through prior agreement a group may nominate and authorise an organisation to apply on their behalf)
- School PTA and Friends groups unless the project supports the wider community
- non project costs for example general core costs and capital items for offices
- projects which could potentially exacerbate or exploit tensions or misunderstandings within communities

### **Grant Conditions**

Read the Grant conditions – link to T&C's on website once agreed and website updated.

### **Process**

In general, applicants will receive funding in advance. The small size of most voluntary and community groups means that they are reliant on grants and donations to deliver their project and cannot go ahead unless a grant is received in advance. It is essential that applicants provide evidence with their applications that there is a need for a grant and that the activity for which funding is required will not go ahead without it.

A Community Support grant application form can be completed on Buckinghamshire Council's website. Alternatively, applicants can download the application form and criteria from the Buckinghamshire Council website and email the completed form to [grants@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:grants@buckinghamshire.gov.uk). Application forms must be signed by an officer of the applying organisation e.g. Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer.

Grants may be applied for at any time during the year. However, the grant fund has a finite budget and grants will be awarded on a first come first served basis. Decisions will be made within 6 weeks of receipt of applications.