COMMUNITY GRANT AND SUPPORT SCHEME

Up Hatherley Parish Council

The Parish Council has limited resources available to support projects during each financial year, but wishes to offer some opportunities to organisations or individuals whose projects would not succeed without a small amount of local financial support.

A ring-fenced sum will be allocated in support of this scheme in each financial year.

Guidelines of the Parish Council Community Grant Scheme:

1. The Parish Council, through this Community Grant Scheme (the Scheme), will have regard to the total budget allocated for grants when considering its contribution to any project, in any one year, by way either of a grant or loan.
2. The Scheme will support both capital projects (for the purchase of equipment or facilities) and revenue costs over a short period. Applicants should include the VAT element in the gross cost but exclude it if they do not pay VAT or are able to reclaim it from HMRC.
3. The Scheme will support repeat purchases of capital equipment and on-going running costs. It does not support staff salaries/wages, nor does it allow for the notional cost of volunteers' time to be included as part of the applicant's contribution.
4. Any individual or organisation (excluding other local authority bodies), wherever located, is eligible to apply to the Council for support.
5. To be eligible for support, a project must be able to demonstrate clearly that it would bring direct benefit to all or part of the Parish. If the project is not located in the Parish, it would still be eligible for support if it could show that it would directly benefit all or some of the inhabitants of the Parish.
6. Grant applications will be considered only if they are made on the Community Grant Scheme Application Form. No additional written information will be required in support of an application but clarification may be sought, and conditions may be attached, to any award.
7. A grant application and any offer of grant must be made in advance of any expenditure on a project. An application made retrospectively will be rejected.
8. Completed applications will be considered by the Council, on their individual merits, at any of its meetings. Any sum unallocated from the Scheme budget by Council's February meeting, will be returned to that year's general expenditure budget. Any grant offer not claimed by 31st March in the financial year in which it was offered, will be automatically withdrawn.

*The Community Grant Scheme is authorised by the Local Government Act 1972, Section 137 (1) (Power of Local Authorities to incur expenditure for certain purposes not otherwise authorised).

9. The Council encourages applicants to seek funding from other sources and to contribute to project costs from their own resources. The Council will generally not contribute more than 50% of the gross cost of a project but may contribute up to 100% of the costs of a particular community project or service where it considers that it is in the community interest to do so and/or no other source of funding is available.

10. An application will be assessed by Council against the following, ranked, priorities:-
    - It would benefit more rather than fewer Parish residents.
    - Its benefits would be to the more disadvantaged or vulnerable residents, and disproportionately benefit young people and older people.
    - If a small group only benefits from the project, most would be Parish residents.
    - It would benefit a larger rather than a smaller area of the Parish.

11. Applications will also be assessed against the Parish Council's stated priorities in support of the well-being of the community:
    - Maintaining both the built and the natural character of the Parish
    - Ensuring a safe environment for parishioners to live within and move around
    - Promoting people's feeling of inclusion throughout the Parish
    - Developing good facilities that provide for the safety and well-being of community members
    - Furthering our environmental goals.

12. Grant funds will not be released until the recipients are in a position to proceed with the funded project.

13. All grant recipients are asked to provide a short report to confirm that the money has been used as intended and, if possible, to provide photographs of the funded activity or item.

14. The Parish Council will not consider further applications from successful grant applicants within the same financial year.

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