

Downley Parish Council Grant Awarding Policy

Downley Parish Council will consider applications for grants from voluntary groups or charitable organisations. To qualify for an award, the applicant must be able to demonstrate that any funding from the Parish Council will benefit the parish, or residents of the parish. The aim of this document is to provide guidelines for the Parish Council when considering requests for grants and donations.

Grant applications will be dealt with by the full council. In determining the validity of an application, the council will refer to the following guidelines. Downley Parish Council will give priority to those applications it deems to give the greatest benefit to Downley.

The Parish Council's aim is to ensure that all our award-making activity is open, transparent, fair, competitive and supports local organisations.

Applications will be considered for the following purposes:

1. For the purpose of purchasing equipment either in part or in full.
2. For the funding of transport that will enable group members to partake in a group trip or outing.
3. For activities that raise the profile of the area.
4. For running costs of a viable group that is experiencing a period of hardship.
5. For hosting special events or celebrations.
6. For the provision of recreational facilities.

Conditions:

1. Grants will not be awarded to individuals
2. The award must be used for the purpose for which the application was made.
3. If the group is unable to use the award for the stated purpose, all monies must be returned to the Parish Council.
4. All awards must be properly accounted for and evidence of expenditure should be supplied if requested. If the Parish Council is not satisfied with the arrangements, they reserve the right to request a refund of monies awarded.
5. Donations to Registered Charities in response to a general fundraising appeal will not normally be considered.
6. Groups operating outside the parish boundary will be limited to an upper limit of £100.
7. Applications are not considered from "upward funders", i.e. local groups whose fund raising is sent to their central HQ for redistribution.

8. Applications from education, health or social service establishments will not be considered where the project is a statutory duty of the applicant or forms part of the curriculum or normal working day.
9. For grant applications where the Council is only paying part of the costs of a particular project, the Council will pledge the sum which will be held for up to six months until such time as the applicant can demonstrate that they have secured full funding for their project.

Eligibility:

1. Any charity, voluntary group or community organisation.
2. Agencies that operate within the parish and are of benefit to the local community.
3. The Parish Council may recognise successful applications in its own reports to the Parish.

PARISH COUNCIL POWERS and SECTION 137

A parish council has a number of powers granted under various Acts of Parliament which enable it to spend money. Grants fall under the statutory power of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, which permits it to spend up to a certain limit on anything which in the opinion of the council is in the interests of the parish, or any part of it, or is in the interest of all or some of its inhabitants. This amount is limited to a figure per head of the electorate on the electoral role on 1st January before the commencement of the financial year.

The parish council has no obligation to spend all or any of the money available under S.137. This money is not 'gifted' to the parish council; it forms part of the Precept which the parish council makes on the District Council. The cost of any grants or donations is therefore reflected in residents' council tax bills.

HOW WILL DECISIONS BE MADE?

The decisions will be made by Downley Parish Council. The Council's decision is final. Unfortunately, we may not be able to fund all projects as there may be more applications than there is money available, however all applications will be considered carefully. Due account will be taken of the extent to which funding has been sought or secured from other sources or own fund-raising activities

HOW TO APPLY Applications should be through completion of a grant application form available on the Downley Parish Council website.

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