

Arborfield & Newland Parish Council

Grants & Donations Policy

Introduction

The Council receives requests for grants and donations from a variety of organisations. This document sets out the legal power to award grants and/or donations, the conditions of same and how grants and/or donations can be applied for and are determined.

The aim is to encourage and support activities and projects which will directly benefit the Parish and Parishioners of Arborfield & Newland.

Power

The Council has the power to award grants and donations under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 137, 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 or all or some of its inhabitants. The 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 figure is index-linked and is advised by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) annually.

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

Policy

The Councils aim is to ensure that all award-making activity is

- Open
- Transparent
- Fair
- Competitive
- Supports local organisations

Any grant or donation made by the Council must directly benefit the Parish or Parishioners of Arborfield & Newland. The Council cannot make grants or donations to individuals.

Requests for a grant or donation must be for charitable, benevolent, social, cultural, recreational or philanthropic purposes.

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Review Date: This document shall be reviewed every 4 years to coincide with election year or if legislation changes, whichever is the sooner. The next election year is 2022.

All proposed expenditure must be detailed in the Councils annual budget meeting, to enable calculation of the Council's precept.

The Council will only make a grant or donation to non-profit making organisations where membership is open (i.e. no discrimination of membership on grounds of sex, religion, race etc.)

The Council will consider applications for funds in situations:

- Where there is no other way of obtaining the relevant funds
- Where the funds will enable the relevant group or organisation to access or 'unlock' funds or assistance from third parties and
- Where monies have been donated or raised but these are insufficient, and funds are needed to bridge the resulting gap

The Council will endeavour to provide assistance and support where appropriate to groups and organisations in the parish wishing to access grants and other funds from third parties and local authorities.

What isn't eligible for funding

- Support for individuals or commercial organisations
- Projects that are the prime responsibility of other statutory authorities
- Projects that improve or benefit privately owned land or property
- Projects that have already been completed or will have been by the time the grant is made
- A grant or donation cannot be made to fund political activities.

When to apply

The Council awards grants and donations at the end of the financial year, generally at the February full Council meeting. Applications for the current financial year must be received by 31st January.

How are decisions made?

All applications will be considered together after the closing date. The decisions will be made by Arborfield & Newland Parish Council at the February full Council meeting. The Councils decision is final. Unfortunately, not all applications will be successful if there are

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either more applications than there is money available or the Council decides not to award, but all applications will be considered carefully and equally.

Notes

The Council's decision on any application is final and there is no right of appeal.

The Council reserves the right to decline any application without giving reasons for its decision.

The council will not commit to any continuing expenditure.

Nothing in this policy prevents the Council from providing a grant or donation to a group, organisation or project without application, and at any time, where the Council considers that the giving of such a grant or donation will be of benefit to residents of the parish.

Where a Member of the Council is a member of a group or organisation applying for funding, that Member must declare, in accordance with its Code of Conduct, an interest in the matter and refrain from voting. Advice may be sought from the Monitoring Officer.

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