

MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS POLICY

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Malvern Town Council (hereafter referred to as 'the Council') recognises the immense value of voluntary and community activity and its contribution to residents' well-being, the local economy and the sustainability of a wide range of services which benefit people living and working in the town. The following policy is based on the principles of fairness, responsiveness to local need and ensuring that public money is spent in a responsible manner.
- 1.2. Grant applications are decided against a range of criteria set by the Council. In order for this Council to be able to assess a wide range of very different applications rationally and objectively, it is both necessary and helpful to specify criteria designed to be a general indication of need, but which are not exclusive and can be flexibly applied. The Council expects that individuals and organisations (eg suppliers and contractors) that it comes into contact with, will act towards the Council with integrity and without thought or actions involving fraud or corruption.

2. The aims of the grants policy

- 2.1. The Council's policy on grants is based on the principle of enabling local community organisations to deliver activities and/or projects to the residents of Malvern.
- 2.2. Malvern Town Council provides grant funding to support the following aims:
 - To provide direct benefit to the residents of Malvern Town.
 - To ensure the provision of voluntary services needed by the Town's residents.
 - To enable local people to participate in/benefit from voluntary groups and activities.
 - To help Malvern's voluntary groups¹ to improve their effectiveness.
 - To support organisations that meet the needs of people experiencing social and economic difficulties.
 - To improve or enhance the local environment.
 - To improve access to services for all sections of the community.
 - To improve the quality of life of residents of Malvern Town.

3. The eligibility of applications will be assessed against the following criteria

- Applicants must answer all the questions on the application form.
- All grants are offered on a one-off basis to support a particular project, event, activity or purchase of equipment.

¹ The Town Council defines a voluntary group as a non-profit making organisation, set up and run by a voluntary, unpaid management committee.

- Grants will be awarded on the basis of need, merit and contribution to the local community.
- Applications must demonstrate significant and direct benefit to the residents of Malvern Town.
- The funding requested must be commensurate with the benefit obtained by the residents of Malvern Town.
- If the applicant has received funding in the previous year the Council must be satisfied that the applicant has delivered that project to a satisfactory level.
- Organisations should not make a presumption that funding will continue on a year-to-year basis and the Council will not normally fund the same project in two consecutive years.
- Applications for projects where the work has already been completed will not be considered.

4. Malvern Town Council will not fund the following:

- Organisations that do not provide a service to the Malvern community.
- Individuals.
- General appeals.
- Statutory organisations or the direct replacement of statutory funding.
- Political groups or activities promoting political beliefs.
- Religious groups where funding is to be used to promote religious beliefs.
- Arts and sports projects or animal welfare groups with no community or charitable element.
- Projects that take place before an application can be decided.
- Organisations that have a closed or restricted membership.
- Malvern Town Council cannot provide funding for maintenance or improvement of property owned by the Church.

5. Criteria for grants

- Large Grants are awarded for amounts above £500 and Small Grants for amounts up to and including £500.
 - Groups wishing to receive a Large or Small Grant will need to complete an application form and provide the required additional supporting information.
 - Large Grants should provide a significant and wide reaching benefit to the residents of Malvern Town.
 - Grants must be spent within one year of being awarded. Any unspent monies left after this time must be returned.
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- Grants cannot be used to support a group's normal running costs and this includes staffing costs.
- Grants are awarded on an annual basis and an award made is not an indication that funding will be continued in future years. Organisations wishing to apply for grants in successive years should give consideration to applications for new projects / initiative in each year.
- Grants can only be used for the purpose stated in the application and the Council reserves the right to reclaim any grant not being used for the specified purpose.
- Organisations must show that there is a dedicated bank account for funds to be paid into. Payments cannot be made into an individual's bank account.
- Should for any reason the organisation disband or the project not be completed, the Council may ask for all or part of the monies to be paid back.
- Only one grant application per year will be accepted from any organisation.
- Additional grant conditions may also be attached to any funding the Council agrees and these will be set out in the award confirmation letter.
- Failure to comply with any conditions attached to a grant may result in a request for the grant to be repaid and may affect future grant assistance.
- Grants are awarded at the discretion of the Council and the decision is final.

6. Application and determination process

- Applicants are required to complete and return the application form and send with all supporting documentation to arrive no later than 12 noon on the date stated, in hard copy only.
 - Applicants are required to submit a short statement (as indicated on the grant application form) explaining how the grant will be beneficial to the organisation and to the community or residents of Malvern Town. This statement will be presented to committee to assist in the decision-making process and is essential when evaluating a grant application.
 - Town Council Officers have the right to refuse an application which has been submitted without the required supporting information or an explanation as to why this information has not been supplied by the deadline.
 - Applications will be evaluated by Town Council Officers and then presented for consideration and decision at the appropriate meeting of Policy and Resources Committee in September.
 - The full details of all grant applications will be available on file for scrutiny by any Councillor prior to the meeting. The Town Clerk will provide a summary of the applications for members of the Policy and Resources Committee to consider.
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- Representatives from the applicants' organisations are encouraged to arrange to make a short presentation in support of their application at the start of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting in September.
- Applicants will be notified of the Council's decision following the September meeting. Those organisations who are notified that their application has been successful must claim their grant by written request no later than 31 January the following year.
- All organisations in receipt of grants will be required to acknowledge the Town Council's contribution on publicity/printed material.

7. Monitoring and reporting requirements

- Groups are expected to provide Malvern Town Council with written evidence of how the money has been spent and the benefit it has brought to the people of Malvern. This information should be submitted in the form of a short report (no more than 500 words), before the end of the following April, so that it can be reported at the Annual Council Meeting in May.
- If your project has not taken place or been completed by the end of April, please provide an update on the project instead.

8. Further information

Further information on the Council's Grants Scheme is available if required from:

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