



Bridgend Town Council

Grant aid policy

INTRODUCTION

Bridgend Town Council budgets a sum of money every year for grants to voluntary and "not for profit" organisations.

The Town Council aims to promote a healthy and cohesive community by using its Grant Aid Scheme to provide financial support for community groups working for the benefit of the residents of Bridgend and the well-being of the local community.

These grants are limited and are made available to organisations that address a demonstrable need for assistance.

The Council considers such grants at its quarterly Finance Committee meetings.

GRANT AID TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Bridgend Town Council grants are made for the benefit of people and projects local to Bridgend. Applications will be considered for financial assistance towards a specific project or activity from community associations, cultural, educational, sporting, health and charitable organisations, which are non-commercial and whose membership and field of activity is centred in the area covered by Bridgend Town Council.

Funds are allocated annually to provide grants to charitable, cultural, sporting and community groups serving Bridgend.

COUNCIL AIMS

- To enable local people to participate in voluntary groups and activities.
- To help the Town's voluntary groups to improve effectiveness.
- To ensure the provision of services, needed by the Town's residents, via the voluntary sector.
- To support organisations which meet the needs of people experiencing social and economic difficulties.
- To ensure that there is equality of access and opportunity for all Town residents to the services it provides and funds.

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

REVENUE GRANTS (GENERAL GRANTS)

Small grants are available to assist with the purchase of equipment or the provision of services and, in exceptional cases can be made available to help with operating costs.

Applicants must:

- be 'not for profit' organisations.
- be undertaking work within Bridgend and must demonstrate a need for the service within the community that it operates.
- be properly managed and able to demonstrate that they are able to achieve the objectives for which the grant is applied for.
- normally be seeking funding for a one-off project or event.
- be prepared to provide detailed financial information.

CAPITAL PROJECTS (SPECIAL PROJECTS)

As a general rule the Council will apply a scale of up to one third of costs for projects up to the current maximum amount of grant aid of £10,000 with the following priorities:

1. Projects for the provision of facilities where none currently exists.
2. Projects for the correction of health & safety failures.
3. Projects for the replacement of provision which has come to the end of its natural life.
4. Projects for the improvement or replacement of existing facilities.

TOWN COUNCIL CRITERIA

- Grants are made only to organisations or clubs meeting the needs of residents of Bridgend.
- Grants are made only to non-profit making organisations or projects.
- Applicants should apply to all other relevant statutory bodies and show evidence of their own fund-raising.
- For equipment purchases, applicants must supply one quote for items up to £1000 and three quotes for items over £1000.
- All applicants must provide annual accounts and a copy of the group's constitution to support their application.
- Balances held by the organisation will be taken into consideration when deciding levels of grant aid.

IF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS ARE NOT INCLUDED, THE TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS COMMITTEE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONSIDER YOUR APPLICATION.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A GRANT

Applications must be submitted via the Bridgend Town Council Grant Aid application form. A completed application form should be sent to the Town Clerk along with along with a copy of the latest accounts of the organisation.

TIMETABLE FOR APPLICATIONS

Applications can be submitted at any time and will be put to the next appropriate meeting of the Town Council's Finance Committee.

Applicants will be notified by letter and will be required to complete a grant acceptance form.

Approved grants will be valid until the end of the financial year following the approval. If not taken up by 31st March following approval, the grant will be lost and reapplication necessary, unless a deadline change has been agreed with the Responsible Finance Officer.