

# DESBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

## Community Grants Awarding Policy

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Desborough Town Council has a commitment to encourage, support, and promote, volunteer organisations and charities within Desborough for the benefit of the Town. The Council may make an annual budget provision for Community Grants to help meet its aims.
- 1.2. Community grants come from taxpayer funds and a key principle of this policy is to ensure that grant expenditure is open and transparent.
- 1.3. This policy is designed to act as guidance for applicants and Councillors when considering applications.
- 1.4. Applicants are encouraged to look at alternative sources of funding in addition to this scheme.
- 1.5. To make grants, the Council uses powers contained in legislation including:-
  - (a) the Local Government Act 1972, Section 137 as amended by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Section 37;
  - (b) the Local Government Act 2000, Section 8; and
  - (c) the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Section 19)
  - (d) Localism Act 2011.
- 1.6. Nothing in this policy or elsewhere shall require the Council to make a grant if the Council does not have to lawful power to do so.

### 2. Guidelines for Grant Applications

- 2.1. It is a condition of any grant application that the activity must bring direct benefit to the residents of Desborough. The Council cannot give financial assistance to individuals under this Policy.
- 2.2. Grant Aid application forms will be available on the Council's website and when completed, must be submitted along with the latest set of the applicant group's accounts and other required documentation. Applications will be considered by a Community Grants Advisory Panel in January, April, July, and October. The Advisory Panel will present recommendations to the Council. The grant recommendations will be considered by the Council at the subsequent Council meetings and any payments made thereafter.
- 2.3. National Charities are unlikely to be supported unless it is for a specific project in Desborough where there will be obvious benefit to the Council's area.
- 2.4. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1894, the Council will only grant aid churches for town clocks and possibly for environmental purposes. Church Halls can be grant aided if they are used by the community.
- 2.5. Schools will only be grant aided for environmental purposes or, if in the opinion of the Council their application is for the benefit of the wider community.
- 2.6. At the discretion of the Council any organisation or group with permanent bar facilities in operation may be excluded.
- 2.7. Grants will not be payable to or for any commercial venture for private gain.
- 2.8. Grant applications cannot be made retrospectively.
- 2.9. The Council reserves the right to refuse any grant application which they consider to be inappropriate or against the objectives of the Council
- 2.10. All grants must only be used for the purpose for which they were awarded unless the written approval of Desborough Town Council has been obtained for a change in use of the grant monies, and that any unspent portion of the grant must be returned to the Council by the end of the financial year in which it was awarded.
- 2.11. Grant recipients must provide a written report to the Council on how the grant has been spent, together with satisfactory evidence including copies of quotes and invoices, that the grant has been used for the purposes approved.
- 2.12. Grant recipients may be asked to acknowledge Council support, for example in any press releases, on stationary, and on promotional material.
- 2.13. The council reserves the right to reclaim the balance of any funds not spent in accordance with the approved grant application, left unspent after one year of receipt.

### 3. How Will Grant Applications Be Assessed?

The Community Grants Advisory Panel will work to terms of reference approved by the Town Council.

- 3.1. How well the grant will meet the needs of the community, providing positive benefit to the residents of Desborough.
- 3.2. How effectively the group will use the grant.
- 3.3. Whether the costs are appropriate and realistic.
- 3.4. What level of contributions has been, or will be, raised locally.
- 3.5. Whether the organisation could reasonably have been expected to obtain sufficient funding from another, perhaps more appropriate source.
- 3.6. How the organisation is managed as indicated by the constitution /set of rules.

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The grant application form is available on the Council's website, and from the Town Clerk.

For further information contact:

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