

## **Grant Funding to local Community/Voluntary Groups or Charitable Bodies – Key Requirements**

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers Town and Parish Council's to spend some of its money, subject to limits, on purposes that it considers to be "in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, their area, or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants." The maximum allowed to be spent in the 2017-18 financial year is calculated at £7.57 per elector. Grants under Section 137 are only available to Groups or Organisations (personal applications cannot be considered) and any grant requests should be supported by completing an authorised Application Form. The request must be from a Group or Organisation that supports or has a direct benefit to the residents of Edlington. Set out below, is the Town Council's adopted policy.

### **Edlington Town Council Grant Awarding Policy**

This policy was adopted by Edlington Town Council at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September/2017. Edlington Town Council will consider applications for grants from voluntary groups and charitable organisations in support of worthy causes.

To qualify for an award the applicant must be able to demonstrate that any funding from the Town Council will benefit the Parish, or residents of the Parish. In determining the validity of an application, the Council will refer to the following guidelines:

Applications will normally 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 regardless of their incomes.
3. For training activities, or to purchase the expertise of an outside trainer/instructor/facilitator.
4. For activities that raise the profile of the area.
5. For running costs of a viable group that is experiencing a period of hardship.
6. For hosting special events or celebrations.
7. For the provision of recreational facilities.

Conditions:-

1. Grants will not be awarded to individuals.
2. Additional applications within a 12 month period will not normally be considered.

3. The award must be used for the purpose for which the application was made.
4. If the group is unable to use the award for the stated purpose, all monies must be returned to the Town Council.
5. All awards must be properly accounted for and evidence of expenditure should be supplied on request. If the Town Council is not satisfied with the arrangements, they reserve the right to request a refund of the monies awarded.
6. Donations to Registered Charities in response to a general fundraising appeal will not normally be considered.
7. Groups operating outside the Parish boundary will normally be limited to an upper limit of £100.
8. The Council reserves the right to request a copy of the last set of audited accounts and a recent bank statement from your organisation in support of your application.
9. Payments are subject to normal budgetary constraints of the Town Council
10. The award of any grant is at the discretion of the Town Council

Eligibility:-

1. Any Charity, Voluntary Group or Community Organisation.
2. Agencies that operate within the Parish and are of benefit to the local community, with the following proviso's
  - The Town Council will not fund activities that it considers to be the responsibility of a Statutory Authority
  - Applications from schools for an activity that takes place within the school day will not be considered
  - The Town Council will not fund activities outside of its powers and functions.

The Council normally considers requests for funding from £25 to an upper limit of £250.

In addition, Voluntary Groups or Charitable Organisations are required to:-

1. Ensure efficient levels of administration, hold regular meetings, keep minutes and circulate information to Group members.
2. Keep proper accounts and provide a copy to the Town Council, as required.
3. Report back to the Council as required on its activities.
4. Be open to eligible users, as defined by the Group's constitution.
5. Make every reasonable effort to ensure that equal opportunity principles and approaches are central to the development of the project in respect of which you are

seeking funding. You must make every effort to ensure that everyone within the area who is entitled to take part in your activities know about the project and are welcome.

6. Ensure every child and young person has a right to be safe and happy in the activities in which they participate. Edlington Town Council is committed to ensuring that any activity for children and young people that is supported by it, has in place and implements child protection procedures. The project must adhere to its child protection policy agreed with Edlington Town Council, promote child protection and ensure the proper safeguard of children and young people in its care.