



FERNDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD OF GRANTS

The Town Council is permitted to make grants to voluntary bodies and also to charities where no specific grant making power exists in other legislation and where, in the Council's opinion, the grant will benefit any part of its area or any of the inhabitants. Grant aid is also available under other legislation for support for Community / Village Halls, Crime Prevention Initiatives, Entertainment and the Arts, Parks / Gardens, Tourism and Community Transport etc.

The Town Council have indicated that the following priorities will be met in its grant programme for 2019/20:

Support for Older People.

Support for voluntary organisations working with the elderly.

Children and Young People

Investing in young people and those organisations working with young people to provide skills and recreational opportunities.

Safer and Stronger Communities

Support for initiatives to improve the town environment.

Village / Community Halls

Support for improvements to such buildings.

The Town Council within the limitation of the resources available wish to support charities or not-for-profit organisations who are engaged in helping those who live within the Town Council area. Priority will be given to organisations which have a base in the town.

The Council will therefore consider offering grant aid to those bodies which meet the following criteria:

1. The services, facilities or activities for which a grant is sought are wholly or mainly benefiting the residents of Ferndown.
2. There is a need in Ferndown for the specific services, facilities or activities provided by the organisation.

3. The organisation is a registered charity or “not for profit” body / voluntary group.
4. The organisation has financial need which will be assisted by the grant sought or without which the services, facilities or activities could not be provided or provided at a much-reduced level.
5. Other sources of funding have been fully investigated and where possible secured.
6. The organisation actively encourages disadvantaged groups in the community to make use of the services, facilities or activities provided.
7. Only in very specific or exceptional circumstances will grants in excess of £1000 be considered.

The Town Council will not provide grant aid to activities promoting political or religious beliefs.

The Town Council require a formal grant application form to be completed from voluntary groups/charitable organisations. It must be accompanied with a copy of the last audited accounts or if not audited with confirmation that it has been subject to independent examination in accordance with the guidance produced by the Charity Commission.

If you have any difficulty completing this form, please contact the Town Council staff for assistance.

Please note:

All applications will be discussed in open Council, and information contained on the application form will be available for public inspection.

Because of the Council's financial limitations, it cannot guarantee that all applications meeting the criteria will receive a grant. Applications from organisations will be considered three times a year. **Requests for grant aid for consideration must be received two clear weeks in advance of each meeting.**

The meeting dates for the Finance and General Purposes Committee in the 2019/20 financial year are 3 June 2019, 29 July 2019, 23 September 2019, 25 November 2019, 13 January 2020, 2 March 2020, 27 April 2020.

T Dudley

Tina Dudley
Acting Town Clerk