



Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

Community grant application form - part A

Please ensure you complete all of this form and Part B and send:

- forms A and B
- your organisation's last set of accounts
- the most recent bank statement

to enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk.

1. About your organisation

Name of the organisation requesting the grant

Abingdon Carousel Family Centre

Please state briefly what the purpose of your organisation is

Carousel offers a variety of recreational, care, educational and adult development services both directly to the public using paid employees and volunteers and through making the building available to community focussed partner organisations. All Carousel activities are free to families although we encourage small donations where these can be afforded.

Service priorities are those which benefit families with children aged 0-5 years although other family and community services are also offered under an umbrella approach that aims to be relevant to the community as a whole. Carousel is an inclusive organisation that aims to reflect the views and needs of our families.

2. Your grant request

Please describe the project for which the grant is needed.

To support the ongoing costs of running Abingdon Carousel Family Centre and its services.

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What is the total cost of the project	£79,317
How much grant are you seeking	£35,000
What percentage of the total cost of your project are you seeking via this grant	Approx. 45%
How do you plan to raise the rest of the money for your project	Via fundraising, grants and through income generated through voluntary session donations / room hires
Please show roughly how the costs of the project are broken down	Please see attached budget for our current financial year.
What fund-raising have you undertaken for this project or others in the past 2 years	We regularly apply for both small grants from trusts and larger grants from organisations such as Garfield Weston and Children in Need. We are supported by Christs Hospital & Tesco locally. We have a volunteer who undertakes all our grant applications. In addition, we organise our own fundraising events and encourage centre users to get involved via sponsored runs etc. Details of fundraising in 21-22 year can be seen on attached annual report

3. Local benefit.

4.

How many people take part in your organisation’s activities? Give local branch numbers if you are a national organisation.	As members	750e (Carousel session users per year)
	As recipients	1000e (via the centre being used by other services per year)

Please fill in the table below relating to numbers of members and/or recipients falling into each category. Estimates are acceptable provided an “e” is put after the figure.

Age profile	0-16	16-65	over 65
- Members	475e	275e	
- Recipients	500e	500e	

Gender profile	Male	Female
- Members	250e	500e
- Recipients	400e	600e

Local connection	Town resident	Attend education in town	Neither resident nor attending education in town
- Members	700	NA	50
- Recipients	950	NA	50

5. Vision and objectives

Please explain how your project will meet the town councils vision and objectives, which are set out below. **You do not need to respond to each point** but it is important that your project addresses the town council's vision and at least one objectives.

4a. Vision

To develop an inclusive community so that Abingdon is the place where everyone wants to live and where the wellbeing of residents is prioritised. In developing this community, the town will be one which is environmentally sustainable, vibrant, resilient and safe.

Abingdon Carousel aims to provide an inclusive, and educational support service for a wide and diverse range of families living in Abingdon, specifically those with babies & preschool aged children.

We provide a range of facilities and programmes, through the provision of a safe and stimulating space, for children to socialise, learn and play and for parents / carers to receive guidance and support.

We also provide targeted support for families with children with special educational needs and disabilities, families who speak English as a second language/ are asylum seekers / refugees, and families who are on a low income.

The families that visit the centre tell us that we are vital to them, as we provide a welcoming safe space where they can meet other parents and seek support from staff when they are in need.

4b. Objectives

1. To respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency

2. To develop a resilient, sustainable town which will provide a home for residents now and in the future

3. To manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future

4. To work with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need and to create opportunities to increase social inclusivity

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abingdon Carousel is an essential town amenity offering a variety of free services for local families especially where they are effected by low income / poverty. • We support parents / carers in developing skills and strategies for effective parenting both now and in the future. These include Family Links Parenting Programmes and modelling positive behaviours during our sessions. • The centre provides an affordable community hub from which partner organisations can offer their services. Currently the centre is used by the Health Visitors, OXPIP, the SENNS team, Abingdon Community Church, Mental health Natters, a German Speaking playgroup, the NCT and in the past year, Damascus. • Where is possible, we use volunteers to reduce the staffing costs of the centre whilst maximising our offering. We continually seek to offset costs, where possible, by using local services such as the Community Fridge and working with local partners such as Tesco & Waitrose. • We are a registered Warm Welcome Space and are able to offer advice, support and referrals around the cost of living rises. • We work closely with local schools to deliver a collaborative approach to Family Links sessions and ensure we support School Readiness for local children.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We enable parents / carers to engage via a range of opportunities where they can meet other families, undertake personal development activities and become active members of the community, so reducing isolation. • We work closely with the Health Visiting team, Host Abingdon and other local organisations to ensure we are part of the team around the most vulnerable families using our centre.

- We run a monthly SEND group with Swings and Smiles and have a dedicated SEND staff member to ensure the specific needs of our families are heard and met. We aim to make our sessions as inclusive as possible so all families can access all our sessions.
- We provide ongoing support to families who are asylum seeking, refugees and/ or who speak English as a second language. This includes providing occasional food boxes, equipment & clothes donated by other centre users & rooms to run ESOL courses.

6. Other/previous grant awards

Please provide details of any grant awards you have received from the town council, other councils or large organisations that you have received in the past three years

We have received the following funding from

Abingdon Town Council;

13th Jan 2023 - £15k

29th June 2022 – £15k

7th Dec 2021 - £15k

24th Jun 2021 - £15k

11th Feb 2021 - £15k

23rd Mar 2020 - £15k

21st Sept 2019 - £15k

Other councils

We received £300 from Marcham Town Council in Jan 2023.

Mar 2021 – O.C.C. Councillor Priority Fund - £4970.74 – office improvements.

Feb 2021 – O.C.C. Councillor Priority Fund - £6908.50 - – towards creating a Sensory Space and funding a Public Face project to help with signage, leaflets etc.

Other large grants;

Garfield Weston – 25th June 2021 - £7500 towards regeneration of the centre's services following Covid

Sovereign Vale Housing – 31st Mar/ 5th Oct 2020 - £2625 towards running our Saturday Club.

Please list any grant applications to other councils or bodies which are currently pending

We have a number of funding applications which we are awaiting a reply from. These are mostly for small grants of under £1000. These total approx. £12,000 however we do not expect to be successful with all that we have applied for. We also have an application in with Comic Relief for £9500.

6. About your organisation

Please explain what structure your organisation has, i.e. is it a charity, a society, or another type of model

We are a registered charity with a board of trustees. The day-to-day running of the centre is overseen by a centre manager with support from a small team of playworkers who run sessions. All other support is provided by volunteers.

What is the balance of your main account according to the most recent bank statement?

£18,789.99

Additional financial information

Does your organisation have any other finances held in other accounts?

Yes, we have small reserves account.

If so, please provide full details of all your additional finances, including recent figures.

We currently hold £20,018.92 in the reserves account. Please see attached bank statement for verification.

If these funds are earmarked for any specific projects, please provide further information about this.

The bulk of these funds are expected to cover the deficit as detailed on the attached 2022/2023 budget. This fund also holds £6024 in restricted funding for a sensory space project.