



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

North East Abingdon Community Association (NEACA)

Please state briefly what the purpose of your organisation is

NEACA provides a Community Hall and Bar. The Community Hall is home to a pre-school (operates as a non-profit charity) and various local groups e.g., Yoga, painting classes, Church etc. The hall is also used by local residents and groups e.g. birthday parties, AGMs, prize giving. We also host a number of fund raising and music events.

2. Your grant request

Please describe the project for which the grant is needed.

The removal of our Community Hall carpet (tiles) and the restoration of the wood 'sprung' floor underneath. The Hall was carpeted over 30 years ago and the carpet is now badly stained and has become loose in parts.

The carpet is regularly 'deep' cleaned for hygiene reasons as a pre-school operates in the Hall. The cleaning is expensive and relies on chemical-based carpet cleaners, also we have found that the staining cannot be removed which detracts from the attractiveness of the Hall. The wooden floor underneath is sprung (which is a rare facility in Abingdon) and we would like to return to the Hall to its original condition.

The project will a) remove and dispose responsibly the existing carpet tiles, b) sand and polish the wood floor, to close to its original state, c) prime and seal the floor with high grade varnish.

In summary: we hope that by doing this project that we will:

- a) reduce the environmental impact of operating the Hall by reducing the use of chemical carpet cleaners
- b) reduce our operating costs to help us offset the impact of the 'cost of living' crisis and minimise any increase in other costs we have to pass on to our users
- c) to make our Hall more attractive to a wider range of users eg dancing, exercise classes by restoring our 'sprung' wooden floor and hopefully increase the utilisation of the Hall.

What is the total cost of the project

£2300

How much grant are you seeking

£2300

What percentage of the total cost of your project are you seeking via this grant

100%

How do you plan to raise the rest of the money for your project

N/A

Please show roughly how the costs of the project are broken down

Labour £1000

Materials £1100

Disposal of carpet tiles etc £200

What fund-raising have you undertaken for this project or others in the past 2 years

Non

3. Local benefit.

How many people take part in your organisation's activities? Give local branch numbers if you are a national organisation.

Note: we do not have Members or Recipients as such; we have therefore shown you a split based on regular (multiple bookings throughout year eg weekly or monthly) and ad-hoc or casual users (one-off users).

Community Hall only - Excludes bar

As members (regular users)

150-200.e regular Hall users eg pre-school, yoga, Morris men, Peachcroft Christian Centre (PCC), Cygnet Art Classes etc.

Community Hall only - Excludes bar

As recipients (ad-hoc users)

**4000-6000.e per annum
in 2023 we had approx. 100 Hall bookings with a wide range of numbers attending; for the purposes of this exercise we have estimated between 40-60.e per booking and**

		verified this with our booking secretary Note: there will be some overlap eg people attending more than one event.
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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.

Note: we do not have a detailed analysis of this and have shown an estimated percentage based on type of activity.

Age profile	0-16	16-65	over 65
- Members – regular users	60% e	20% e	20%e
- Recipients - Ad-hoc users	33% e	33% e	33% e

Gender profile	Male	Female
- Members	50% e	50% e
- Recipients	50% e	50% e

Local connection	Town resident	Attend education in town	Neither resident nor attending education in town
- Members	90% e	n/a	n/a
- Recipients	90% e	n/a	n/a

4. 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.

NEACA was established in the 1980s to:

a) **“Promote the benefits of the inhabitants of North-East Abingdon and the neighbourhood**, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said inhabitants and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants;

b) Establish or secure the establishment of a community centre and maintain and manage the same to further these objectives;

c) Promote such other charitable purposes as may from time to time be determined”

We continue to operate the Community Hall and Bar on this basis and we believe these values are in line and supportive of the councils Vision. Specifically we believe that our project will promote this vision by improving the environmental sustainability of our operation as well as increase the attractiveness of hiring our Hall to a wider and potentially more diverse set of users.

4b. Objectives

1. To respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency

The current carpet needs frequent ~~chemical~~ **chemical-based** chemical-based cleaning as we operate a pre-school as well as hire the hall to many other groups (who can consume food, drink) and hygiene safety is very important. We also have other groups such as Yoga whose activities mean that a dirty floor is unacceptable.

The replacement of the carpet will greatly reduce the usage of cleaning materials and therefore have a positive impact on the environment as well as reduce our costs. The sealed wood floor will be far easier to clean eg with a broom, and for spillages we will use water and if required a small amount of chemical free surface cleaner.

The benefits of chemical-free cleaning in the Hall will be:

- Improved Indoor Air Quality: ...
- Reduced Health Risks: ...
- Environmental Sustainability: ...
- Employee/user Well-being:

2. To develop a resilient, sustainable town which will

The Community Hall and Bar serve the residents of North East Abingdon. In recent years we are all facing

provide a home for residents now and in the future

the challenge of the increasing cost of living as well as trying to address the climate change crisis.

A particular challenge for our community association has been the increasing cost of operation of the Hall (eg our energy bills have increased by over 75%, also our lease for the land on which the NEACA buildings sit has increased significantly, also due to an admin error by our landlord we have a backdated rent increase to 1994 to pay) – we are working hard to try to limit how much of our cost increase we pass onto our users who are already financially hard pressed. We want to operate an inclusive community facility which is accessible to all, not just those with deep pockets.

By reducing our cleaning costs (Hall carpet monthly deep cleaning costs approx. £500 per year), we hope to be able offset some of our other cost increases - which will be a direct benefit to all our users.

We also think that the project will mean that the Hall is more attractive to users and we will be able to increase utilisation meaning that we will increase our income further offsetting cost increases.

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

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

The Community Hall and Bar provides facilities for many groups (regular users) eg PCC [\(Peachcroft Christian Centre\)](#), Yoga, Peachcroft Pre-school, Cygnet painting classes, Morris dancers, pool teams, darts teams, cribbage, football prize giving, Aunt Sally etc. We also have a large number of ad-hoc users ranging from groups hiring the Hall for a party to individuals wishing to use the bar.

They encompass -a wide range social backgrounds, age and diversity. All are made welcome and we believe that we perform a vital role in increase social inclusivity in our area.

We also host a number of charity fund raising events each year eg in 2023 we ran an Aunt Sally tournament in aid of a local Cancer Charity, as well as charity bingo nights eg recently one of which was in support of Carousel, all of which has an indirect benefit to the residents of Abingdon.

5. 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 grants 1) OCC £4500 in 2022- replacement of Hall lighting with LED units, 2) Westmill Solar £3700 in 2023 – provision of loft and boiler insulation, 3) OCC £3200 in 2023– replacement of hot water heaters. These project are all related to energy efficiency and reducing carbon footprint.

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

Non

6. About your organisation

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

CIO Charity charity number: 1192878

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

£14,675 (Friday 19/1/24)

Additional financial information

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

Yes

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

£20,000 (Friday 19/1/24)

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

We own the Community Hall and bar and we are responsible for all aspects of the Hall and the integrity of the building. This money is a reserve for emergency and unforeseen events. This money cannot be used for regular costs/maintenance or for new projects.