



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

Oxfordshire Play Association (OPA)

Please state briefly what the purpose of your organisation is

The Oxfordshire Play Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Registered Charity Number 1160320) and has been offering a Countywide Service across Oxfordshire since 1974.

Vision = To improve lives through Play

Mission Statement = To champion and to support the rights of all Children and Young People to have access to high quality, inclusive Play opportunities to improve physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing

We deliver 3 main strands of work;

- Play Projects (Playday, Street Play, Stay & Play, Saturdads, Play Rangers, Playful Woodlands, Therapeutic Playwork, Junior Youth Clubs etc)
- Play Training
- Support Services (Advice, Guidance, Outreach, Partnerships and Networking)

2. Your grant request

Please describe the project for which the grant is needed.

Each year OPA organises a series of Play and Activity days at multiple venues across Oxfordshire in line with the ethos of National Playday, the celebration of the Childs Right to Play, (www.playday.org.uk)

From 2012 to 2023 inclusive we have delivered over 140 events across Oxfordshire which have been attended by over 150,000 'guests'
(Our 2020 Events were postponed due to Coronavirus Lockdowns / Restrictions)

The key selling point of our project is that all of our events offer both FREE Entrance and FREE Activities to ensure an Inclusion for ALL.

These events were already becoming increasingly important with the savage cuts previously imposed on Children and Families services in Oxfordshire (including the closure of local Children's Centres and Youth Services) in terms of providing activities and information on services available to local families. These needs have been further exacerbated by the issues caused by Covid-19.

For more than a year, children and their families across the UK were forced to spend time indoors, inactive and isolated from friends due to Covid-19 restrictions. It is not surprising that we have seen unprecedented increases in children's mental health problems and loneliness, alongside reduced physical activity.

In response, child psychologists, paediatricians and educators have independently and urgently called for play to be central to children's recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, and many others agree.

In addition to Austerity and Covid, Families now face an unprecedented Cost of Living Crisis.

Play is vital to children's physical and mental health and development, and it happens when children and young people follow their own ideas and interests, in their own way, and for their own reasons. Play provides opportunities for social interaction and physical activity, it can reduce children's stress and promote wellbeing and is a dynamic facilitator of creativity. Importantly, social connection and play offer myriad learning opportunities and positively support children's academic attainment and learning.

All of our Playday events are very well received and our events in South Abingdon are always very well attended. These events have become a fixture in the local calendar.

These events were extremely popular before the Covid pandemic but are more needed now than ever as Families and Communities continue to recover from numerous Lockdowns and Restrictions which have had a detrimental effect on the Physical and Mental Wellbeing of everyone

We are the only organisation in Oxfordshire that delivers large scale Community events like these offering both FREE Entrance and FREE Activities so that we ensure an inclusion for ALL

As part of these events we have, for many years delivered an event in the Caldecott Ward in South Abingdon at Southern Town Park. Our events in South Abingdon are always very well received and attended.

Within Oxfordshire the Caldecott Ward is the only area to appear in the bottom 20% of areas when measured using the Indices of Multiple Deprivation outside of the 2 main urban areas of Oxfordshire in Oxford City and Banbury.

In 2024 we would like to return to Southern Town Park and deliver another Play & Activity Day on Saturday 6th July.

As in previous years we will work in close partnership with Abingdon Vineyard Church, Inspiring Minds, Abingdon Carousel in addition to the Abingdon Caldecott Community Profile Steering Group and other local partners in both the planning and delivery of this event.

The event / project will have the following, key Aims and Objectives;

For Children & Young People

- 1) Promote Positive Behaviours & Activities (reduce anti-social behaviour)
- 2) Promote Increased Levels of Physical Activity
- 3) Promote a Healthy Lifestyle (healthy choices)
- 4) Promote Healthy Weight Management (obesity reduction)
- 5) Provide information on services and activities to promote a sense of Wellbeing and Inclusion

For Parents / Carers

- 1) Provide an Event offering both FREE Entrance & FREE Activities to Ensure an Inclusion for ALL
- 2) Demonstrate how Play can be achieved on a Zero / Minimal Budget using Natural & Recycled materials
- 3) Provide information on services and activities available in the local and wider area

For Communities

- 1) Encourage a greater sense of belonging to promote Active & Engaged Communities (Love where you Live)
- 2) Promote local clubs, groups and societies
- 3) Involve local groups, communities and Children & Young People in the planning and delivery of each event

What is the total cost of the project

£4,500

How much grant are you seeking

£1,000

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

22.2%

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

SOHA = £750
Sovereign Housing = £750
Abingdon Vineyard Church = £500
Grants & Trusts = £1,500

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

Facilities Management = First Aid, Event Insurance, Toilet Hire, Land Hire Fee etc	£500
Volunteer Expenses = Volunteer Travel Costs and Refreshments	£50
Marketing and Publicity = Flyers and Leaflets	£100

Project Management Fee = Staff Time to plan event, complete necessary documentation, book and confirm activities, produce marketing material, post event reports and monitoring etc	£500
Hire of Activities = A range of activities for all ages and abilities	£3,350
COSTS PER EVENT	£4,500

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

We fundraise from a wide variety of sources so that we can continue to offer all our projects and events to service users Free of Charge thereby ensuring an inclusion for ALL

We do this via the 'big' funders such as BBC Children In Need and Comic Relief, via local Councils and via various Grants and Trusts

3. Local benefit.

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

As members	N/A (we no longer operate a Membership scheme due to the administration costs involved) All of our projects and services are offered FREE and at no cost to Service Users
As recipients	10,000

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	N/A	N/A	N/A
- Recipients	100%	0%	0%

Gender profile	Male	Female
- Members	N/A	N/A
- Recipients	50%	50%

Local connection	Town resident	Attend education in town	Neither resident nor attending education in town
- Members	N/A	N/A	N/A
- Recipients	10%	5%	85%

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.

ALL of our projects and services are offered **FREE** and at no cost to Service Users to ensure an Inclusion for **ALL**

We work with local partner organisations in our planning and delivery so that we are meeting **LOCAL** need with **LOCAL** people

Many of the activities that we offer at our events / projects are nature based and we also offer activities promoting Recycling and Upcycling.

The event is delivered at Southern Town Park which promotes both the beautiful park but also the surrounding area.

4b. Objectives

<p>1. To respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency</p>	<p>Many of the activities that we offer at our events / projects are nature based and we also offer activities promoting Recycling and Upcycling.</p>
<p>2. To develop a resilient, sustainable town which will provide a home for residents now and in the future</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>3. To manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>4. To work with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need and</p>	<p>Our project / event offers BOTH, FREE Entrance and FREE Activities to ensure an Inclusion for ALL</p>

to create opportunities to increase social inclusivity

We work with local partner organisations in our planning and delivery so that we are meeting LOCAL need with LOCAL people

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

Abingdon Town Council have contributed to this project in the previous years when it has been held

We receive grants from many of the Councils across Oxfordshire for the delivery of our various projects including County, District, Town and Parish Councils

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

Numerous and Various for multiple different projects and locations

6. About your organisation

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

The Oxfordshire Play Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Registered Charity Number 1160320)

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

£3,685.35

Additional financial information

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

Yes, our total balances (current and savings account) are just under £110,000

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

Audited Accounts for 2022-23 attached

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

Our total unrestricted funds at the end of the last financial year were £51,712.

The remaining balance has been received for, and is allocated to project work.