



Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

Community grant application form - part A

Please ensure you complete all of this form and Part B and send the following information to enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk:

- forms A and B, completed in full
- your organisation's last set of accounts
- the most recent bank statement for your organisation, which should match the payment information on form B

1. About your organisation

Name of the organisation requesting the grant

The Friends of Abingdon Civic Society – charity no 1183397

Please state briefly what the purpose of your organisation is

One of our objectives is "To help make Abingdon a great place to live, work or visit; to foster civic pride and promote the civic life, heritage and environment of the town."

One of the ways in which we deliver that is by running (in conjunction with other groups such as AAAHS) Heritage Weekend which is linked with the national Heritage Open Days scheme.

2. Your grant request

Please describe the project for which the grant is needed.

The national Heritage Open Days Organisation suggests a theme each year and in 2024 it is Routes, Networks and Connections. There is no shortage of scope for this in and around Abingdon so we are working with a range of local organisations to put on exhibitions and/or open their premises.

Plans are still evolving but we expect to have 3 exhibitions: one in the Guildhall, covering land routes (roads, footpaths etc) and telecommunications; one in St Helens, focusing on rivers and canals and one in Unit 24 based around the railway – and including the Abingdon Model railway layout – always a popular attraction for families.

There will also be linked displays in the Museum and the Long Alley Almshouses and "Fun Facts" posters around the town to encourage families to visit the exhibitions..

Several of the town's historic buildings will be open for visits and on the Sunday we will have displays of historic vehicles on the Market Place and our usual programme of heritage-themed walks.

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What is the total cost of the project	£2400												
How much grant are you seeking	£1700												
What percentage of the total cost of your project are you seeking via this grant	70%												
How do you plan to raise the rest of the money for your project	£640 Unspent funds from previous year's grant. <i>(NB the difference between this and the figure shown in our 31 December accounts was because several invoices came in after that and our accounts are not on an accrual basis)</i> Small cash donations.												
Please show roughly how the costs of the project are broken down	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Venue hire (Royse Room)</td> <td>£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Exhibition materials</td> <td>£1050</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Design</td> <td>£225</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Equipment hire</td> <td>£275</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Publicity</td> <td>£500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Misc and contingency</td> <td>£150</td> </tr> </table>	Venue hire (Royse Room)	£200	Exhibition materials	£1050	Design	£225	Equipment hire	£275	Publicity	£500	Misc and contingency	£150
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What fund-raising have you undertaken for this project or others in the past 2 years	We have been successful in getting Town Council grants in previous years for Heritage Open Days and for our popular walks leaflets. During the last year or so we have raised a further £1300 from other sources for additional walks leaflets. We usually raise a small amount from cash donations at the event. Otherwise our only income as a Society is from our membership fees.												

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	250
	As recipients	Varies – HODs usually attracts around 1000 people, sometimes more.

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	0	N/K	N/K
- Recipients	Not known – Heritage Open Days are free. They attract all ages, and a great many non-members. Some activities are specifically aimed at children		

Gender profile	Male	Female
- Members	Not known	
- Recipients	Not known – assume broadly typical of the town’s make-up	

Local connection	Town resident	Attend education in town	Neither resident nor attending education in town
- Members	240e	0	10e
- Recipients	Mainly local		A few visitors

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 objective.

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.

Heritage Open Days have been a feature of Abingdon’s events calendar for 20 years – the scale and nature of the event varies but the town is always buzzing on that weekend, with families taking the opportunity to find out more about the town they live in, visit new places and enjoy activities – often in the open air. Provided the weather is good, there is usually a real “feel-good” sense.

There are a lot of new people living in Abingdon now and because this year’s event will involve several different community groups it will give the newcomers an opportunity to find out what activities are available and perhaps join them on an ongoing basis, improving social cohesion.

Everything is free,

4b. Objectives

1. To respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency

All events will be accessible on foot from the town centre and wherever practicable will be in accessible premises. We will not be arranging any catering (which would compete with local businesses and create higher carbon footprint). Much of the publicity will be via social media, and maps etc will be accessible on hand-held devices, but in our experience posters and leaflets are still key to achieving a wide reach.

2. To develop a resilient, sustainable town which will

The event will be spread across many town centre venues, include several of our historic buildings and will include guided and self-guided walks. It will give participants,

provide a home for residents now and in the future

probably including many relative newcomers to the town, the opportunity to see places they haven't seen before and hopefully add to their appreciation and enjoyment of the town.

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

We are delighted to be able to make use of the Guildhall – and bring this wonderful asset to the attention of a wide cross-section of the public. We are also delighted to be working with the County Hall Museum.

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

Students from Fitzharrys School are helping to create the Railway Exhibition. Abingdon Artists and Abingdon Flower Club will be creating visual displays.

The model railway and “then and now” photos of the town always attract a lot of interest from all ages and the “Fun Facts” boards will be popular with families.

All events are free.

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

For Heritage Open Days:

2021 £900 (ATC)
2022 £1250 (ATC)
2023 £2200 (ATC)

For new walks leaflets

2022 £1500 (ATC)
2023 £800 (County Councillor priority fund)

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

Current application to ATC for Unit 24

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 (Association model)

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

£11,937.94

Additional financial information

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

No

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

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

7. Reporting back on your grant

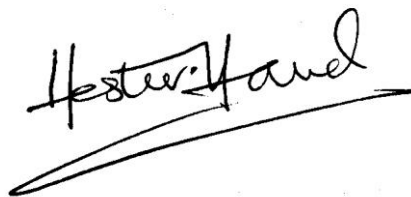
Organisations receiving a grant from the town council are required to provide a written report on their event or project within twelve months of the award date. The report should detail how the funds were spent and how residents of Abingdon are benefitting. The report may be included in any town council publicity, including the website or the Town Crier magazine.

Declaration

I declare that the information given in this grant application, both parts A and B, is complete and accurate and that no relevant information has been omitted.

I agree that the organisation receiving the grant will report back to the town council within 12 months of the award of this grant on how it has been used.

Signature



Name

Hester Hand

Position with organisation

Chair

Date

8 May 2024