



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 providing "Unit 24" a space for use by local community groups and not-for-profit organisations.

2. Your grant request

Please describe the project for which the grant is needed.

Having successfully run the "Community Freespace" project for many years until Covid struck, we were delighted to get the opportunity to do something similar in the former H Samuel shop – Unit 24. After an initial 6-month trial period we now have a clearer understanding of the likely pattern of usage and have taken on a 2-year lease. This means that we can do some much-needed "freshening-up" of the premises and make some basic improvements to the facilities/equipment we provide for users.

A considerable proportion of this application therefore relates to cost of labour and purchases for that work and will not recur at that level in future years. However we have been warned by VWHDC that from 2025 we will have to make a contribution to Business Rates (from which we have hitherto been exempt) so next year we will need to find funds (possibly up to £600) for that.

What is the total cost of the project	£3500
How much grant are you seeking	£2600
What percentage of the total cost of your project are you seeking via this grant	75%
How do you plan to raise the rest of the money for your project	Donations in kind and from users. Some from current funds
Please show roughly how the costs of the project are broken down	<i>Set-up costs</i> (signage, equipment, electrical work, decoration): £2000 <i>Ongoing costs</i> (Fire extinguisher servicing, utilities, insurance, other maintenance): £1500
What fund-raising have you undertaken for this project or others in the past 2 years	This project The premises are provided rent-free by Gentian Sunnyday, the landlords. As a charity we get 80% mandatory Business rate relief and for the current year we get discretionary relief for the remainder. (However we understand that in 2025 the latter will be capped and we will have to make some contribution). Users who have funds are asked to make a donation towards running costs. Other projects 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 events. Otherwise our only income as a Society is from our membership fees.

3. Local benefit

As members	250
As recipients	Impossible to estimate: 628 people visited our HODs exhibition in there and other activities such as apple-pressing, monthly sewing repair workshops and book exchanges are always crowded. The VWHDC twice-weekly exercise classes are always well attended etc etc

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

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 – depends on the activity being put on by users.		

Gender profile	Male	Female
- Members	Not known	
- Recipients	Not known – assume broadly typical of the town’s make-up, but may also depend on the activity being put on by users.	

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

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.

There are a lot of new people living in Abingdon now and having this facility in such a central and accessible position give the newcomers – and existing residents - an opportunity to find out what activities are available and perhaps join them on an ongoing basis, improving social cohesion.

The unit is very well suited to exhibitions (either manned or un-manned, using the windows) so provides an ideal venue for consultations or information sessions on matters of public interest.

Its location, close to the library and health services as well as the main shopping area and its highly visible window space mean that there is always a lot of “passing trade”. Children in particular love to stop and look at the window display of paintings of our famous buildings.

4b. Objectives

- To respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency**
1. **speedily to the climate emergency**

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

The space is frequently used by groups promoting sustainable practices: these include Carbon Cutters (Apple pressing and monthly sewing repair sessions) and a bi-monthly Book Exchange group.

The variety of events and information there mean that people enjoy having something different to see/do in town.

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**

Regular users include the Vale's "Active Communities" team offering a seated exercise programme; PCSO's offering drop-in advice and information sessions. We have also had recent bookings from the Lions for defibrillator training and from a charity supporting people with learning disabilities. We welcomed the Guides in there for activities at the Extravaganza.

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 Heritage Open Days

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

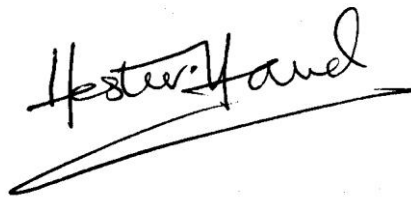
Organisations receiving a grant from the town council are required to provide a written report on their event or project within twelve months of the award date. The report should detail how the funds were spent and how residents of Abingdon are benefitting. The report may be included in any town council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