



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

Lowland Rescue Oxfordshire

Please state briefly what the purpose of your organisation is

LRO is the County's Search & Rescue Team. We work closely with Thames Valley Police in searching for vulnerable missing individuals and provide flood and water support to Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service. During major incidents we aid Oxfordshire County Council's resilience. We are members of the Thames Valley Resilience Forum and the Oxfordshire Resilience Forum. Our 100% charity organisation is comprised of volunteers who are available 24/7, 365 days a year to search for vulnerable high risk missing people.

2. Your grant request

Please describe the project for which the grant is needed.

Approximately 70% of the missing people we search for, when called out by Thames Valley Police, are deceased when we find them. The Home Office require all emergency services critical incident personnel to be offered TRiM (Trauma Incident Management) after any traumatic incident. As an expanding and increasingly busy volunteer search & rescue charity, we now require within our team 1 x TRiM Manager and 2 x TRiM Practitioners to enable us to offer greater support to the team. We also require 16 x MHFA qualified members of our team to enable us to offer mental Health First Aid to both the missing people we find, who often are suffering from a mental health crisis, or for our members who have experienced the trauma of being involved in a challenging search.

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What is the total cost of the project	£ 6,480
How much grant are you seeking	£ 4,320
What percentage of the total cost of your project are you seeking via this grant	67%
How do you plan to raise the rest of the money for your project	<p>We provide safety cover boats for several rowing regattas along the Thames, including Abingdon Regatta. We charge for the boat for the day. All boats are manned by unpaid volunteers.</p> <p>We support Abingdon Lions with their Santa Sleigh each December for which we receive a donation.</p>
Please show roughly how the costs of the project are broken down	<p>1 x TRiM Manager. £960 including VAT</p> <p>2 x TRiM Practitioners. £1,200 incl VAT</p> <p>16 x MHFA courses. £4,320 incl VAT</p>
What fund-raising have you undertaken for this project or others in the past 2 years	<p>Abingdon Lions Santa Sleigh</p> <p>Thames Regattas' safety boat provision</p> <p>Talks to organisations about our charity and activities.</p> <p>Blue Light Day events</p> <p>Tin shaking</p> <p>Donations from website</p>

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	87
	As recipients	We have had 25 callouts in Abingdon since 2020. The last call out in Abingdon for a missing person was on Sunday 10th March 2024.

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
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- Members	0	78	9
- Recipients	We don't keep an age profile of the people we search for		

Gender profile	Male	Female
- Members	60	27
- Recipients	15	6

(4 people of gender unknown to us)

Local connection	Town resident	Attend education in town	Neither resident nor attending education in town
- Members	6	3	81
- Recipients	25	?	?

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.

Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) capabilities and training for LRO can play a crucial role in helping Abingdon TC achieve its vision of fostering an inclusive community prioritising residents well-being & safety. By equipping LRO members with with TRiM training, the council ensures that responders are adequately prepared to handle traumatic incidents within the Abingdon area effectively thereby enhancing community safety and resilience.

The LRO team will also be able to support others who may have experienced trauma such as the missing people they locate and residents affected by emergencies or disasters. This helps build a more inclusive town by addressing mental health needs of its residents.

Additionally, TRiM training promotes team cohesion & resilience within LRO enabling them to collaborate more effectively with other community stakeholders. By fostering a culture of support & understanding, TRiM

training aligns with the Town Council’s vision of creating a vibrant & safe community where everyone feels valued.

4b. Objectives

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

By increasing the mental wellbeing of responders, TRiM training could enable LRO to maintain readiness & effectiveness in their response to climate related emergencies. Members’ decision making would also be improved which would enable members to make better and more informed decisions during climate emergency incidents.

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

TRiM training for LRO can contribute to this objective in several ways:

- 1) **Resilience Building:** TRiM equips LRO members with the skills to identify and manage trauma-related issues effectively. By ensuring the wellbeing of responders, the programme enhances the overall resilience of the community because LRO members are better able to support residents during crises, thereby contributing to the town’s ability to withstand and recover from adversity.
- 2) **Sustainable Emergency Response:** Resilient Search & Rescue teams are more likely to be able to consistently perform for longer therefore ensuring the sustainability of response efforts, support and protection to residents, both now and in the future.
- 3) **Community Trust & Safety:** Effective TRiM training fosters trust between emergency responders and the community therefore enabling the residents of Abingdon to feel safer and more secure in their town. This enhances community wellbeing and desirability of the town as a place to live.

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

Enabling LRO to offer TRiM training to its members would enhance the organisations’ emergency response services to the people of Abingdon therefore effectively meeting the needs of the community. It would ensure greater continuity of our operations by potentially allowing more members to be mentally fit to help with search and rescue operations. The council would also be demonstrating its commitment to the welfare of the community it serves best managing the interests of the town for 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**
- 4.

Trim training will enable our team to work more effectively with our partners, TVP, Oxfordshire Fire Service and Oxon CC in searching for and rescuing the vulnerable missing people of Abingdon as well as helping the town in times of flooding and other natural disasters.

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

None from Abingdon TC.
 £2500 from Henley TC for new radio handsets
 £10,000 from Police Commissioner

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

£500 Banbury TC for dog team First Aid Kits

6. About your organisation

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

Charity

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

£9007.58

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.

Restricted Funds Account = £13,342.70
 Strategic Reserve Account = £17,114.35
 Term Deposit Strategic Reserve = £20,330.90
 The Strategic Reserve Account & Term Deposit Account equated to approximately £37.5K which is 1.5 times our annual running costs and is in line with the Charity Commission Guidelines.

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

Restricted Fund Account	
Description	Amount Remaining
Henley TC Grant	£2453.00
PCC Running Costs 2023	£0.00
SSEN 2023	£5286.81
Medical Training	£1523.34
Clothing Fund	£2097.73
Team Welfare Funds	£494
POCC Exceptional Funding 2021	£1347.55
Interest Received	£140.26
The interest received is to fund any shortfall in the above items.	

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	A Bradbury
Name	Alexandra Bradbury
Position with organisation	Fundraising Officer and Search Technician
Date	3 rd April 2024