



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

One Planet Abingdon Climate Emergency Centre (OPACEC)

Please state briefly what the purpose of your organisation is

We are living in a climate and ecological emergency. ATC declared this in 2019. OPACEC is run by volunteers to bring the people of Abingdon together to build resilience and motivate action. Ultimately to create a town where we all live, work, play as if we have only one planet. Because we do. It is as simple as that - and is the most important thing we should all be focussing on.

2. Your grant request

Please describe the project for which the grant is needed.

One Planet Living Festival - a collaboration between One Planet Abingdon CEC, Abingdon Event Partnership, Evoke Belonging, Makespace and Abingdon Town Council

What:

One Planet Living Festival - 15 June 2024

9 - 4pm, and then into the evening for the cultural part of the Festival until 8pm

Where: Abingdon Marketplace and Under the Arches and Roysse Room

Festival activity

Bike Checks (ACC)

Repair Cafe (ACC)

In addition, we will be inviting the local businesses in the town centre to get involved in whatever way they feel they can (e.g. vegan food on offer, fresh fruit and veg, preloved clothes etc), with a poster saying that they support One Planet Living...and in that way they are also part of the festival.

Purpose of funding request:

Last year The Abingdon Eco Fair was a fantastic success and brought business and our community closer.

We have decided this year to offer an even better experience - for families, businesses, our whole community, including those most marginalised (refugees, ethnic minorities, socially abandoned groups) - it is time that we all truly come together.

Theme:

Focussing on the 10 Principles of the One Planet Living Framework which guides all the work we do at OPACEC, we will use them to help our community understand what is possible

 Health and happiness	Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing
 Equity and local economy	Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade
 Culture and community	Nurturing local identity and heritage, empowering communities and promoting a culture of sustainable living
 Land and nature	Protecting and restoring land for the benefit of people and wildlife
 Sustainable water	Using water efficiently, protecting local water resources and reducing flooding and drought
 Local and sustainable food	Promoting sustainable humane farming and healthy diets high in local, seasonal organic food and vegetable protein
 Travel and transport	Reducing the need to travel, encouraging walking, cycling and low carbon transport
 Materials and products	Using materials from sustainable sources and promoting products which help people reduce consumption
 Zero waste	Reducing consumption, reusing and recycling to achieve zero waste and zero pollution
 Zero carbon energy	Making buildings and manufacturing energy efficient and supplying all energy with renewables

Rebranding to: One Planet Living Festival (from EcoFair)

In order to help our community understand what we are trying to achieve - which is to create a community where everyone understands that we have only one planet which is in peril and that we all must act in order to secure a liveable future. We all have a moral duty to get involved and do our fair share.

We believe we can have fun and build resilience whilst we do that, and so we envisage an event using the 10 OPL principles and celebrating the culture and community that is Abingdon with a day focussed on eco activities culminating in a cultural celebration in the evening. (the 3rd OPL principle - Culture and Community)

‘As more and more African-Caribbean and other ethnic origin families come to live in Abingdon, the social, cultural and racial dynamics of the town also changes. To ensure a vibrant, socially cohesive town which is economically buoyant, just and equitable, it is imperative to create an atmosphere which creates the conditions for all to thrive. In essence, this is a social justice vision of belonging for all.’ DR

So the festival will be loosely this:

MarketPlace:

- Opened by the Mayor, Town Crier, Morris Dancers (Celebrating Abingdon!)
- Stall holders from the local area who are working hard to be eco friendly/sustainable and are excited to be back in the marketplace with us, will sell their wares
- One Planet Abingdon CEC will host a special hub area where the 10 principles will be actively demonstrated in various ways to engage the community (interactivity)
- Street food by Planted Plates and our AfroCaribbean community
- A stage area for performance: Groups and individuals will have booked a slot to perform for our planet (eg.green choir, band, eco fashion parade, school renditions, to name a few)
- A film screening in collaboration with Abbey Cinema by a Black filmmaker who will be present for questions
- The evening session will be hosted by Evoke Belonging Culture Fest (Dianne Regisford) who will have been busy all week hosting cultural activities culminating in a finale platforming local artists from the AfroCaribbean community.

What is the total cost of the project	£10002
How much grant are you seeking	£6000
What percentage of the total cost of your project are you seeking via this grant	60%
How do you plan to raise the rest of the money for your project	We have made applications to other funding streams (Doris Field) and will also approach Christ Hospital. We will also use some of our Lush youth funding for the young people’s activities at the festival

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

Solar powered Stage £4000
 Abingdon Event Partnership: Facilities, marketing, service £2002
 Printing of Event leaflets/posters £ 500
 Cultural Performers (it is not right to expect them to perform for free, it is morally important to pay those most marginalised to be paid to perform) £2500
 Film screening estimate £1000

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

Not received for this project yet but have for the following:
 Connected Communities Fund £5K Sewing Classes
 Food and Warmth Grant £2364 Cooking Classes
 Christ Hosp £8604 + £11338 - youthwork (latest amount not yet in receipt)
 Lush £5K young people by young people
 Truck £500 Ecokids
 ATC £5K projects up to March 2024
 Shared Prosperity Fund £9500 Business Engagement to March 2025
 CAG £200 Food Waste Action Week
 ATC £10K projects delivery and Coord for 2024/2025 (not yet in receipt)
 Fresh Water Watch £2000 (EarthWatch)
 Knowledge to Action £3K (Climate Action Fund)

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	we don’t have members per se, but our newsletter subscribers = 600, and 70 plus volunteers (not all active)
As recipients	4109 visitors to the CEC for period Sept 23 to March 24

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		50 e	50 e
- Recipients	35 e	50 e	15 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	98	2	
- Recipients	93 e	2	5

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.

The Festival

4b. Objectives

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

The Festival is focussing on the 10 principles of One Planet Living - living as though we have one planet. OPACEC literally exists because we are in a climate and ecological emergency.(CEE) It is exhausting and all encompassing work for which only some of us are being paid a little for our time. And yet we are unwavering and determined in our resolve to do our very best to support the town council and the people of Abingdon to respond effectively to the CEE. Our program of events, training, outreach is bringing the conversation out into the open - there is nowhere else in Abingdon where this is happening on this scale. Our website is a confirmation of our work. The Festival is the next large event we are trying to bring the community together for action.

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

Our work with young people is important to build the resilience of those who will be our future leaders of this town. They tell us how terrified they are and we do all we can to platform them, empower them, educate them with the truth of the situation. They tell us that they know that we are there for them and although the future is scary, they wish for an environment where they can talk openly about what we can do and how we can help one another without being ostracised or silenced. Schools need to do more, this is the work we are focussing on. We will be inviting youth and schools to be a part of the festival - platforming their voices!

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

The asset of the basement in the county hall has never been this busy. Ever. We know that our presence there is making magic happen and yet so many people still don't know about us - capacity and the enormity of the task means we still aren't opening the 6 days a week that we could. However, we are doing Abingdon a fantastic service and have earned the respect and gratitude of all who come to OPACEC. We need support for the important work we have begun and the festival will go a long way to doing this - utilising the marketplace, under the arches and the basement as well as the Roysse Room for a day into evening. The Council's assets being used for the right purposes!

4
· **To work with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need and to create opportunities to increase social inclusivity**

This festival is a collaboration (amongst others) with Evoke Belonging which is an organisation trying to do exactly that. The Evoking Belonging approach is rooted in Ubuntu: An African Bantu philosophy and cultural practice illuminating our collective humanity. In this humanity, we are all interconnected and, from this perspective, we are invited to co-create our human being in community.

In the Evoking Belonging practice, we focus on race and equity through the lens of Ubuntu for the enlivenment of Belonging for all communities.

By working with Evoke, we will gain access to other cultural and marginalised groups in our community we otherwise would be struggling to connect with.

We are also engaging with Host Abingdon in order to include the asylum seeking and refugee community in the festival.

Many of our volunteers are diverse - and we are hoping that this festival will enable a coming together and celebration that will create a healthy foundation from which we can grow.

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

Connected Communities Fund £5K Sewing Classes
 Food and Warmth Grant £2364 Cooking Classes
 Christ Hosp £8604 + £11338 - youthwork (latest amount not yet in receipt)
 Lush £5K young people by young people
 Truck £500 Ekokids
 ATC £5K projects up to March 2024
 Shared Prosperity Fund £9500 Business Engagement to March 2025
 CAG £200 Food Waste Action Week
 ATC £10K projects delivery and Coord for 2024/2025 (not yet in receipt)
 Fresh Water Watch £2000 (EarthWatch)
 Knowledge to Action £3K (Climate Action Fund)

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

Well Together - OCVA/OCC £2500 for work in South Abingdon

6. About your organisation

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

Private company limited by guarantee without share capital - all powers delegated to the steering group (not for profit)

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

£16591

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.

n/a

If these funds are earmarked for any specific projects, please

the balance of £16591 includes allocated and unallocated funds:

provide further information about this.

The unallocated funds are about £3500 and we keep £2K in reserve for unforeseen expenses

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

Position with organisation

Date

Michelle Charlesworth	
CoFounder	
9 April 2024	