



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

Abingdon Rowing Club

Please state briefly what the purpose of your organisation is

Rowing club for leisure, fitness and racing

2. Your grant request

Please describe the project for which the grant is needed.

We request funds to support the training of 4 members to become fully qualified British Rowing coaches.

The funds will be used to pay in part for 4 people to gain their level 2 British rowing coaching qualification. It will also pay for the 4 trainee coaches and one current coach to attend a first aid course and for the 4 trainee coaches to gain their powerboat level 2 certificate. A significant amount of coaching is delivered by the coach on the water using a launch which follows the boats. Having a coach on the water is critical to ensuring rower safety in particular for beginners. This grant will also pay for the 4 trainee coaches to attend a power boat training course.

What is the total cost of the project

£3273

How much grant are you seeking

£1250

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

38%

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

Club funds (31%) and individuals (31%)

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

**Four governing body coaching courses
Four powerboat level 2 courses
Five First aid courses**

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

Three learn to row course

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	98
As recipients	4

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	79	19
- Recipients	0	3	1

Gender profile	Male	Female
- Members	55	43
- Recipients	2	2

Local connection	Town resident	Attend education in town	Neither resident nor attending education in town
- Members	97	0	2
- Recipients	4	0	0

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.

Rowing is an excellent sport for both physical and mental health. Rowing is a low impact sport and is well suited for those getting back into sport after a period of absence.

Abingdon RC is a community-based organisation with almost all members drawn from the local area. We cater for all levels of rowing from beginners to recreational to competitive rowers. Once a year we host a rowing regatta which is attended by rowers from across the region. We use this regatta as an opportunity to introduce the sport to local people who have not previously thought about rowing.

The club is open to all ages from 16 upwards, we have a thriving master's membership with 20% of our rowers over the age of 65. Unlike other clubs we integrate our members across ages and sexes. Moving away from traditional segregations based on sex and age to enable greater integration across members. Our club is completely voluntary with no paid staff. All coaching is delivered for free by current members. Rowing is a technical sport which due to its on-water nature requires all coaching staff to undergo rigorous training in water safety. We are looking to build our coaching numbers to enable us to run more learn to row courses to get more people interested and engaging with the sport and also to support and develop current members to meet their rowing goals.

In addition, we are looking at establishing a gym rowing club where we would offer coached training sessions on the clubs rowing machines in a safe and supportive environment. Many people first engage with rowing by trying out a rowing machine in their gym, however, most people have very poor technique on rowing machines and can quickly become demotivated. Due to the low impact nature of the rowing, using rowing machines is an excellent way for people who are unfit or overweight to re-engage with sport. The coaches trained with this grant will establish and run a community rowing fitness club to help encourage exercise resistant participants into the sport. In addition, we are building the coaching structure to hopefully open a junior section in the future.

Rowing is a safe sport, as a British Rowing affiliated club we adhere to the rowsafe code.

4b. Objectives

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

Rowing has very little environmental impact. We encourage all members to walk or cycle to the club. We are currently looking at the possibility of using electric instead of petrol motors for all our launches

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

Provide healthy recreational activities to support town members.

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

The training will allow the club to run learn to row courses for many years to come and to coach those graduating from the courses to ensure healthy and safe enjoyment of the local waterways

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

The club plans to try and form links with other local organisations to encourage people to adopt a more active and health lifestyle. For example by engaging with other local clubs such as park run and the Abingdon marathon.

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

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

None

6. About your organisation

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

Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) run by a committee of volunteers

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

£45,035.99

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.

£4,850.52

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

Current funds in the bank account are for the maintenance and replacement of rowing equipment principle for the repair of rowing boats and water launches. Rowing requires significant capital funds. Rowing boats even second hand are expensive with a club level sculling boat for 4 people costing around £8-10,000. There are also significant costs associated with the maintenance of buildings (club house and boat bays) as well as safety launches and landing stages. In addition, after the recent floods we have significant repairs required to gym equipment in particular club rowing machines which were damaged in the flood, building repairs post flood including electrics/fire safety and landing stages which were damaged due to flooding.

In the next 2 months funds are earmarked to pay for:

Servicing and purchase of one new engine for safety launch: £5700

New trailer to move boats: £3500

Essential building electrical work: £3200

Fire safety updates: £550

Rowing machine services and replacement: £1350

Repair of landing stages: £3700

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

Gillian Douglas

Position with organisation

Abingdon Rowing Club – Club Captain

Date

7th July 2024