



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

Assisted Reading for Children (ARCh)

Please state briefly what the purpose of your organisation is

To inspire a love of reading in children from all of Oxfordshire's communities, which will enhance their wellbeing and improve their life chances.

2. Your grant request

Please describe the project for which the grant is needed.

We would like funding towards resources (books and games) for our Abingdon volunteers to use with children in their ARCh sessions. Volunteers work with the same children for an entire year, providing individual twice weekly "happy half hours" sharing books, games and conversation. They get to know children as individuals and discover their interests, feeding back to us which enables us to supply just the right subjects to encourage their reluctant readers.

We currently have 16 volunteers working in the following Abingdon primaries;

Caldecott
Carswell
Dunmore
Thameside
St Nicolas

Working with around 50 children living in the town

We would also like to support Long Furlong, Thomas Reade, St Edmunds, Rush Common schools – with Town Council help, especially as 2026 is the National Year of Reading.

On average each volunteer’s ARCh book box will cost the charity over £300 to resource. To help towards costs we have a Book Box sponsorship scheme, starting at £50 per box.

A grant of £1000 would cover the sponsorship of 20 boxes to be used with children living in Abingdon,

What is the total cost of the project	6000
How much grant are you seeking	1000
What percentage of the total cost of your project are you seeking via this grant	16%
How do you plan to raise the rest of the money for your project	From charity own funds/school contributions
Please show roughly how the costs of the project are broken down	20 boxes cost £300 each to resource = £6000 Sponsorship of 20 boxes x £50 per box = £1000
What fund-raising have you undertaken for this project or others in the past 2 years	We have received funding from Christ Hospital, Magnox, Abingdon School, local groups eg Abingdon Flower Group. We approached every County Councillor for support from Councillor Priority Fund – but this has been mainly to help schools in their districts afford their contribution towards ARCh

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	280 volunteers across Oxon
	As recipients	800 + children across Oxon

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		80	200
- Recipients	800		

Gender profile	Male	Female
- Members	40	240
- Recipients	400	400

Local connection	Town resident	Attend education in town	Neither resident nor attending education in town
- Members	16		
- Recipients	50		

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.

4b. Objectives

1. To respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency

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

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

<p>ARCh support is targeted at disadvantaged children and has been described by schools as “transformative.” Each year we conduct a school survey via Research Oxford Ltd and results (available on our website www.archoxfordshire.org.uk and in our Impact Report) are consistent year on year, with dramatic improvements noted not only in children’s reading ability but also their communication skills, confidence and self esteem.</p> <p>There are also huge benefits for volunteers – community involvement, utilising skills and learning new ones, gaining experience of working with children etc Spending time with young children and sharing the fun of reading and games is uplifting, improving wellbeing and joining the ARCh “family” has proved especially beneficial for those who have suffered bereavements or have felt isolated and lonely.</p> <p>Schools recognise the intergenerational and cohesion benefits too.</p>

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

<p>Only specific to Abingdon has been Caldecott Comm Fund £1536 in 2023</p>

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

<p>No other specific to Abingdon currently</p>
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6. About your organisation

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

<p>Registered charity and company limited by guarantee</p>
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What is the balance of your main account according to the most recent bank statement?

<p>£24K</p>

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.

£95k held in savings a/cs

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

We aim to hold between 6 and 12 months in reserves so that we can fully commit in service to our schools for the remainder of an academic year

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

Jane Rendle

Name

JANE RENDLE

Position with organisation

Joint CEO

Date

19TH January 2026