



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

DIALOGUE SOCIETY OXFORD

Please state briefly what the purpose of your organisation is

Dialogue Society Oxford is Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) (Charity No: 1212526), continuing its mission to promote interfaith understanding, intercultural dialogue, community engagement, youth development, and Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) across Oxfordshire. Through educational programs, community projects, and dialogue initiatives, we aim to foster respect, cooperation, and social cohesion across diverse communities.

2. Your grant request

Please describe the project for which the grant is needed.

Life of a Chickpea: Abingdon Schools

Life of a Chickpea is an award-winning seminar series, recognised by the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire and BBC Oxford, that will promote British values and foster Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) among students. Through storytelling, presentations, worksheets, Q&A sessions, and providing **Noah's Pudding (Dessert)**, students in **2 secondary schools and 3 primary schools in Abingdon** will explore democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect for different faiths and beliefs.

Using the chickpea—a staple in many global cuisines—students will engage with shared human experiences, celebrating cultural diversity while reflecting on inclusion, social cohesion, and community understanding. Sessions will be delivered by local faith and community volunteers, including storytellers and representatives who will bring diverse perspectives into the classroom.

Funding will enable us to run **5 sessions in total** across these targeted schools, helping students, teachers, parents, and the wider community develop a stronger understanding of EDI and British values, contributing to a more inclusive and cohesive society.

What is the total cost of the project

£6000

How much grant are you seeking

£4500

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

Use our own reserves and ask school for contribution

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

The total cost of delivering the Life of a Chickpea project across 5 sessions (2 secondary and 3 primary schools) is £6,000, of which we are requesting £4,500 towards delivery.

To allow for partial funding options, the budget can be understood as £900 per school/session, as follows:

Each £900 session includes:

- £350 – Noah’s Pudding (cultural food element supporting storytelling and engagement)
- £150 – Materials and worksheets for students
- £150 – Storyteller facilitation and delivery
- £150 – Volunteer support (travel, refreshments, coordination, training including speakers)
- £150 – Project coordination and management (planning, school liaison, volunteer coordination, oversight)

This structure means the project can be delivered in full or in part, depending on funding availability, while ensuring each funded school receives a complete standalone session.

For example:

- £1,800 = 2 schools
- £2,700 = 3 schools
- £3,600 = 4 schools
- £4,500 = 5 schools (full delivery)

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

Had funding from Didcot Powerhouse for Didcot Schools and funding from Thomas Dowson Charity for Oxford Schools

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	12
As recipients	750 students and 35 teachers

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		12	
- Recipients	750	35	

Gender profile	Male	Female
- Members	4	8
- Recipients	%50	%50

Local connection	Town resident	Attend education in town	Neither resident nor attending education in town
- Members	%100		
- Recipients	%100	%100	

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 *Life of a Chickpea* project will contribute to developing an inclusive community in Abingdon by promoting understanding, respect, and collaboration among young people from diverse backgrounds. By engaging primary and secondary school students with interactive activities, storytelling, and discussions, the project will foster empathy, cultural awareness, and positive social relationships, helping create a community where everyone feels valued and included.

Through its focus on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) and British values, the project will encourage students to think critically about fairness, justice, and

shared responsibility, laying the foundations for a resilient, vibrant, and cohesive community. By nurturing these attitudes in the next generation, the project will support Abingdon’s long-term wellbeing, safety, and social sustainability.

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

By promoting empathy, understanding, and respect among young people, the project will help build stronger social connections and a more cohesive, resilient community. These skills will enable students to contribute positively to the town’s social fabric, fostering sustainability in relationships and community engagement

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

The project will make effective use of school and community spaces to deliver educational and interactive sessions, ensuring that local resources are maximised for community benefit. This approach demonstrates responsible use of facilities to meet the needs of young people and the wider community.

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

The project will actively involve volunteers, faith groups, and community representatives to engage students from diverse and underserved backgrounds. By fostering dialogue, understanding, and inclusion, it will create opportunities for vulnerable or less-represented young people to participate fully, promoting social inclusivity and equality.

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

Over the past three years, our projects have been supported by a number of reputable funders, including:

- Oxfordshire Community Foundation
- Didcot Powerhouse Fund
- Thomas Dowson Fund
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Sport England
- Barclays Sport Fund

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

Oxfordshire Community Foundation

6. About your organisation

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

Dialogue Society is registered charity (CIO)

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

According to the most recent bank statement, the balance of our main account is £37,018 , including funds we have recently received.

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

tsuleymanov

Name

Dr Tarlan Suleymanov

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council community grant application form – part A

Position with organisation

Chairman

Date

18/05/2026
