

Section 137 of Local Government Act 1972 "A Local authority may, subject to the provisions of this section, incur expenditure which in their opinion is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants."

"... the direct benefit accruing to their area or any part of it or to all or some of the inhabitants of their area will be commensurate with the expenditure to be incurred."

Whitworth Town Council annually reserves a sum of money for disbursement on grants to organisations and activities which contribute constructively to the life of the Town. These grants are limited and can, therefore, only be made available to those organisations that can demonstrate a need for assistance within the above Town limitation, and generally are not a statutory charge on other local, or central, government departments.

To ensure that fair and proper consideration can be given to all requests, Whitworth Town Council has adopted the following policy irrespective of the power under which it makes the grant.

- 1) All applicants are required to complete the Town Council's Grant Application Form.
- 2) All successful applicants are required to complete the Whitworth Town Council Evaluation Form. Failure to do so can result in the rescinding of the grant and a request for its return.
- 3) The Town Council has limited funds for grants and therefore has set a maximum of £350 for each grant application; accordingly, grants are targeted to activities which benefit as many people as possible in Whitworth (encompassing Shawforth, Facit, Whitworth and Healey).
- 4) All organisations are required to submit their last audited accounts.
- 5) Any applicant receiving a grant is required to acknowledge Whitworth Town Council's contribution and set out how this will be done.
- 6) All grant applications will be considered at an appropriate public meeting of the Town Council.
- 7) The only exception to item 6) is that, in exceptional circumstances, a Grant Committee can be formed to sit and consider applications as and when required.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR GRANTS UNDER THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1. Type of Organisation and Locality:

- a. Applications will only be accepted from Charitable and / or non-profit-taking organisations; the Council regrets therefore that applications from commercial organisations cannot be considered. National appeals are, regrettably, outside the legal scope of the Council's grants scheme.
- b. Organisations applying to Whitworth Town Council should be local to Whitworth or, if just outside the boundary, its work should be of significant benefit to the Town and its residents.
- c. The Council is prevented by statute from giving financial assistance to individuals, charities operating overseas or to a fund established to help persons outside the UK.

2. Type of Financial Assistance:

- a. The Council can provide financial assistance towards specific projects or purchases of equipment; it cannot support ongoing revenue costs.
- b. The Council will also consider requests for assistance in kind.

3. Deadline:

A grant application can be made to Council at any time. It will be discussed at the next appropriate meeting of Council, in the presence of the public and members of the press.

4. General:

- a. Grants must be spent within 12 months of being awarded, for the purpose for which they were given.
- b. Grants cannot be made to cover money already spent.
- c. The Council reserves the right to request a copy of invoices and / or other documentation as evidence that the expenditure has been appropriately incurred.
- d. Organisations receiving a grant, as a condition, are required to provide the Council with evidence, within 12 months of the award date, to demonstrate how the funds were expended.
- e. If an organisation dissolves, the Council expects the organisation to reimburse the grant awarded.
- f. Organisations are restricted to one grant application per financial year and the history of previous applications may be considered in the decision-making process.
- g. The giving of a grant one year does not set a precedent for another year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION and to request a Grant Application Form:

Please contact Rachel Hodson, Town Clerk, on 01706 852018 / email info@whitworth.gov.uk