



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

GRANT AWARDING POLICY

Policy Statement

The aim of the Town Council's Grants Scheme is to promote a vibrant and active community in Bognor Regis. The scheme recognises and supports the valuable contribution made by the voluntary sector to the well-being of the community. It provides financial support for community organisations working for the benefit of residents, with the intention of improving the range of services and activities in the town. Whilst wishing to support such groups, the Town Council is also keen to encourage groups to work towards becoming largely self-sufficient, with it evident that efforts are made to raise money through fundraising activities. Furthermore, we seek to work in partnership with organisations who actively support the Town Council in their aims and objectives, and the work that it carries out.

Who can apply?

This Policy applies to any organisation which falls within the eligibility criteria, which is based in or benefits the residents of Bognor Regis.

Key Principles

The Bognor Regis Town Council Vision is to develop Bognor Regis to become more proactive and enterprising, working with others in partnership to boost the local economy, build civic pride and create a happier Bognor Regis.

In support of this Vision, the Town Council has agreed the following strategy and priority headings for 2024-2028 and organisations are required to show how their application would meet one or more of these: -

- Build on the heritage and history of Bognor Regis in promoting business, cultural, and artistic activities and events to make Bognor Regis a great place to live, work, study and visit. Using our resources, coupled with partners, to develop artistic and cultural activities and events to create economic benefits.
- Work with partners to manage environmental impacts on Bognor Regis to make the Town as sustainable as possible.
- Work to enable residents and community groups to live well and enjoy

- and take pride in our Town.
- Work to remove barriers to enterprise within the Town.
- Ensure that Bognor Regis is a great place to grow up in, with support for parents and young people.

In taking these priorities into account applicants may have regard to the following supporting actions: -

- Supporting local tourism and events.
- Improving the Bognor Regis Town Environment.
- Supporting alcohol reduction strategies.
- Supporting vulnerable people within the community.
- Supporting projects which create a safer Bognor Regis.
- Town Heritage and Regeneration projects.
- Providing services and support for younger people.

Review of the Policy

The Grant Awarding Policy was reviewed by the Policy and Resources Committee in June 2024. The Policy is scheduled to be reviewed every 12 months.

GRANT AWARDING POLICY - GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

These Guidance Notes are intended to provide information to assist applicants regarding the procedure to be followed in applying for a grant from Bognor Regis Town Council. Please read them carefully before completing the Application Form.

Who may apply for a grant?

The Town Council will fund organisations: -

- Whose activities and projects are for the benefit of Bognor Regis residents.
- Whereby all individuals have reasonable, potential access to activities, facilities or services offered by the organisation.
- Whose project demonstrates sustainability and long-term value for money.

Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

The Town Council may not fund: -

- Retrospective funding - for something that has already taken place or been purchased.
- Contributions to large capital programmes or generic blanket applications where what is being funded is not specifically stated.
- Funding for loan payments or outstanding debt or interest.

- Funding to provide activities that are of a political or religious nature.
- Organisations that hold reserves in excess of one year's operating expenses, including local branches of national or regional organisations that have reserves that could be used.
- Organisations that fundraise to support their head office for distribution to other areas.

The Application

The application form is available from the Town Clerk (contact details below) or from the Town Council website www.bognorregis.gov.uk.

All applications: -

- Must demonstrate that it is able to meet all statutory requirements at the time of application, relating to employment of staff, volunteers and participants, use of premises and provision of its service, including public liabilities insurance etc, to ensure the safeguarding of public finance.
- Must include a set of the most up to date, signed audited or certified accounts, copies of current bank statements for all bank accounts, a Chairman's Report or Constitution and a copy of the Policy Statement regarding Child Protection and/or Vulnerable Adults (if applicable) be submitted with the application. **No public funds may be paid over until the accounts and report have been inspected and the Council is satisfied.** The accounts must be audited or certified as described and should also have a signed statement from an independent person, i.e. auditor, accountant etc, not associated with your organisation.
- From clubs or organisations involved in providing activities for children or youths will need to provide information on their adopted policy statement for Child Protection in relation to the Children's Act 1989 and the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 regarding the recruitment of staff, paid or voluntary. The information must make clear that procedures have been established to include prevention of abuse and clearly define roles for staff and training in relation to child protection. The Council will look for evidence that groups working with vulnerable members of society (e.g. people with special needs etc.) follow good practice in protecting such people with information provided on their adopted policy statement for Vulnerable Adults.
- Should be the only application submitted by an organisation for funding where it is intended for different activities and projects, rather than multiple applications.
- Are to be submitted electronically via email. Covering emails must list the documentation that is being attached so that it can be checked off as having been received.
- For new equipment that is over £100 in value, must include at least two quotations. Should your grant application be successful, please note that if your funding is for a capital project, such as purchasing equipment etc, you will be required to produce evidence of this, e.g. invoices/receipts, for our records as soon as possible.
- Must be made on the form provided by this Council and must be emailed

to the Town Clerk to arrive **not later than 5.00pm on Thursday 14th November 2024**. Late applications will not be considered.

Failure to comply with these guidelines by not supplying all of the required documentation will result in consideration not being given to your application. Therefore, your application will not be considered unless sufficient written explanation is provided as to the reason for absence and confirmation of when such documentation will be available. To avoid extra administrative time, this action will be taken without further redress to the applicant: The onus is on the applicant to ensure all requirements are met by the due date.

How the application is determined

Each application for grant funding will be considered on its own merit with funds awarded at Members discretion.

- Account will be taken of: -
 - The level of the organisation's own fundraising activities.
 - The level of grant funding sought or secured from other sources.
 - The level and frequency of previous grant applications.
- Whilst there is no upper limit to the amount that an applicant can request from the grant budget available, the Town Council seeks to ensure that funding awarded will directly benefit Bognor Regis, or part of the area, some or all residents and be spent commensurately with the benefits it brings.
- The Town Council may attach conditions to the award of a grant, if it is considered appropriate.
- Applications that have complied with the guidelines will be considered at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee in January 2025 (for details of the date of the meeting, please see the Town Council notice boards or visit the Council's website).

Following determination of the application

- Successful applicants will be notified in writing shortly after the meeting granting the application.
- Successful applicants will be expected to attend the Mayor's Civic Reception in March 2025, to collect their cheques, unless there are exceptional circumstances (further information including an invitation will follow). Cheques will be post-dated to 1st April 2025.
- Successful applicants will be required to acknowledge the Town Council's contribution on any publicity by incorporating the Town Council logo below, an electronic copy of which will be supplied:



- The Town Council requires all grant aided organisations to complete an end of grant monitoring form to provide information on the work or project

funded and to ensure that the terms and conditions of the grant have been met.

- Successful applicants considering a different use for the grant than for the purpose for which it was awarded must contact the Town Council beforehand.
- In the event of an organisation closing or that the project/services funded by the Council do not proceed for any reason, the Grant Aid must be returned to the Council.
- The Town Council reserves the right to reclaim the grant in the event of it not being used for the purpose specified on the application form.

Data

The information provided in the grant application will solely be used to determine the grant funding and will be kept for a maximum of six years. A resume of the application will form part of the Clerk's Report for the decision-making meeting. Any award will be published on the Town Council's website www.bognorregis.gov.uk.

Should you have any questions or require additional support to complete the application form please contact: -

The Town Clerk
Bognor Regis Town Council
The Town Hall, Clarence Road
Bognor Regis
West Sussex. PO21 1LD
Tel: 01243 867744

Email: bognortc@bognorregis.gov.uk