

LEWES TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCIAL GRANTS SCHEME

Application form and guidance notes for applicants

2020 - 21

These notes explain the Council's financial grants scheme.

PLEASE READ THEM CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

(accepted by email only)

Assessment Panel meets

(approval in-principle)

FINAL DECISION

By Council

Scheme suspended May – June 2020 (replaced by temporary Emergency Fund *iro* Covid-19)

~~22nd May 2020~~

10th June 2020

18th June 2020

Scheme reopened July 2020:

10th August 2020

19th August 2020

3rd September 2020

4th September 2020

16th September 2020

8th October 2020

20th November 2020

2nd December 2020

17th December 2020

29th January 2021

10th February 2021

4th March 2021

TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION:

This application can only be submitted by email

1. Read these guidance notes
2. DOWNLOAD the application pack and save it to your computer.
3. RENAME the application file appropriately, to identify it as your application.
4. OPEN the renamed file and select the "fill&sign" tool to complete all sections.
 - a. It is possible to SAVE the part-completed form at any point and return to it later.
 - b. You will be asked to digitally SIGN the form in two places – simply follow the prompts to do this.
5. ONCE COMPLETED
 - a. Ensure you SAVE the file for your own records and then
 - b. send it, with any additional documents, as an email attachment to: townclerk@lewes-tc.gov.uk



GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

Section 6 - “Completing Your application form” – is designed to help you prepare your application, and gives details of how you can contact us for more assistance at any time

It is IMPORTANT that you make comprehensive entries ON THE FORM ITSELF

Do NOT simply enter references to accompanying documents

Please LIMIT supporting documents and information to that which is requested

1 POLICY/BACKGROUND TO THE SCHEME

The Council recognises and supports the valuable contribution made by many voluntary groups and organizations (often very small) who contribute to the wellbeing of the local community. It will consider financial support for those working for the benefit of the town. It will not, normally, aid commercial organizations.

The scheme is designed to help maintain a vibrant community sector in the town, with particular emphasis on groups and non-commercial organizations who support the Council’s vision, which covers

- Sustainable transport, related infrastructure & signage, cycling routes, bus transport
- Openness: engagement; consultation; partnership
- Trees and biodiversity; wildlife and the environment; Open spaces
- Support for foodbanks and the disadvantaged

There is a **limited budget** each year for grants and the amounts requested often exceed the fund available. It is therefore important that all the questions on the application form are answered as fully as possible to provide a detailed picture of your proposed project or of the activities of your organisation within the town.

2 COUNCILS POWER TO AWARD GRANT

The Council has various legal **powers** to give financial aid under various statutes, the most commonly used are:

Local Government Act 1972:

s137 in respect of expenditure for purposes not otherwise authorized, which are considered to be in the interests of, and bringing direct benefit to, the area and its community

s142 in respect of provision of information concerning services available

s144 in respect of encouragement of visitors; provision of conference & other facilities.

s145 in respect of provision of entertainment or development of arts and crafts.

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976:

s19 in respect of provision of recreational, social and sporting facilities

The Council is also entitled to use the General Power of Competence (GPoC) which is a statutory power arising from the *Localism Act 2011 ss1-8*. It allows a council that satisfies eligibility criteria to do anything that competent individuals may lawfully do [*s1(1)*]. This eligibility must be maintained, and the entitlement is lost if it is not renewed by formal adoption at the Council’s Annual Meeting in each year when ordinary elections are held (next: 2023).

3 HOW THE SCHEME WORKS

Applications are accepted at any time throughout the year and can be made for help towards a special project, or the everyday running costs of your organization (see below). Submissions will be accepted **by email ONLY**.

There is a Grants Fund agreed within our annual budget for us to give away during the year as single grants **of up to £2000**, and these are disbursed four times a year (**see cover for this year’s APPLICATION DEADLINES**).

Remember; we are a parish council, and our resources are limited. Most grants are given for a maximum of a few hundred pounds only, although we do give larger amounts.

Amounts over £2000 will be given only in exceptional circumstances. If you feel you may have a special case please discuss this with the Town Clerk before making an application.



GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

Revenue support grants (sometimes called “core-funding grants”) can be given as a contribution towards the running-costs of an organization: staff costs; rent; operating costs *etc.* These will be strictly **limited to 3 years**, with an **automatic reduction** of the original sum to two-thirds in year two and to one-third in year three. This is to help small organizations in their formative years, or in the early stages of a project, but encourage them to plan thoroughly, and become financially self-supporting.

Continued revenue support for organizations beyond three years can only be made by formal agreement outside the grant scheme, when it will be individually identified in our budget plan. Contact the Town Clerk to discuss.

Applications are **assessed** by a panel of Councillors, which makes recommendations for final approval by Council. In an initial review by the Panel and their merit is assessed independently by each panellist. This assessment covers five categories:

1. How closely the proposed project or organization matches the policy of our grant scheme.
2. The general “robustness” of the proposal – its perceived likelihood of success or sustainability.
3. The thoroughness of the financial planning (*eg* how prudent are assumptions? is other finance in place?).
4. What is the scale/scope of the proposal? Who benefits; how many people, or special groups?
5. A general assessment of the application; allowing for any special circumstances or considerations.

The Panellists may then discuss applications in detail, and the Panel may decide to recommend lesser amounts than requested, or to refuse applications.

Applicants should demonstrate that they are also contributing their **own funds**, or seeking additional support, and not asking for the Council to fund the whole scheme or project. This is **essential** if you are applying for a sum exceeding £1,000 - you **MUST** indicate proportionate contribution of either your own funds, or third-party support, or a combination of these, using the table in Q24.

A written report is submitted to the next meeting of the Council with recommendations for awards. The Council has the right to override or ignore these recommendations.

Council’s decision is final and no correspondence will be entered-into regarding applications.

4 GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. Applications will not be considered for grants to commercial organizations, and only in appropriate circumstances to individuals.
2. Applications will not be considered from organizations intending to support or oppose any particular political party, or to discriminate in any way (*eg* on grounds of race or religion, *etc.*).
3. Applications will not be considered from private businesses to make profit/surplus.
4. Applications will not be considered from “upwards funders”, *ie.* local groups whose fund-raising is sent to their central headquarters for redistribution.
5. Applications will not normally be considered from national organizations or local groups with access to funds from national “umbrella” or “parent” organizations, unless funds are not available from their national bodies, or the funds available are inadequate for a specified project (evidence will be required).
6. Applications from religious groups will be considered where a clear benefit to the wider community can be demonstrated irrespective of their religious beliefs. Compliance with this requirement will need to be demonstrated throughout the project.
7. Applications from education, health or social services establishments will be considered where the organization can demonstrate that it is working in partnership with other groups and there are benefits to the wider community.
8. The organization must have clearly-stated aims and objectives.
9. The organization must provide a written Constitution that has been formally adopted by the members of that organization or, where their association is less “formal”, similar evidence of agreement between individuals.
10. The organization must provide, or propose to provide, an activity or service that is believed to be clearly needed by the local community or by a particular group of residents.



GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

11. The organization is required to submit audited accounts or accounts that have been independently examined by a suitably qualified person, for the previous two financial years or, in the case of a newly-formed organization or less formal group, a comprehensive budget and business plan.
12. If the organization is established, it is required to have a bank account in its own name with at least two authorized representatives required to sign and a demonstrable financial control system. If recently-formed or informally associated, details will be required to satisfy the Council of adequate control over accounts that are to be used.
13. Applications may be made at any time during the financial year. In the case of an advance payment, written confirmation may be required stating that the money will be used for the purpose requested, as well as a monitoring & evaluation statement at the end of the project period or the financial year, whichever is the sooner.
14. Lewes 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.
15. Organizations that receive a grant will be required to acknowledge Lewes Town Council's contribution on all publicity/printed material. (Our armorial bearings ["logo"] can be provided electronically or in printed form).
16. Organizations that receive a grant will be required to submit a report detailing how the grant has been applied, once their project or initiative is underway/complete, using the pro-forma provided with their grant confirmation.
17. Organizations that employ staff are encouraged to pay the prevailing Living Wage Foundation Living Wage. *Please also see the accompanying 'Living Wage Funder' letter for applicants appended to these notes.*

5 OTHER CONDITIONS

18. Organizations requesting funds for buildings must provide evidence of security of tenure in the relevant property for a minimum of 7 years from the date that the grant is considered (longer term may be required at Council's discretion).
19. Organizations requesting funds for buildings must provide proof that the property is adequately insured.
20. Funding for buildings will not normally be considered if a mortgage or loan is secured on the premises.
21. Where the Town Council deems it appropriate, organizations may be required to provide progress reports or to allocate a place on their management or executive committee for one or more Town Council representatives.
22. Where deemed necessary, the Town Council may request site visits and/or meetings with the applicants to discuss the viability of the proposed project.

6 COMPLETING YOUR APPLICATION FORM

DO NOT WORRY if you cannot fully complete all sections of the form!

We have designed the form to cover a wide range of applicants, from structured organizations to small groups of individuals with a "good idea", and recognize that many of these will be not be able to provide some of the information requested on the form.

It is important that you make comprehensive entries on the form itself, and do NOT simply enter references to accompanying documents. It is NOT necessary to submit extensive supporting documents, and this can actually make assessment more difficult. **LIMIT** supporting information to what is requested.

Remember! – **do not** simply write "*please see attached*" or similar. **Be concise.**

Ensure that you have presented your idea clearly and given enough detail for us to thoroughly understand what you are trying to do.

If you are a formally-constituted organization, remember to attach a copy of your governing documents and accounts. You are strongly advised to complete the checklist on the last page, and keep a copy for your own records.

We will be happy to help you. **If you need assistance with any section, or just want to ask us further questions before submitting the form, please ask.**

Telephone 01273 471469 e-mail info@lewes-tc.gov.uk



GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

The application form is designed with the following in mind:

Section A It is sometimes the case that an application is from a widely-dispersed group or organization, where a local representative is leading the project. We simply need to know who you are, and how we should contact you if we need to discuss your application in more detail.

Section B We are seeking enough information to allow us some insight into the “workings” of your group. Do not worry about fine points of distinction between categories of member, if you have them; we simply need to form a vision of your group and how it goes about its work.

Section C We need to form a clear picture of the organization, project, or service that you are planning. We will look for a close relationship with our own policy (*See section 1 of these Guidance Notes*) wherever possible, and evidence of sensible planning and research. Always remember that the money we award is given by the people of Lewes, and we must be assured that it will be spent wisely.

We must also ensure that in giving a grant we are not acting outside our legal powers.

We may decide that your application deserves an award, but be unable to give any money immediately, in which case we need to understand how the project will run and may suggest that you re-submit your application at a later date.

We will use the information you provide in this section to gain assurance that the project is viable; will be adequately managed; and that you have planned sensibly to achieve your aims. Do not worry about precise details (unless the plan is very simple) – we are looking for an overall impression of the elements of your scheme and how you have approached the issue of funding.

Section D If you are able to provide formal documents and details then you must do so. If you are a small or informal group, then you should attempt to show clearly how you ensure proper control of your financial affairs. **IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE – PLEASE ASK.**

Section E We must be assured that the application is made with the approval of your organization, if you are formally-structured. If you are a small, informal, group this can be addressed with a simple written statement from the parties involved. You will be asked to digitally SIGN the form in two places – simply follow the prompts to do this

Section F We hope that completing the form will not be too difficult, but we do expect some effort on your part to provide the information we seek! If you have all the details “at your fingertips” and have already taken appropriate copies of supporting documents *etc.* then we estimate that the form can be completed in 30 minutes or so. Please let us know of any sections which you found unclear, or any improvements we might make to assist future applicants.

Section G This is a binding agreement which will apply in the event that your application is successful. Please read it carefully, and do not sign it unless you understand the terms and are prepared to accept them fully.

Section H **CHECKLIST** - Please take a moment to go through these points, and tick to show us that you have done so. You are **strongly advised** to keep a copy of your completed application for your own records.

GOOD LUCK !



Dear Applicant,

Lewes Town Council is a member of the Living Wage Funder scheme – a movement of grant-makers that help organizations to pay the real Living Wage. We wanted to let you know about our Funder commitment and to share with you what this means.

The real Living Wage, (with a higher rate in London), is calculated every year by the Living Wage Foundation according to the cost of living.

Paying the Living Wage to staff has well documented benefits including improved productivity and retention together with team morale and reputational value. It is also the right thing to do.

Across the UK, one in four working people earns below the Living Wage, and two thirds of children in poverty have a working parent. We believe that a fair day's work should mean a fair day's pay, but we know that there is a huge amount of low pay in the third sector (with an estimated 27% of jobs paying below Living Wage).

At Lewes Town Council we already pay all directly employed staff the real Living Wage, and now we want to make sure that, where possible, we are funding posts at the Living Wage rate too.

We encourage applicants who are asking us to fund salaries or staff time, to cost this at the Living Wage rate as a minimum. We want grantees to know that we see responsible pay as a sign of good management; rather than a 'race to the bottom' we want to aim for a sustainable and fair sector, where employees are valued and can earn a wage that meets the cost of living.

Crucially, though, if organizations aren't able to pay the Living Wage for any reason (for example, part-funded posts) this does not mean that we won't fund them; it simply means that we want to fund at the Living Wage wherever possible. This is about enabling the Living Wage, not about leaving people out in the cold.

While this policy does not affect any previous grant with us, we would like to encourage you to find out more about becoming a Living Wage accredited employer, if you are not one already. You can find out more at www.livingwage.org.uk.

- If your organisation is already Living Wage accredited, or plans to become so, please let us know so that we can celebrate this through our communications channels.
- There is a small cost for Living Wage accreditation (starting from £60 per year for charities with less than 10 staff)

Kind regards,
Lewes Town Council

Financial Grant Application



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It is **IMPORTANT** that you make comprehensive entries **ON THE FORM ITSELF**; DO **NOT** simply enter references to accompanying documents

Please read our guidance notes carefully before completing this form.

It is **IMPORTANT** that you make comprehensive entries **ON THE FORM ITSELF**

Do **NOT** simply enter references to accompanying documents

LIMIT supporting information or documents to that which is requested

A Contact details

1 Name and address of your group or organisation

2 Any other name you use or name of your project if this is different

3 **MAIN CONTACT** for this application

This must be someone who knows about your project and can be contacted reasonably easily. This is normally the person completing the form.

Title First name Surname

4 Position held in the organisation

5 Contact address, including full postcode

6 **This address is:** (tick one box only):

Your organisation's office The main contact's home address Other (please specify)

Email address

Telephone: Day Evening

7 If you have a preferred means of communication, please tell us:

Telephone e-mail post Other (please specify)

B About your organisation

8 **What type of organisation are you?** Tick all boxes that apply.

Community group/club/society Company limited by guarantee Registered Charity in England

Registration number if applicable

Do you directly employ any paid staff? **Yes** **No**

If Yes: how many? ...

..and do you pay them, as a minimum, the Living Wage Foundation Living Wage?* **Yes** **No**

* please also see the LWF "Friendly Funder" letter included with the guidance notes in this application pack

Financial Grant Application



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It is **IMPORTANT** that you make comprehensive entries **ON THE FORM ITSELF**; DO **NOT** simply enter references to accompanying documents

9 When did your organization or group start? *ie* When did it first start meeting or running activities or projects?

Month

Year

10 Briefly describe the purpose of your organisation.

Describe the usual activities/services you provide. If you are a new group, describe what you plan to provide.

If you have a written constitution, you must attach a copy with this application

11 If you are a branch of, or related to, a larger organisation, please give details.

12 How many people (approximately) are involved in your organisation ?

Management committee members

Volunteers

Paid officers/staff

Ordinary Members

Others

(please describe):

13 Do you have a "Friends" society or similar supporters group ?

YES

NO

If YES, how many members does it have ?

14 Please tick/complete if your group has any of the following:

Public liability insurance

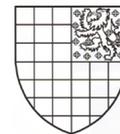
Maximum Cover £

Other insurance (specify)

Maximum Cover £

Name(s) of governing or affiliated body(-ies):

Financial Grant Application



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C About your project/service

15 Describe the project or service. *eg* Does it have a working title? What does it aim to achieve? How will it work? *Please enclose any supporting documents, plans, projections etc. NB - brief summaries are preferable to complex documents!*

16 Please tell us why you think this should receive funding from Lewes Town Council.

Please refer to guidance notes.

17 How have you identified the need for this?

18 When do you intend your project or service to start and finish?

Start

Finish

Financial Grant Application



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19 Approximately how many people do you *estimate* will benefit directly from your project ?

YOU MUST COMPLETE THIS QUESTION – ‘educated guess’ will be acceptable

<i>Age group</i>	<i>IN LEWES</i>	<i>outside Lewes</i>	
Under 5			
6 – 10			
11 – 16			
17 – 21			
22 – 59			
Over 60			
All ages			
Special or minority groups (please describe)			
TOTAL			

20 What, if any, special issues are related to your project ?

“Special issues” could be related to participants, organisers, general public and/or the environment.

21 How will you measure the success of your project ?

22 What experience does your organization, or individual members, have of running this type of project ?

Financial Grant Application



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D Your financial details

27 Your bank or building society account details. (for payment in the event that your application is successful)
If your application is successful you will be notified and funds will be paid by electronic transfer as promptly as possible.

Bank/Building Society name

Bank/Building Society address

Branch Sort Code:

Account number or Building Society roll number

Account Name

28 List all the people who are authorised to sign cheques or other withdrawals on this account.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position in organization</i>

If your organisation is less than one year old, do not complete section 29 below, but instead please give details of information on which you have based your planning (state clearly any assumptions upon which you have relied when making projections, *etc.*).

Then go to section E

29 Please provide the following summary details from your most recent annual accounts.

Account year ending:

Total (gross income) £

Minus total expenditure £

Equals loss/profit for the year £

Savings (reserves, cash or investments) £

and

A COPY OF ANY FINANCIAL CONTROL PROCEDURES, OR SIMILAR DOCUMENT

Financial Grant Application



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E Authority and application

30 Declaration and signature of applicant

DECLARATION

This must be signed by the person who completed this application, normally the person named as main contact in section A

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information in this application form is true and correct.

I understand that you may ask for additional information.

I am authorized to act for the organization or group in making this application for financial assistance

Signature

Date

Name (please print)

Contact details (*if different from those given in section A*):

31 Please give details of a senior member of your organisation, who can confirm details if required

For example: this may be the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Chief Executive or Director.

If this is the person who has completed and signed above, please tick here

Title

First name

Surname

Position in the organization

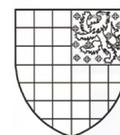
Contact address, including postcode

Telephone: Day

Evening

Email address

Financial Grant Application



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F Agreement

I confirm that the group or organisation named on the front of the application form has authorised me to sign this agreement on their behalf.

I certify that the information given in this application is true to the best of my knowledge, and confirm that all enclosures are current, accurate and adopted or approved by the organisation.

If this application is successful, in full or in part, the organisation will keep to the following terms and conditions.

I understand that this is an agreement between the organisation named above and Lewes Town Council, which is intended to be legally binding, under the laws of England and Wales.

We understand and agree to the following:

- 1 We will deliver the commissioned service or project as set out in this application.
- 2 We will not make any major change to the commissioned service without first receiving Lewes Town Council agreement.
- 3 We will not sell or dispose of any equipment or other assets which we have purchased in connection with this service/project without Lewes Town Council agreement. If we sell any equipment or assets, we may have to pay Lewes Town Council part of the money we receive for them. The amount we repay will be in direct proportion to the share of the service/project cost represented by Lewes Town Council's grant.
- 4 We will comply with all relevant legislation affecting the way we carry out our service/project.
- 5 We will acknowledge Lewes Town Council's grant in any report; any accounts which cover the period of the grant and in any publicity materials we produce about the project. We will supply copies of these documents to Lewes Town Council if requested.
- 6 We will show the grant separately in our annual accounts (*where applicable*) as a 'restricted fund' and will not include it under general funds.
- 7 Lewes Town Council may use our name and the name of our service/project in its own publicity materials. We will inform Lewes Town Council of any situation where confidentiality is a particular issue.
- 8 We will monitor the success of the project and report to Lewes Town Council on the proforma provided.
- 9 We understand that Lewes Town Council will not normally increase the grant, and that monitoring and control of service/project expenditure is our responsibility.
- 10 We will keep all financial records and accounts, including receipts for items bought. We will make these available to Lewes Town Council if requested.
- 11 Lewes Town Council may hold back payment or ask us to repay, in whole or in part, in the following circumstances:
 - If we fail to keep to this contract in any way;
 - If the application was completed dishonestly or supporting documents gave false or misleading information;
 - If we close down, become insolvent, go into administration, receivership or liquidation, or make an arrangement with creditors;
 - If our organisation closes down we will not sell or dispose of any equipment or assets without first receiving Lewes Town Council agreement in writing.
- 12 If we have bought any equipment or assets with the grant, these terms and conditions will apply until the end of the normal expected working life of the assets.

Name

Position in group

Signed

Date

Financial Grant Application



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H Checklist

We have read and understood the guidance notes

We have fully completed all the sections of the application unless otherwise directed.

We have enclosed all the relevant documents/ information we need to send:

(As applicable):

- Constitution/Governing documents
- Accounts or financial information
- Project profile or description
- Statement of authority to make application
- Other relevant material

The main contact named has signed the declaration

A person with the authority to do so has signed the Agreement (section F).

We have made a copy of this completed application to keep for our reference.

Please return your completed application form to us at:
townclerk@lewes-tc.gov.uk

We only accept applications by email

TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

1. **DOWNLOAD** the application pack and save it to your computer.
2. **RENAME** the application file appropriately, to identify it as your application.
3. **OPEN** the renamed file and select the "fill&sign" tool to complete all sections.
 - a. It is possible to **SAVE** the part-completed form at any point and return to it later.
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4. **ONCE COMPLETED**
 - a. Ensure you **SAVE** the file for your own records and then **SEND** it, with any additional documents, as an email attachment to: townclerk@lewes-tc.gov.uk **If you need any assistance with any part of the application, please telephone 01273 471469 or e-mail townclerk@lewes-tc.gov.uk**