



West Bedlington Town Council Community Support (Grants) Policy

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West Bedlington Community Chest

West Bedlington Town Council has set up a Community Chest scheme which gives local voluntary groups and organisations a chance to bid for funding. This might be to help establish a new group or to carry out extra activities that they wouldn't otherwise be able to do – e.g. sporting activities, arts, music or craft group, new equipment for a youth club – but these ideas will be coming from the community themselves.

To qualify for an award, the applicant must be able to demonstrate clearly that any funding from West Bedlington Town Council will benefit the town, or residents of the town.

An annual budget is defined and once spent then applications will be closed for that fiscal year and opened again with the next budget.

Grant applications will be dealt with by the full council. In determining the validity of an application, the Town Council will refer to the following guidelines:

Applications will be considered for the following purposes:

1. For the purpose of purchasing equipment or materials either in part or in full.
2. For the purchase of services e.g. venue hire or transport that will enable group members to partake in a group trip or outing regardless of their incomes.
3. For running costs (but not wages) of a viable group that is experiencing a period of hardship.
4. For the provision of recreational activities and facilities.
5. For activities that raise the profile of the area.

Conditions

1. Grants will not be awarded to individuals. Groups must submit a constitution or membership list with the application. New groups must submit a list of names and addresses of supporters.
2. Applications WILL NOT be considered from “upward funders”, i.e. local groups whose fundraising is sent to their central HQ for redistribution.
3. Applications will only be considered from groups that operate with no undue restriction to membership, new applications will be received from March of that year.

4. Ongoing commitments to award grants or subsidies in future years will not be made.
5. Additional applications within a 12-month period will not normally be considered, however in the event of budget remaining then those who have previously received a grant in the last 12 months, may apply from the Month of October of that year.
6. If an award is made, payment will be made when evidence of the approved expenditure (bill, invoice or receipt) is supplied. Approval must be given before the goods/services are purchased.
7. The award must be used for the purpose for which the application was made in the same financial year.
8. An organisation requesting a grant above £100 must have a bank account with at least two signatories.
9. Grants will normally be limited to an upper limit of £500. Applications for greater amounts may be considered by the Town Council if exceptional benefit to Bedlington can be demonstrated. In this case, the application will be debated in a separate agenda item at a full council meeting and the Town Council reserves the right to apply additional conditions.

Eligibility

Any charity, voluntary group or community organisation that operates within the area of West Bedlington Town Council and is of benefit to the local community, with the following provisos:

- West Bedlington Town Council will not fund activities that it considers to be the responsibility of a statutory authority.
- Applications from schools for an activity that takes place within the school day will not be considered.
- West Bedlington Town Council will not fund activities outside its legal powers and functions.