

Llangynin Community Council

Draft Grants and Donations Policy

Background

Llangynin is a small community – with around 248 voters (figure for January 2024). The community is made up of residents of all ages. The community council draws the vast majority of its funding from the precept request that it makes to the county council each year. Increasing the precept request beyond a base line figure per voter, creates a direct additional council tax burden upon the community. The community council focusses planning of its expenditure and projects around the needs and wants of the community that it serves – but do so efficiently. It has statutory powers to award grants for specific purposes that will benefit the community.

General

The policy in relation to grants and donations is based upon principles of responsiveness to local need and a desire to encourage community connections. Grants and donations are awarded by the community council at its absolute discretion.

Grants: are for a specific purpose. It is a payment to be used for the furtherance of the wellbeing of the local community, where that purpose is not directly controlled or administered by the council

Donations: are towards costs of something beneficial to the community. It does not need to be specific and could be towards the costs of a fun day or running costs of a local organisation.

Broadly speaking, the community council will, each year, consider two types of requests for grants and donations:

1. Those that are within the direct immediate community – these will include assistance with community activities (of various kinds including the provision of a service) or support in some form for the community hall. These might be matters that are raised and discussed over a period of time – where the funding request can be analysed and planned for across financial years (if appropriate). Alternatively, they may be a request for a one off contribution to the costs of an community event, which might be put together by individuals in the community for the benefit of the community.
2. Those from larger and possibly national organisations who seek donations annually from, amongst others, community councils. Such organisations will provide services of some sort that are for the benefit of the community.

Applications will not be considered from commercial organisations; or where there is a statutory duty upon another government department to fund; or political parties. The discretion remains the Council's to exclude other applications for grants or donations.

Ongoing commitments to award grants in future years will not be made. Fresh applications will be required for each project or in each year. By making an application and giving details of the proposal, applicants are giving consent for their personal details to be held and made available for Community Council deliberations.

Procedure

Those applying for grants will normally be expected to be organisations or groups with clear written aims and objectives, a constitution and a bank account controlled by more than one signatory.

An organisation must be able to demonstrate that it is properly managed and able to run its affairs responsibly. The council may ask to inspect, as part of the consideration of any application for a grant, the audited accounts or accounts that have been independently examined by a suitably qualified person, for previous financial years. In the case of a newly formed organisation, the council may require to see a detailed budget and business plan.

Donations will not require the production of accounts.

In order for the grant application to be considered as part of the Council's budgeting process, requests for grant funding should provide as much detail as possible and (ideally) by the September meeting of the community council prior to the financial year in which they require assistance. The community council meets every other month, and requires adequate time to review and consider the application – as well as look at how it may fit within existing and future budgets. As the community is small and those who might seek funding linked closely into that community, the council currently wishes to avoid a formal application form as it has been found to discourage organisations from coming forwards. This will be kept under review. The council reserves the right to make requests for further details and to ask for any evidence it requires to evidence the completion of works.

Please do not hesitate to seek advice from any councillor or the clerk before making an application. Contact information is on the council website.

<https://www.llangynincc.co.uk>