

COMMUNITY GRANT FUNDING POLICY

(Adopted October 2014 (v1.0))

1. Introduction to Policy

The Parish Council recognizes the importance of supporting groups, organisations and charities that benefit the local community. It understands that the making of grants is a valuable method of support.

The purpose of this document is to ensure that Sutton Benger Parish Council (the Council) has an open, consistent and easily understood approach to awarding grants. A grant is any payment or gift made by the Council to an organisation for a specific purpose that will benefit the Parish, or residents of the Parish, and which is not directly controlled or administered by the Council. The law requires that Section 137 grants must be “in the interests of or will directly benefit the area or its inhabitants, or of part of it, or some of it” and “the direct benefit should be commensurate with expenditure”. Similar considerations will apply when considering applications for other grants.

Sutton Benger Parish Council will consider financial grants of up to a maximum of £500.00 per application to provide financial support for projects/schemes benefitting the residents of the villages of Sutton Benger and Draycot Cerne.

2. Policy

The Council awards grants, at its absolute discretion, to organisations which can demonstrate a clear need for financial support to achieve an objective which will benefit the Parish by:

- Providing a service
- Enhancing the quality of life
- Improving the environment
- Promoting the Parish of Sutton Benger in a positive way

The Parish Council will NOT award grants to:

- Private individuals
- Commercial organisations
- Purposes for which there is a statutory duty upon other local or central government departments to fund or provide
- “Upward funders” i.e. local groups where fund-raising is sent to a central HQ for redistribution
- Political parties
- Animal charities
- Religious organisations: unless for a purpose which does not discriminate on grounds of belief

This list is not exhaustive and may be added to at the council's discretion.

3. Availability of Funds

The availability of funds to support voluntary activity is dependent on the Council's overall financial position and the choices it makes when allocating its resources.

4. Conditions

1. Grants will not be awarded to individuals.
2. Grants will not be awarded to regional or national organisations unless they are for a specific project in the Sutton Benger area.
3. Only one application for a grant will be considered from any organisation in any one financial year.
4. The award must be used for the purpose for which the application was made.
5. Ongoing commitments to award grants in future years will not be made.
6. Grants will not normally be made retrospectively.
7. All awards must be properly accounted for and evidence of expenditure should be supplied as requested. If the Council is not satisfied with the arrangements, they reserve the right to request a refund of monies awarded.

5. Application procedure

Organisations requesting financial assistance will be invited to submit a completed application form to the Parish Council for consideration at its next scheduled meeting after the request is received provided there is enough time to include it in the notice and all the required information when making an application has been received. Councillors may also request further documentation should they feel this necessary.

6. Payment of the Grant

If the application for a grant is successful you will receive a response within 14 days of the Council meeting. Payment will be made by online bank transfer upon receipt of proof of expenditure.

If you are unable to use the grant for the purpose it was intended then the Council will withdraw the offer or ask for the grant to be returned.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

The organisation/group should provide the Council with a report showing how the money was spent at the Annual Parish Council Meeting usually held in May.

8. Further information

If you would like to discuss your project/scheme further please contact the Parish Clerk - on Tel: 07757 351584 during office hours – 9.00am – 12.00noon Mondays and Wednesdays or by email: parishclerk@suttonbengerparishcouncil.gov.uk