



Grants Board

21st June 2023

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Annual Grants – current position

- Due to open on Monday, 31 July 2023 and close on Sunday, 1 October 2023
- Pre grants board meet with Chair and Vice chair of the grants board- to answer any queries and questions
- Grants Board receive the applications and agree the awards in November.
- Welwyn Hatfield Annual Community Grants are available to specific organisations to help fund core running costs of the project.
- The Community Grant funding is for projects that make a positive impact on the community.
- You can apply for grant funding of up to £20,000. Funding applications over £20,000 will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and for those organisations who have been affected negatively by Covid-19.

Current Eligibility Criteria

Your application is only likely to be considered if you meet the following criteria:

- At least 50 per cent of your organisations' members/clients/users live or work in the borough of Welwyn Hatfield
- Provided project updates and/or final feedback if you were successful with a previous grant application from the council
- Your organisation is either a registered charity, incorporated or unincorporated charity or a voluntary/community/not-for-profit group
- Your organisation commits to equality and diversity, and can provide a copy of its equality and diversity statement or policy
- Your organisation commits to safeguarding vulnerable member of the community, and can provide a copy of its safeguarding statement or policy

Current Eligibility Criteria #2

- Appropriate insurance is in place for all vents and services provided
- Finances are audited or independently reviewed on an annual basis (only applies to charities with a gross income of more than £25,000)
- Your organisation is able to be sustainable and is able to show budgetary information for the next financial year
- Able to provide signed constitution or Articles of Memorandum
- Able to provide copies of your organisations' last three months' worth of bank statements
- Able to provide detailed costs relating to application
- Organisation has reserves which would total less than two-year running costs

Funding focus

Applications must demonstrate a positive contribution to one or more of Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council's priorities. This works well in ensuring a central thread runs through our purpose. These are:

Attractive and accessible green spaces

- Provide a variety of green spaces for all our communities to enjoy
- Involve our communities in the use of our green spaces

Evolving, vibrant town centres and a growing economy

- Support businesses as they adapt to the future
- Recognise the importance of town centres as the heart of our communities

Quality homes through managed growth

- Deliver more affordable homes to meet local housing need
- Provide high quality housing, thriving neighbourhoods and sustainable communities

A sense of community where people feel safe

- Invest in strong, inclusive and supportive communities
- Create welcoming neighbourhoods and community spaces where people feel safe

A well-run Council which puts our customers first

- Put our customers at the centre of what we do and how we design our services
- Deliver modern, efficient and transparent services for everyone
- Continue to be an employer of choice, attracting and retaining the best talent



Review of Eligibility Criteria

- The criteria has remained the same for a long period of time
- It is known that some organisations have received funding year on year from the annual grants fund
- Some of these organisations also receive other grant funding from the Council
- Some smaller organisations do not want to apply for the larger funding pots – think they won't be successful
- As a new Grants Board there is an opportunity to review the criteria to enable more organisations to benefit

Options to discuss

Purpose of this is for discussion and any proposals & recommendations will be brought back to July Grants Board for approval.

Implementation will then be applied to the Annual Grants applications that open at end of July.

Some suggestions for discussion:

- Reduce the maximum grant from £20k to £10k per application
- Reduce the % payable for workforce salaries from 99% to 50%
- Introduce a 12 month wait between successive funding bids
- Ringfence an allocation (£10k) to introduce a smaller grants pot of a maximum £500.00 to enable start up activity or to assist with administration i.e opening bank accounts etc