

LUDGVAN PARISH COUNCIL

GRANTS SCHEME:

A. Introduction

The Scheme is open to community related organisations based in or working in the Parish of Ludgvan. Organisations can apply for grants for any project or activity which is for the benefit of residents. The Council's grants budget is limited and it is determined by available resources.

It is not normal Council policy to provide financial assistance towards the day to day running costs of organisations as it is project based, however, it may consider such contributions in exceptional circumstances.

The scheme is primarily aimed at community related organisations based in or working in the parish of Ludgvan. Organisations from outside of the parish of Ludgvan may only apply if they can demonstrate a significant economic or social benefit to the parish. The Council may award reduced funding levels or, indeed, refuse funding to organisations based outside of the parish.

B. Process

Applicants are required to complete and return a simple grants form. This is then submitted to the appropriate meeting of the Council. The Council may invite the applicant to attend the meeting to introduce the application and answer any questions. The Council will consider each application on its merits. It will notify the applicant of its decision within 10 working days of the meeting and, if the application is approved, will send the applicant a cheque for the appropriate amount in due course.

The Council may consider requests for larger grants in exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated that more funds are required and the benefit to the local community and/or the local economy would justify a larger award. In such circumstances further information and undertakings or guarantees may be required. Applicants may also be required to produce a report demonstrating value for money before and after the completion of a project.

The Council will also help signpost applicants to other relevant sources of funding and support, including the Grantfinder scheme.

C. Criteria

1. Applicant organisations must be non-profit making, have a constitution and supply a copy of their constitution, there must be a named contact with address, telephone number and e-mail (if available)
2. National organisations will not usually be issued with a grant.

3. Applicant organisations must have a bank account and submit a copy of their most recent bank statement with their application. They may also be asked for a copy of their latest set of accounts.
4. Projects/activities must benefit local residents and/or be of demonstrable benefit to Ludgvan.
5. Applicant organisations must demonstrate their commitment to equal opportunities and projects/activities must comply with equalities legislation.
6. Clear arrangements must be in place to manage projects/activities and measure their success.
7. Applications must set out the cost of the project/activity and list other sources of funding sought or secured.
8. Grants will not be made to individuals.

D. Rules for successful applicants

1. Applicants must not change the use of their grant award, without the written permission of the Council.
2. Applicants must, on request, send the Council a written report on the use of their grant within three months of completing the relevant project and agree to the Council publishing details of any grants awarded.
3. Applicants must refer to the support of the Council in any publicity they release about their project and agree to the Council publicising details of any grants awarded.
4. If applicants provide any false information in their application, this may lead to the withdrawal of the grant offered.
5. The organisation must guarantee that, should any grant offered not be used in accordance with the terms and conditions set by the Council, they will repay the outstanding amount to the Council on demand.
6. Only one application per organisation will be considered each year unless there are extenuating circumstances.

E. Grants and power to spend using s.137 of the LGA 1972

The total amount of grants made in any one year will be restricted to the amount set out in the parish council's annual budget. Grants will be made under powers set out in legislation,

and if no other power can be found, the council may use section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

S.137 enables a parish council to spend a restricted amount of money on projects which will be of direct benefit to its community, either as a whole or in part, when there is no other legislation allowing it, provided there is clear evidence that local people support the project and are involved in carrying it out. S.137 confers powers to make grants to voluntary bodies, fundraising events, organisations providing not-for-profit public services, and to contribute to charities and disaster appeals. The benefit accruing must be commensurate with the expenditure incurred. Examples of S.137 expenditure include village histories, plaques, prizes, flood relief, landscaping and flower shows.

S.137 is not a replacement for existing statutory powers. If powers exist to spend money under other legislation, the council must use that legislation and not s.137. If the council is specifically prevented by legislation from spending money on an item or service, it cannot use s.137 to circumvent the restriction. S.137 gives councils the power '*to incur expenditure for purposes not otherwise authorised*'. It is only used when there is no other specific power available, it is its *power of last resort*. It must benefit some or all inhabitants, not an individual, nor can it be made retrospectively.

How much can the parish council spend under s.137?

The maximum amount which a parish council can spend under s.137 in the financial year **2020/2021** is **£8.32 per electorate**. This limit increases each year in line with the Retail Price Index.

F. Note on grant applications from churches and places of worship

The parish council may contribute towards maintenance costs of an open churchyard which is still providing space for any resident of the parish to be buried or ashes interred.

If a churchyard is open but not taking further burials/interments, then the council would need to seek legal opinion before granting funding.

The parish council does not have the legal power to contribute towards the fabric of the building or other property held by the church or ecclesiastical charities.

If a grant application relates to a building not used solely as a place of worship, but with wider community benefit, then the council would need to seek legal opinion before granting funding.

Contact Details

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