



Purley on Thames Parish Council

Grants Policy

Introduction

A grant is a payment made by a Parish Council to an organisation for a specific purpose to benefit the Parish, or residents of that Parish. The Parish Council awards grants, at its discretion, to organisations that can demonstrate a clear need for financial support in order to benefit the Parish by:

- i) Positively promoting the Parish of Purley on Thames
- ii) Improving the environment within the Parish
- iii) Enhancing the quality of life for all or a section of the community of Purley on Thames.
- iv) Providing a service to all or a section of the community of Purley on Thames.

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers local Councils to make such grants to voluntary bodies and charities, where no specific grant making power exists in other legislation and where, in the Council's opinion, the grant will benefit any part of its area or any of its inhabitants.

The Council adopts its annual budget in January each year. It is not obliged to award grants and may, after considering other budgetary requirements, choose not to allocate any funding for grants. Alternatively, it may set aside a fund to provide grants. Setting aside such a fund does not guarantee that any applications will be successful. Once the allocated fund has been spent, no further applications will be considered unless the Council determines they are emergency requests.

Procedure- application

Applications are to be submitted to the Clerk, in the period from 16 September to 31 January each year.

Application forms will be available on the website or on request from the Parish Council office. Completed applications should be returned to Purley on Thames Parish Council at The Parish Office, Goosecroft, Purley on Thames RG8 8 BW or by email to clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk

After submission of the application, the Parish Council may, but need not, request further supporting evidence, or invite the applicant to meet Council or the Grants Working Group to make a presentation and answer questions in support of the application.

Funding available for grants is limited. There may be many deserving applications and inevitably not all of which may be successful. Particular emphasis will be given on ensuring that any grant made will be put to the best possible use by the recipient and as to the number of people in the Parish likely to benefit from the award.

Procedure- assessment

Each application, assuming it meets the criteria set out, will be determined on its merits. However, the Parish Council will consider amongst other factors:

- a) the number of and amount of any previous awards,
- b) the perceived benefit being commensurate with the funding to be granted,
- c) other funding requests and options being considered by the applicant.
- d) other benefits the applicant receives from the Parish Council

The Council may disqualify applications from organisations which have not strictly adhered to the criteria.

If the Parish Council resolves in principle to award a grant, the award may be made subject to such conditions and requirements as the Council considers appropriate.

The Parish Council will refuse any grant application it considers to be inappropriate or contrary to its objectives and has absolute discretion as to whether to award any Grant.

The Parish Council will provide written notice of its decision and if the offer of a grant is accepted on the conditions set by the Parish Council, will make payment by the end of March.

The Parish Council will publish a full list of successful grants once payment is made.

Conditions of funding

- a) The applicant organisation must be either a charitable organisation, a non-profit-oriented business, or other community-related organisation. The organisation must not be directly or jointly controlled or otherwise administered by the Parish Council.
- b) Grants will not be made to projects that discriminate on any grounds.
- c) Grants will not be made to individuals.
- d) Grants will not be made retrospectively.
- e) An organisation should have a bank account in its own name. Payment will be made to the named organisation.
- f) A grant award must be used solely for the purpose set out in the application unless prior written approval for any variation is granted by the Parish Council.
- g) All publicity or information relating to the project for which a grant is awarded must recognise the grant made by Purley on Thames Parish Council.
- h) The recipient must provide in a timely fashion such information as the Parish Council may reasonably seek as to the project.
- i) If the recipient is unable to proceed with the project for the purpose stated, the grant or any part of it that is not spent must be returned to the Parish Council.
- j) Recipients of grants must administer and account for the funding received and supply such evidence of expenditure as the Parish Council may reasonably request.

Nothing contained herein shall prevent the Parish Council from exercising, at any time, its existing duty or power in respect of providing financial assistance under the provisions of section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.