



Lowestoft Town Council

Grant Awarding Policy

1. General Information for Applicants

1.1 Lowestoft Town Council has statutory powers to make funds available to local organisations for the overall benefit of Lowestoft and its residents. These provide an option (not an obligation) to make grants and Lowestoft Town Council has adopted this policy to help guide relevant decisions. Any groups or organisations wishing to apply for a grant should read this policy carefully.

1.2 In addition to outlining Lowestoft Town Council's guidelines for awarding grants, this document also formalises the application process to provide clarity, openness and fairness. The Town Council reserves the right to deviate from this policy where it considers it appropriate to do so.

1.3 It is Lowestoft Town Council's intention to support initiatives from local community groups and organisations and it has set an annual budget for this. The Finance and Governance Committee will consider applications every three months. The annual budget set is the maximum budgeted total amount for all grants and does not represent an obligation by the Town Council to spend this money on grants.

1.4 The size of any grant awarded is at the discretion of the Town Council, but would not normally exceed £2,000 in any one application.

1.5 Where the application provides a breakdown of costs, a quotation or other supporting evidence must be provided in respect of the sum being applied for.

2.0 Who is Eligible?

2.1 The following organisations are eligible to apply:

- a. Lowestoft-based charities, clubs, associations, groups or other organisations whose activities benefit all or some of the Lowestoft community.
- b. Local branches of regional or national charities, clubs, associations, groups or other organisations whose activities benefit all or some of the Lowestoft community.

3. Who is not eligible?

3.1 Applications will normally be rejected:

- a. From statutory bodies or for statutory purposes normally funded through the taxpayer or central government funding.
- b. From individuals, private businesses and "for profit" commercial organisations or for projects which improve or benefit privately owned land or property.
- c. From regional and national organisations unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the grant would be used specifically for Lowestoft residents.
- d. From organisations with political or religious affiliations unless for a specific non-discriminatory purpose offered without exclusivity to a particular political group or religion.
- e. From organisations or in connection with projects which negatively discriminate.

4.0 What Can Be Funded?

4.1 It is expected that the project will:

- a. In some significant way make Lowestoft a better place to live, work or play.
- b. Provide a long lasting and sustainable benefit to all or part of Lowestoft.
- c. Improve the social, environmental and/or economic profile of Lowestoft.
- d. Add value and help make projects self-sustaining



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5.0 What Is Unlikely to be Funded?

5.1 It is unlikely that projects will be considered where:

- a. They simply replace existing facilities with no significant improvement.
- b. There is no clear business or project plan.
- c. On larger budget projects with a budget in excess of £2,000, where there is a shortfall with limited or no other contributory funding, unless a decision is required to secure match funding.
- d. The project or applicant has been previously funded and there has been a failure to comply with the conditions of grants detailed below.
- e. Expenditure on general business overheads (running costs).

6.0 Conditions of Grant

6.1 It is a condition of acceptance of a grant that:

- a. Lowestoft Town Council support must be acknowledged appropriately on all related publicity and promotional material including posters, advertisements, press releases and leaflets.
- b. Grants awarded can only be used for the purpose for which they were given and in compliance with any conditions applied.
- c. Grants must not be distributed to any other organisation, other than as agreed as part of the grant award.
- d. The outcome and impact of the grant must be reported to the Council within six months' of the grant being made. The Council reserves the right to specify the form, content and any different timescale for reporting.

7.0 What factors will be considered as part of the decision making?

7.1 The following are among those matters which are likely to be taken into account:

- a. General eligibility
- b. Organisational credibility
- c. Impact on identified local need
- d. Community support
- e. Value for money
- f. Any match-funding and other efforts to self-fund the project
- g. Social, environmental or economic impact
- h. Community involvement
- i. Likely effectiveness
- j. Soundness of the business or project plan
- k. Added value and Sustainability

7.2 For grant applications made by sports clubs, evidence will need to be provided for one or more of the following:

- a. How the club has used its income from the preceding year to increase its membership
- b. How the club has used its income from the preceding year to make improvements to its facilities
- c. How the club has maintained its facilities

8.0 When Will Decisions Be Made?

8.1 Applications will be considered by the Finance and Governance Committee every three months (at its meetings in March, June, September and December). The Committee reserves the right to consider urgent or time sensitive applications in the interim. If you feel that your application requires consideration outside of the regular three-monthly cycle please ensure this is clearly indicated on your application form. Please refer



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to Lowestoft Town Council's website (www.lowestofttowncouncil.gov.uk) for the meeting schedules or contact the office on 0330 053 6019/ admin@lowestofttowncouncil.gov.uk for details.

Revisions	
Date	Amendment
February 2021	Amendment made to reflect Council's decision that applications will be considered quarterly, rather than twice per year (with effect from the Annual Meeting in May 2021).
June 2021	Removed the sentence ' <i>For sports clubs, a grant fund is available equivalent to the sum Lowestoft Town Council receives via income from the clubs.</i> ' from point 1.3, as it is not applicable for the 2021 – 2022 year.
June 2021	Amended the amount specified at point 1.3 from £500 to £2,000.
June 2021	Amended point 8.1 to reflect that applications will be considered monthly rather than quarterly.
July 2021	Added point 1.5 to specify that a quotation or supporting evidence must be provided where there is a breakdown of costs.
November 2021	Amended point 1.3 to reflect that applications are now considered monthly rather than quarterly. Also removed reference to sports clubs as not applicable under the fee waiver.
November 2021	At point 5.1d added 'unless a decision is required to secure match funding'.
November 2021	At points 7.2a and 7.2b replaced references to specific years to 'the preceding year'.



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May 2022	Point 5a removed (There is a large shortfall in the funding required to complete the project). 'On larger budget projects with a budget in excess of £2,000, where there is a shortfall' added at point 5c. Point 5d removed (The project or applicant has been provided with a Council grant recently, especially in one or more of the previous three years). Words 'or equivalent' added at sections a and b of the application form.
October 2022	Amended point 1.3 and 8.1 to reflect the decision for applications to be considered every three months, rather than monthly.



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Grant Application Form

Please complete this form and send it with:

- Your Equality Policy, or equivalent (and Safeguarding Policy if project relates to young and/or vulnerable people)
- Your constitution or equivalent

To *The Town Clerk, Lowestoft Town Council, First Floor, Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 1DE* or e-mail admin@lowestofttowncouncil.gov.uk

About your organisation. Insert 'yes' or 'no' and/or provide additional information where relevant	
Name of organisation	Lowestoft North Cliff Community Garden CIO and the Conservation Volunteers (TCV)
Name of account to which payment to be made (explain if not your organisation's name)	Lowestoft North Cliff Community Garden CIO
What does your organisation do? (100 words max)	The CIO's aims are: to be a community resource for promoting food growing, gardening, sustainable living, good health and positive community interaction. To restore the site to illustrate its former Hanging Garden glory including preservation and display of historic features where practical. TCV is a national charity, which has been working since 1959 connecting people and green spaces to deliver lasting outcomes for both.
What relevant local area does your organisation cover?	The CIO covers 7 parish wards of Lowestoft Parish Council but in particular the area formerly (1792) known as the Hanging Gardens of Lowestoft on Crown Score. TCV's office in Norwich covers all of Norfolk and North Suffolk.
Who are the main beneficiaries of your work?	The people of Lowestoft, especially those living within a 15 minute walk of Crown Score (NR32 1JH)
Are you a charity? If yes, describe the type of charity	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Registered Charity (TCV).



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If registered, what is the charity number?	In process (CIO). Charity number 261009 (TCV).
Not-for-profit? If no, describe the organisation	Yes we are "Not for Profit" (both organisations).
Organisation income (last complete financial year)	NIL (CIO). £9.3m (TCV)
Organisation expenditure (last complete financial year)	NIL (CIO). £8.9m (TCV)
Contact details	
Name	<i>Redacted</i>
Address	<i>Redacted</i>
Telephone number/s	<i>Redacted</i>
E-mail	<i>Redacted</i>
Position within organisation	Trustee / Team Leader (Norfolk and Suffolk)
Explain how you are authorised to make this application on behalf of the organisation	Lead Trustee (one of four) / Authorised by TCV Regional Manager to bid for funding up to £250K.
About your project	



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<p>Please provide details of the project and how the project will benefit the people of Lowestoft (250 words max).</p>	<p>The land to be bought is on the lower North side of Crown Score. Title no. SK231041.OS ref. TM5593NW It is currently privately owned and not open to the public, but was previously well-known as one of <u>The Hanging Gardens of Lowestoft - The Gardens Trust</u> The project will create a new public open space where local people can enjoy quiet recreation, gardening, food growing and contact with nature.</p> <p>TCV will bring decades of experience to help the new CIO through the processes of co-production and running practical volunteer task days. The former involves citizens in deciding on the best way forward for the site. This will run alongside investigative work on site during 2024 / 2025. This will then lead to the future layout of the site, allocation of resources and activity planning being decided with the community.</p> <p>Local people will get involved in all aspects of the project as volunteers. There will also be ongoing co-evaluation to ensure tangible benefits for local people.</p> <p>The mental and physical health benefits of outdoor exercise and volunteering are well documented, for example: <u>University Of Westminster and University of Essex findings TCV</u></p> <p>Other long-term benefits of the project will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social inclusion (isolated people working together) - Healthier diets (access to free fresh healthy food grown on site) - Learning new skills in horticulture, team-working, etc. - Improved biodiversity and access to nature for local people
<p>Total cost of project</p>	<p>£45,000</p>
<p>Breakdown of cost</p>	<p>Land purchase £30,000. A further £15,000 to employ Conservation Volunteers (TCV) to carry out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-production process to involve the local community in shaping the future of the site • Initial support to the CIO in running practical tasks on site
<p>Grant requested from Lowestoft Town Council</p>	<p>£15,000</p>



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What specifically would the grant from the Council fund?	50% of the Land Purchase	
Have any funds been requested/agreed from other sources? Provide details	Match funding has come from SCC via East Suffolk Council (Communities Team and Community Partnership) for land purchase to support a Community Centred Approach – to improve health and tackling health inequalities with a further £15,000 funding for The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) to support co-production process with the local community and practical help with running volunteer task days on site. Looking further ahead we anticipate a bid will subsequently be made to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to employ a project officer (2.5 days per week for 2.5 years) to incorporate the site within a wider project to create a green corridor across initially the North cliff: TCV has a history of 6 successful similar bids across Norfolk and North Suffolk. We are confident that we have the support of both the HAZ and Heritage England for these projects.	
When are the funds required?	September / October 2024	
Project start date	Land purchase expected to be completed by 10 /2024. Co-production with the community to help determine the initial future uses of the site to be completed by 04/2025.	
Project completion date	We envisage a series of exploratory surveys and small land clearances over 2024 / 2025 and then major land development work until 2030 at least. At least part of the site will be opened to the public by 04/2025. At this point we would hope to start a wider green corridor project. This would incorporate further development and restoration of this site, but also other green spaces in the vicinity (see above). Again we are confident of support from both the HAZ and Heritage England	
Compliance Agreements (insert 'YES' to indicate your agreement to the questions below. If you do not intend to comply, insert 'NO'.)		
Do you authorise us to hold and use information that you have provided, for the purpose of processing and monitoring this grant application? You can ask us for details of the information we use for this purpose at any time.	Yes	



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Do you acknowledge that if you provide false or misleading information in your application or at any point in the life of any grant, we will provide information to relevant enforcement agencies and take any action to recover any funds and damages, as we deem appropriate?	Yes
Do you authorise us to use information about your project and organisation as part of our publicity and promotion of our grants programme?	Yes
Do you agree to acknowledge the Council appropriately on all of your related publicity and promotional material including posters, advertisements, press releases and leaflets?	Yes
Do you agree not to distribute funds granted to any other organisation, other than as agreed as part of the grant award?	Yes
Do you agree to report the outcome and impact of the grant to the Council as required in the Council's Grant Awarding Policy?	Yes
Do you agree that any grant awarded will only be used for the purpose for which it was given and in compliance with any conditions applied?	Yes

Signed... *Redacted*.....

Date...14/06/2024.....

Signatory must be authorised to act on behalf of the organisation and, if different from the main contact listed above, this should be explained.