

Item 12b. Grants to Voluntary Bodies: Round One, July 2026

The Town Council has allocated £16,500 for the financial year 2026–27 to support voluntary and community organisations delivering benefit to Chipping Norton residents.

This is in addition to our continuous core funding to the following three key organisations:

- Chipping Norton Lido – £5,000
- Chipping Norton Museum – £3,500
- Chipping Norton Theatre – £3,000

Table 1 provides the details of 10 grant applications received for Round one.

Organisation/ Project name	Grant funding requested	Funding “in kind” (excludes cost of running the building during hire time).	Notes
The ACE Centre	£2,000	n/a	
CHAOS	£100	Town Hall hire 2pm - midnight 30/01/27 - £654	
Chipping Norton Town Festival – back dated funding for event held on 28 th June 2026.	£2,000	Already provided the Town Hall 28/06/2026 – free of charge - £654	
Chipping Norton Railway Club	£750	n/a	
Community Land Trust	£2,000	Free Venue hire – venue and dates to be confirmed.	Unable to calculate the venue hire due insufficient information.
Cotswold Youth Choir			
Remix	£1,000	Glyme Hall 2.5hr/week 36 weeks - £2,520	
St Mary’s Church Minis	£500- £800	n/a	
Volunteer Link Up	£2,000	n/a	
Cotswold Arts	£2,000	n/a	
Total	£12,350 - £12,650	£3,828 excluding request from Community Land Trust.	

Table 1

RECOMMENDATION: That the committee considers each of the grant applications submitted and agrees on the allocation of available grant funding of £16,500 in the financial year.

To make the pack lighter this year, where possible only the application forms have been included. Unfortunately, the new Application pack approved by the committee in February 2026 failed to request applicants to include their accounts. As a result, there are no accounts to share. This will be changed for the next round of applications. The RFO has copies of all other documents such as governance, terms of reference, and bank statements where sent. Should you wish to see any of these documents please request this from the RFO prior to the meeting.

3. Application Form

3.1. Organisation Details.

Organisation name:	THE A.C.E. Centre
Contact name:	[REDACTED]
Position in organisation:	Chair of Trustees
Address:	THE ACE Centre, BURFORD RD CHIPPING NORTON, OX7 5DZ
Telephone:	01608 644440
Email:	sally-121@hotmail.co.uk
Organisation type:	Childcare and Education
Charity number (if applicable):	1060208
Social media links:	-
Website:	www.aceearlyyears.co.uk
Social media links:	-

3.2. Bank account details.

Bank account name:	THE ACE CENTRE
Sort code:	[REDACTED]
Account num	[REDACTED]

Payments will only be made to a bank account in the name of the applicant organisation.

3.3. Fundraising Activity.

Fundraising activities in the last 12 months. None, due to uncertainty about the future of the ACE Centre. These uncertainties revolved around O.C.C. Nursery School on site, and have now been resolved. The future of our provision is now secure.
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How will you measure the impact of your project? (maximum 100 words).

Impact will be measured in the development of childrens physical skills, and emotional & mental health.

We expect to see a developing love of being outdoors.

We will note the increased opportunities for outdoor play as the surface allows play in all weathers / year round.

3.8. Supporting documents and declaration.

Supporting Documents Checklist ☒ Constitution or governing document ☒ Bank statement ☒ Safeguarding policy (if applicable) ☐ Other supporting documentation

Declaration ☒ I confirm the information provided is true and accurate. ☒ I confirm I am authorised to submit this application. ☒ I confirm the organisation accepts the grant scheme terms and conditions.

Name: SALLY PURSSEN

Position: Chair of Trustees

Signature: Sally Pursell

Date: 2/7/26

Incomplete applications will not be presented to the Committee for consideration.

3.6. Details of free venue use.

Please list the dates and times of each venue you are requesting free use of.

N/A.

3.7. Project description, benefits and measuring impact.

Describe your project (max 300 words). To install artificial grass to a disused, dilapidated area to make it suitable for year round outdoor play in all weathers. An area of decking also needs repair to make the area safe and suitable for young children to play. The area is currently muddy and unsuitable as a play area. The new surface will give us a space we can use in all weathers, facilitating outdoor play which is so vital for physical development as well as healthy bodies and minds for our young children.

What benefits will your project bring to Chipping Norton residents? (max 300 words).

Our youngest children will have a safe, suitable space for outside play. Our children come from diverse backgrounds, and with a range of needs. Most live in Chipping Norton, and some from local villages. Many live in flats and have little or no access to garden space at home. We aim to provide long periods of outdoor play and learning offering access to fresh air, physical play, and promoting developing active lifestyles. This grant will allow us to enhance this offer. Mental and physical health has been shown to benefit from being outside, and we see this in our young

Fundraising activities planned for the next 12 months.

Pre loved toys and clothes sale.

Quiz and cheese & wine evening.

3.4. Project Details.

Project title:	Improving outdoor play provision to allow year round access (artificial grass)
Project start date:	August 2026
Project end date:	August 2026
Project location:	Small outdoor area at ACE Centre, Bwford Rd.

3.5. Project budget.

Budget item cost (£)	Funding source
£ 2756.11	Install artificial grass
£ 760.00	Repair & replace damaged decking
	} Reserves built up over time
	} Grants sought to supplement
Total project cost	£ 3516.11

Amount requested from Chipping Norton Town Council Grants to voluntary bodies scheme (£) £ 2000

Tick here if you requesting free use of Council venues as part of this application? ☐ Yes (If you tick yes, you must complete section 3.6. below).

1. Application Form

1.1. Organisation Details.

Organisation name:	Remix Youth Club
Contact name:	[REDACTED]
Position in organisation:	Youth Club Coordinator
Address:	Glyme Hall
Telephone:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Organisation type:	[REDACTED]
Charity number (if applicable):	Not-for-profit voluntary youth club / community organisation
Social media links:	
Website:	Instagram - Remixchippy
Social media links:	Affiliated links to - stmarysyouthchippy for advertising Remix activities where appropriate.
	https://www.stmaryscnorton.com/

1.2. Bank account details.

Bank account name please see paying in slip attached
Sort code:
Account number
Bank mandate: please confirm at least two authorised signatories before submitting.

Payments will only be made to a bank account in the name of the applicant organisation.

1.3. Fundraising Activity.

Fundraising activities in the last 12 months.

The youth club has supported its activities through small-scale local fundraising and community support, including voluntary donations from St. Mary's Church and previous grants from the Town Council, tuck-shop/refreshment income, and donated time and resources from volunteers and local supporters. These efforts have helped keep sessions low-cost and accessible, but they are not enough

on their own to provide the equipment, structured activities, refreshments and safeguarding support needed for a sustainable programme. The club has deliberately kept any charges low so that young people from households under financial pressure are not excluded.

Fundraising activities planned for the next 12 months.

The club will continue community fundraising through youth-led events, local business sponsorship approaches, donation appeals, and donations from St. Mary's Church. We will also seek support from other local funders and use volunteer time and donated goods to reduce costs. This application for £1,000 is part of a wider mixed-funding approach and will unlock a realistic programme without placing the cost on families. The club will acknowledge Chipping Norton Town Council support in publicity, on social media, and at sessions.

1.4. Project Details.

Project title:	Youth Club Inclusive Activities and Wellbeing Programme
Project start date:	N/A
Project end date:	N/A
Project location:	Glyme Hall

1.5. Project budget.

Budget item cost (£)	Funding source
Specialist sport, arts or wellbeing activity sessions - £350	£350 Chipping Norton Town Council grant requested
Youth club equipment, games and creative materials - £300	£300 Chipping Norton Town Council grant requested
Healthy snacks and refreshments for weekly sessions - £250	£250 Chipping Norton Town Council grant requested
Safeguarding, first-aid training and essential volunteer support - £100	£100 Chipping Norton Town Council grant requested
Staffing costs circa £2700 per staff member	Covered by St. Mary's Church staff and volunteers
Publicity, printing and outreach to families - £75	Youth club fundraising and local donations
Replacement consumables / contingency - £75	Youth club fundraising and local donations
Venue Cost £2,520	Historically provided free of charge by Town Council
Total project cost	£3,670 excluding staff costs

Amount requested from Chipping Norton Town Council Grants to voluntary bodies scheme (£): £1,000

Tick here if you are requesting free use of Council venues as part of this application? Yes

1.6. Details of free venue use.

Please list the dates and times of each venue you are requesting free use of.

We work in partnership and use Glyme Hall on Friday from 2.40-5pm weekly approx.. 36 weeks

1.7. Project description, benefits and measuring impact.

Describe your project (max 300 words).

This project will fund a programme of safe, welcoming youth club sessions for young people aged 11-18 who live in Chipping Norton. The programme will provide structured activities such as sport, creative workshops, games, cooking/healthy eating, teamwork challenges and informal wellbeing support, alongside time for young people to socialise in a supervised space.

The £1,000 grant will be used for activity materials and equipment, healthy refreshments, specialist workshop sessions, and essential safeguarding/first-aid and volunteer support. The aim is to keep the club free or very low-cost so that no young person is excluded because of family finances.

Sessions will be shaped by young people themselves through informal feedback and youth voice activities, ensuring the programme reflects their interests and needs. Volunteers and youth club leaders will manage the project, keep attendance records, follow safeguarding procedures and retain receipts for all grant-funded expenditure. The project will directly support Chipping Norton residents by giving local young people a positive place to go, trusted adults to speak to and constructive activities to take part in during evenings or out-of-school time.

What benefits will your project bring to Chipping Norton residents? (max 300 words).

The project will strengthen community life in Chipping Norton by giving young residents a safe, inclusive and positive place to meet. It will support health and wellbeing through physical activity, healthy refreshments, creative expression, social connection and access to trusted adults.

Young people will benefit from increased confidence, improved social skills, opportunities to try new activities and a stronger sense of belonging in the town. The sessions will be particularly valuable for young people who may otherwise be isolated, unable to afford paid activities or lacking safe spaces outside school and home. Families will benefit because the programme will be local, affordable and supervised.

The project will also encourage participation in community life by involving young people in planning sessions, volunteering opportunities and local events where appropriate. We aim to run at least 20 sessions and engage around 25-35 young people per session, with a target of reaching 80 or more individual Chipping Norton young residents across the project period. By supporting the youth club, the Council would help create a visible, practical investment in young people, wellbeing, social inclusion and community cohesion.

How will you measure the impact of your project? (maximum 100 words).

We will record the number of sessions delivered, attendance at each session, the number of individual young people reached, age ranges and Chipping Norton residency where appropriate. We will collect short feedback from young people, parents/carers and volunteers, including what participants enjoyed and whether they feel more connected, confident or supported. We will review safeguarding or wellbeing issues raised, keep receipts for spending, take photos where consent is given, and provide a short monitoring report to the Council showing activities delivered, outcomes achieved and learning for future sessions.

1.8. Supporting documents and declaration.

Supporting Documents Checklist Constitution or governing document Bank statement
Safeguarding policy (if applicable) Other supporting documentation: project budget/session plan/letters of support to attach

Declaration ☐ I confirm the information provided is true and accurate. -Yes ☐ I confirm I am authorised to submit this application – Yes . ☐ I confirm the organisation accepts the grant scheme terms and conditions. Please tick these only after checking the application – Yes.

Name: 

Position: Remix Coordinator

Signature:



Date: 03/06/28

Incomplete applications will not be presented to the Committee for consideration.



Chipping Norton Town Council's Grants to Voluntary Bodies Application Form

2025-26

Applications must be received before 5pm on the deadline 30th June (to be considered at the July meeting) or 19th January (to be considered at the February meeting)

Chipping Norton Town Council (CNTC) are looking for applications of up to £2k which demonstrate:

- Improved Physical, Mental, Emotional Health, and Environmental or Economic outcomes.
- Direct, positive, impact for Chipping Norton residents.

For more information, please see our guidance which can be found at www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk/grants.

Name of Organisation	Chipping Norton Railway Club	
Name of Project or Activity	Revitalisation of the Railway Club. Grant funding is sought to cover costs for the purchase of a new digital projector to enhance the quality of presentations and member experience. In addition, the purchase of a recycled laptop for use by the Club. In turn, this will help sustain the Club in the longer term as a good quality local community resource and help to increase membership and attract a wider audience.	
What is the delivery time scale of your Project or Activity	Start (mm/yyyy)	Finish (mm/yyyy)
	1 st January 2026	31 st December 2016
Amount of funding requested from CNTC	£750 (representing £500 for a digital projector and £250 for a recycled laptop).	
Is your organisation applying for free hire of the Town Hall? Yes /No	No	

Contact Details

Name of the person making the application	
Position in organisation	Treasurer
Email address	
Telephone number	

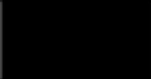
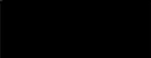
Organisation details

Address	Chipping Norton Railway Club
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Website	Chippingnortonrailwayclub.org
Social media links	Facebook
Description of organisational purpose and how it benefits the community	We are a long established, not for profit, inclusive and welcoming club offering monthly talks and a social environment for members and guests. The Club was established in 1974 in response to the loss of the town's rail links in the '60's and the desire to maintain local interest in railways heritage. The Club offers members and guests a social environment to experience talks and presentations on subjects of railway interest and heritage with many focused on local connections. It connects local residents in an informal social setting, a safe warm space with refreshments and promotes wellbeing We collaborate with Chipping Norton Local History Society and share talks where there is common interest. A good example is our August talk on Thomas Brassey (a railway engineer) with the Brassey family having close connections to the town. We maintain a modest membership fee (currently £20 pa) to ensure that the cost is affordable to promote inclusivity. It is free to under 18's. There is a Club WhatsApp group which helps engender a community feel.
Please outline any fundraising activities that your organisation has undertaken in the past year	The Club arranges annual outings to railway attractions such as Didcot Railway Centre (2025) and the STEAM Great Western Museum Swindon (July 2026). These make a small funding surplus contribution.

	We hold a raffle at Christmas that generates some funds.
Do you have any special projects which require additional financial expenditure by your organisation in the next year?	No

Payment details if application is successful

Name of account	Chipping Norton Railway Club
Sort code	
Account number	

Whilst the Club is a valuable resource to long standing members we are keen to grow and attract new members.

Project Details

Please tell us in no more, than 300 words, about your project. Who will your project benefit, how will it be delivered, how can people join in.

Chipping Norton Railway Club is long established and a valuable resource open to all residents.. However, the Club has an elderly demographic, reduced membership numbers and income and related financial challenges. We have an active Committee seeking to revitalize the Club and achieve longer term sustainability by making the Club more attractive to a wider audience and increase membership numbers. Key to this is the quality of our monthly speaker presentations and the need for a good quality digital projector and a supporting Club owned laptop.

We have already launched a new look website, improved marketing, a raised profile and collaboration with other local organisations such as Chipping Norton Local History Society. However, there is more to do and associated costs. It is important that our presentations are of good quality as we seek to improve member experience through better projection facilities, arranging a broader range of speakers and extend the range of outings.

The Club financial resources are very limited and our income does not currently cover outgoings without draw downs on our shrinking Reserves and/or grant funding. As part of our revitalization plans we are seeking to increase membership income to balance our financial position in the longer term. This requires an improved member experience and the challenge the Club faces is funding capital items to help achieve this. We see a new digital projector as critical to improving the quality of presentations and wish to apply for grant funding to cover this cost along with the purchase of a dedicated Club owned supporting laptop.

How will you measure the impact of your project?

Through membership numbers, range of new members and the responses from an annual members questionnaire.

If awarded a grant last year from CNTC could you please state how the funds helped your organisation and what they were used for.

n/a

How much will your project cost and how will you use the money?

What is the total cost of your project?	The expected cost is £750 (£500 for a digital projector and £250 for a recycled laptop).
How much Funding would you like from CNTC?	£750 to cover both items.
Is your organisation also applying for free hire of the Town Hall? If Yes, please state the dates and hours you wish you hire the hall.	No, we are not looking for free hire of the Town Hall but a substantial part of our overheads currently relate to these costs.
Where will the remaining funding come from?	We are seeking to generate other income to cover other costs using income from raffles, profit from outings, badges etc but these are small amounts.

Budget (please complete the following budget for your project)

Title	Description	Total amount	Amount requested From CNTC
Management costs	Website improvements – in house expertise		
Training	n/a		
Office costs (rent, telephone etc)			

Signature 1 (person submitting form)	
Signature 2 (Chair or senior representative of the organisation)	
Typed entries acceptable for email applications	
Date: 11 th June 2026	

Please return your completed application form to:
Chipping Norton Town Council,
The Guildhall

1. Application Form

1.1. Organisation Details.

Organisation name:	St Mary's Church
Contact name:	██████████
Position in organisation:	Children and Families Pastor
Address:	The Branch, 16 Market Place, Chipping Norton OX7 5NE
Telephone:	01608 698250
Email:	████████████████████
Organisation type:	Church (Charity)
Charity number (if applicable):	1132070
Social media links:	
Website:	www.stmaryscnorton.com
Social media links:	

1.2. Bank account details.

Bank account name: CAF Bank St Marys Church Chipping Norton PCC
Sort code: ████████
████████████████████

Payments will only be made to a bank account in the name of the applicant organisation.

1.3. Fundraising Activity.

Fundraising activities in the last 12 months.
None

Fundraising activities planned for the next 12 months.

Church collection plate and regular giving.

1.4. Project Details.

Project title:	St Mary's Minis Parent and Toddler Group
Project start date:	Running for over 50 years
Project end date:	N/A
Project location:	The Branch

1.5. Project budget.

Budget item cost (£)	Funding source
Regular Refreshments £30/week.	Church
Total project cost	

Amount requested from Chipping Norton Town Council Grants to voluntary bodies scheme (£) 500-800

Tick here if you requesting free use of Council venues as part of this application? ☐ Yes **(If you tick yes, you must complete section 3.6. below).** No

1.6. Details of free venue use.

Please list the dates and times of each venue you are requesting free use of.

1.7. Project description, benefits and measuring impact.

Describe your project (max 300 words).

St Mary's Minis is the church Parent and Toddler Group. We have evolved from being a regular toddler group to also be a vital place for parents to receive support and reduce their social isolation. Parents access signposting to other services in the town and the Branch Trust. For example, we have made three referrals to OXPIP parent infant project who provide support regarding infant attachment. They work from the same building. We have also begun to also include young parents (under 21) who attend another group in the building and been brave enough to try us!

We have really appreciated council grants in the past. Last time we recognised the need for equipment to enable the children to improve their gross motor skills, and we were able to buy a slide and climbing frame which has been well used, thank you.

I would like to increase the quality of our craft and sensory provision as we are meeting more and more children with SEND needs. I would like to purchase a bubble tube and a cycle of activities for our tuff tray. I also need to replace very old coffee cups with lids which are essential to health and safety of the children a large play rug, toddler pens, paints and PVA glue.

What benefits will your project bring to Chipping Norton residents? (max 300 words).

Ongoing open access support for babies, toddlers and their parents and carers.

How will you measure the impact of your project? (maximum 100 words).

We are now recording our impact with regular collection of data and questionnaires so we will be able to provide this in future.

1.8. Supporting documents and declaration.

Supporting Documents Checklist ☒ Constitution or governing document ☒ Bank statement ☒ Safeguarding policy (if applicable) ☐ Other supporting documentation

Declaration ☒ I confirm the information provided is true and accurate. ☒ I confirm I am authorised to submit this application. ☒ I confirm the organisation accepts the grant scheme terms and conditions.

Name: [REDACTED]

Position: Children and Families Pastor

Signature: [REDACTED]

3. Application Form

3.1. Organisation Details.

Organisation name:	Chippy Community Land Trust Ltd. (Chippy CLT)
Contact name:	[REDACTED]
Position in organisation:	Treasurer
Address:	[REDACTED]
Telephone:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Organisation type:	Community Benefit Society
Charity number (if applicable):	9394
Social media links:	https://www.facebook.com
Website:	https://www.chippyclt.org.uk
Social media links:	

3.2. Bank account details.

Bank account name: ChippyCLT
Sort code: [REDACTED]
Account number: [REDACTED]

Payments will only be made to a bank account in the name of the applicant organisation.

3.3. Fundraising Activity.

Fundraising activities in the last 12 months. We have looked to increase membership through community engagement workshops, stalls at local events
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Fundraising activities planned for the next 12 months.
Applications to WODC, Community Land Trust Network, other bodies

3.4. Project Details.

Project title:	Walterbush Road Planning Application (Private & Confidential)
Project start date:	1 st August 2026
Project end date:	31 st July 2027
Project location:	Chipping Norton

3.5. Project budget.

Budget item cost (£)	Funding source
Please see attached budget	WODC, Community Land Trust Nextwork, other bodies
Total project cost £90,000.00	

Amount requested from Chipping Norton Town Council Grants to voluntary bodies scheme (£) 2,000.00

Tick here if you requesting free use of Council venues as part of this application? ☐X Yes
(If you tick yes, you must complete section 3.6. below).

3.6. Details of free venue use.

**Please list the dates and times of each venue you are requesting free use of.
Dates TBC**

:

3.7. Project description, benefits and measuring impact.

**Describe your project (max 300 words).
Provide social housing to the community
See attached Business Plan**

**What benefits will your project bring to Chipping Norton residents? (max 300 words).
Housing and land kept for the community**

How will you measure the impact of your project? (maximum 100 words).

The impact on the community housing infrastructure

3.8. Supporting documents and declaration.

Supporting Documents Checklist Constitution or governing document ☒ Bank statement
☒ Safeguarding policy (if applicable) ☐ Other supporting documentation ☒

Declaration ☒ I confirm the information provided is true and accurate. ☒ I confirm I am authorised to submit this application. ☒ I confirm the organisation accepts the grant scheme terms and conditions.

Name: _____

Position: _____ Treasurer _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____ 1st July 2026 _____

Incomplete applications will not be presented to the Committee for consideration.



Chipping Norton Town Council's Grants to Voluntary Bodies Application Form **2025-26**

Applications must be received before 5pm on the deadline 30th June (to be considered at the July meeting) or 19th January (to be considered at the February meeting)

Chipping Norton Town Council (CNTC) are looking for applications of up to £2k which demonstrate:

- Improved Physical, Mental, Emotional Health, and Environmental or Economic outcomes.
- Direct, positive, impact for Chipping Norton residents.

For more information, please see our guidance which can be found at www.chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk/grants.

Name of Organisation	Chipping Norton Operatic Society (CHAOS)	
Name of Project or Activity	Sweeney Todd – Amateur Musical Theatre Production	
What is the delivery time scale of your Project or Activity	Start (mm/yyyy)	Finish (mm/yyyy)
	05/2027	05/2027
Amount of funding requested from CNTC	£753	
Is your organisation applying for free hire of the Town Hall? Yes/No	No	

Contact Details

Name of the person making the application	██████████
Position in organisation	Chair of CHAOS
Email address	Chippychaos@gmail.com
Telephone number	██████████

Organisation details

Address	[REDACTED]
Website	n/a
Social media links	https://www.facebook.com/people/Chipping-Norton-Amateur-Operatic-Society-CHAOS/100092650121121/
Description of organisational purpose and how it benefits the community	CHAOS is a community musical theatre group that brings together people from Chipping Norton and the surrounding villages to create and perform high-quality musical productions at the local theatre. We are an inclusive organisation, welcoming members of all ages, backgrounds and abilities, and providing opportunities to develop skills, confidence, creativity and friendships both on and off the stage. We have also developed strong connections with other local groups (Chippy Swifts, Chippy Scouts, New Nortonians, The Chippy Music Festival, Methodist Church...) and hope to continue to build on these relationships as the society moves from strength to strength.
Please outline any fundraising activities that your organisation has undertaken in the past year	We have sung at the Oxford Westgate, as well as joined with local businesses to help support our 2026 production of 'Anything Goes', at the Chippy Theatre. We are putting on a concert in September with the Methodist Church, to also raise funds for our upcoming show.
Do you have any special projects which require additional financial expenditure by your organisation in the next year?	We are putting on a Chipping Norton Ceilidh in January, and we are putting on our annual show at the Chippy Theatre – this time it is Sweeney Todd, in May 2027.

Payment details if application is successful

Name of account	Chipping Norton Amateur Operatic Society
Sort code	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Project Details

Please tell us in no more, than 300 words, about your project. Who will your project benefit, how will it be delivered, how can people join in...

CHAOS will stage Sweeney Todd at Chipping Norton Theatre in May 2027. Our society provides opportunities for local people of all ages to perform, volunteer and learn new skills in musical theatre. We are seeking funding towards rehearsal space at Glyme Hall, as well as for the construction of our set, probably one of the largest single costs of this year's production.

To provide excellent value for money, we are creating an economical, reusable scaffold-based set enhanced through imaginative lighting, reducing waste while maintaining a high-quality production. Something that will hopefully be reusable for years to come.

With such a dramatic show, we hope to bring in as much of the local community as possible. We already have great links with a number of community groups within Chippy, but have ideas to join forces with more. Even potentially having joint ventures with butcher's shop in Chippy, to make our own 'Chippy Pie' in honour of the show!

How will you measure the impact of your project?

Success will be measured by cast and volunteer participation, audience numbers, audience feedback, delivery within budget and the ability to reuse or recycle the set materials after the show. Over the past few years, we have built closer ties with local community groups (Chippy Swifts, Chippy Scouts, New Nortonians, The Chippy Music Festival...) , and hope that our continued progress as a society will help us build on these connections and create and even better community within Chippy!

If awarded a grant last year from CNTC could you please state how the funds helped your organisation and what they were used for.

We were lucky enough to get a grant from the Council last July, to help put on our production of 'Anything Goes' at the Chippy Theatre. The changeover of hands of our rehearsal space (Highlands) meant that the theatre wanted to charge us a lot more money for using their rehearsal space, and the money granted by the council helped us keep the society going at a time of serious financial upheaval for us! We are really grateful.

How much will your project cost and how will you use the money?

What is the total cost of your project?	£5000
How much Funding would you like from CNTC?	We request £500 towards materials, scaffold hire/purchase, fixings and other staging materials for the set.
Is your organisation also applying for free hire of the Town Hall? If Yes, please state the dates and hours you wish you hire the hall.	Yes. We would love to use some of the Glyme Hall facilities for some of our rehearsals. We would love to hire the Beech Room on Wednesdays, 7.15-9.15pm, from the beginning of October until the middle of December.
Where will the remaining funding come from?	Remaining costs will be met through ticket sales, membership fees, fundraising events (such as our concert with the Methodist Church in September), sponsorship and society funds.

Budget (please complete the following budget for your project)			
Title	Description	Total amount	Amount requested From CNTC
Management costs			
Training			
Office costs (rent, telephone etc)			
Salaries			
Expenses (travel etc)			
Venue hire	Hire of the Beech Room in Glyme Hall (one day a week, for 2 hours, October through to mid-December)		£253
Materials	scaffold hire/purchase, fixings and other staging materials for the set.		£500
Publicity			
Volunteer expenses			
Other (please specify)			
		Total	£753

Declaration

We confirm that all the information contained within this application is true and accurate to the best of our knowledge and belief, and that we are authorised to submit this application on behalf of the group. We have read and agree to abide by the terms and conditions

(please click/tick box to agree) ☒

We agree to crediting Chipping Norton Town Council for the funding for this project through our communications and are happy for CNTC to share stories and grant feedback through their communications.

(please click/tick box to agree) ☒

We are happy to arrange visits by CNTC staff and councillors to our project while it is being delivered

(please click/tick box to agree) ☒

We have provided copies of the following necessary documents (refer to Grant Application Information) to support the application (please click/tick as appropriate):

Accounts ☒

Bank statement or paying-in slip ☒
(to double check bank details)

Constitution X ☐

NB. Scanned copies are acceptable if you send your application by email.

Applications will not be taken to committee without all these supporting documents

Signature 1 (person submitting form)

[Redacted Signature]

Signature 2 (Chair or senior representative of the organisation)

[Redacted Signature]

Typed entries acceptable for email applications

Date: 05/07/2026

Please return your completed application form to:
Chipping Norton Town Council,
The Guildhall

3.1. Organisation Details.

Organisation name:	Cotswolds Arts Through Schools
Contact name:	[REDACTED]
Position in organisation:	TRUSTEE
Address:	[REDACTED]
Telephone:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Organisation type:	CHARITY
Charity number (if applicable):	284579
Social media links:	
Website:	www.cotswoldsarts through schools.com
Social media links:	Facebook.com/CotswoldsArtsThroughSchools LinkedIn.com/cotswoldsarts through schools.

3.2. Bank account details.

Bank account name:	COTSWOLDS ARTS THROUGH SCHOOLS
Sort code:	[REDACTED]
Account number:	[REDACTED]

Payments will only be made to a bank account in the name of the applicant organisation.

3.3. Fundraising Activity.

Fundraising activities in the last 12 months.

CATS raises funds through a combination of trust and foundation grants, corporate partnerships, local authority grants, individual donations, and our annual major fundraising event — Sculpture at Kingham Lodge, a professional contemporary art show held annually in the grounds of Kingham Lodge. The 2025 show attracted over 4,000 children from schools followed by 10000 public visitors and raised approximately £50,000pa for the programme amongst other charitable grants. In the past twelve months we have received grants from the Michael Bishop Foundation, the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, the CHK Foundation, West Oxfordshire District Council, Cherwell District Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Gloucestershire County Council, and a range of smaller trusts and foundations. We ran a successful Big Give Christmas Appeal campaign raising over

£60,000 from matched individual donations and a further Arts for Impact Appeal raising £40,000. Total confirmed income for this year of our current programme is £324,100.

Fundraising activities planned for the next 12 months.

We are actively pursuing a broad pipeline of trusts and foundations (new ones include the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Farmington Trust, the Hugo Burge Foundation, and the Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust). We are developing a corporate partnership programme with companies across Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, and Warwickshire, and are in discussion with the National Lottery Community Fund about a grant for non-school activities. We will run our sixth bi-ennial Sculpture at Kingham Lodge show and our fourth Big Give Christmas Appeal campaign. We are also developing a Friends of CATS individual giving programme to broaden our donor base.

3.4. Project Details.

Project title:	Helping Children be Creative
Project start date:	1.Sept 2026
Project end date:	31 Aug 2027
Project location:	Chipping Norton Area Primary Schools

3.5. Project budget.

Budget item cost (£)	Funding source
£35000	Art, music, opera, drama, dance and cultural history workshops funded from overall budget
£3000	Transport for performances at Chipping Norton Music Festival, Chipping Norton Theatre (with Academy Barmy Composers), and visits to Chipping Norton School, and Sculpture at Kingham Lodge from overall budget
£2500	Art Materials and instruments from overall budget
£10000	Weekly music tuition from specific grants
£3000	Admin from overall budget
Total project cost	£53500 (this is an abstract from the overall budget relating to the specific Chipping Norton area schools.

Amount requested from Chipping Norton Town Council Grants to voluntary bodies scheme (£) £2000

Tick here if you requesting free use of Council venues as part of this application? ☐ Yes (If you tick yes, you must complete section 3.6. below).

3.6. Details of free venue use.

3.7. Project description, benefits and measuring impact.

Describe your project (max 300 words).

Cotswolds Arts Through Schools (CATS) delivers professional arts education to primary school children across Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, and Warwickshire. We are a partnership of local arts organisations — including Chipping Norton Theatre, three opera companies, five music festivals (incl Chipping Norton), a sculpture show, and several choirs (incl Chipping Norton Choral Society and Wychwood Chorale)— committed to ensuring that every child in our area has access to high-quality arts experiences regardless of where they live or what their family can afford.

In Chipping Norton and the surrounding West Oxfordshire villages, CATS is working with primary schools including St Mary's Chipping Norton, Holy Trinity, Charlbury, Enstone, Hook Norton, Chadlington, and others. Some of these schools had arts budgets equivalent to just £1 per pupil per year. We restock empty art cupboards, provide termly art, music, drama and dance workshops provide musical instruments, place singing teachers into schools on a weekly basis, train teachers to deliver arts sessions independently, and fund transport so children can attend performances and exhibitions.

We deliver over sixty types of arts experience: visual arts, music, opera, ballet, drama, oracy, African drumming, cultural history, and more. Our partnership with Chipping Norton Theatre is central to our Chipping Norton programme, bringing workshops directly into schools. Children from our partner schools have performed at the Chipping Norton Music Festival, at the Chipping Norton Theatre (with Academy of Barmy Composers) and at the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford. They have exhibited their work at Sculpture at Kingham Lodge, a professional contemporary art show attracting over 4,000 children and then 10,000 visitors.

Our goal is not simply to deliver workshops but to build arts-rich school cultures that outlast our involvement — through teacher training, instruments, materials, and a sustained relationship with each school that grows their capacity over time. CATS has grown from twenty schools to seventy in three years and is working with schools that actively request our help.

What benefits will your project bring to Chipping Norton residents? (max 300 words).

Chipping Norton is a market town with a rich arts heritage — home to one of England's finest small theatres and at the heart of a network of music festivals and cultural organisations. CATS is working to ensure that this heritage reaches every child in the town and surrounding villages, not just those whose families can afford music lessons or cultural visits.

The direct beneficiaries are the children in our Chipping Norton partner schools, who receive professional arts experiences that would otherwise be unavailable to them. For many children, a CATS workshop or performance will be their first encounter with live opera, professional dance, or a real sculpture show. The evidence is clear that these experiences matter: children in arts-rich environments attend school more regularly, engage more enthusiastically with learning, develop greater resilience and empathy, and perform better across all subjects.

The benefits extend beyond the children themselves. Parents and families attend the performances and exhibitions that CATS supports — over 10,000 people visited the Sculpture at Kingham Lodge show in 2025, over 500 parents and friends attended the Sheldonian (150 children performed with Oxford Opera and Oxford Symphony), 100 parents and friends attended the concert in Churchill Church, another 150 attended the two concerts in the Chipping Norton Music Festival and 350 people attended the concert at St Mary's Church Banbury where 150 CATS children performed. These are community events that bring Chipping Norton and its surrounding villages together around shared cultural experiences.

Teachers benefit too. CATS trains teachers to deliver arts sessions independently, building capacity that remains in the school long after our direct involvement. Forty teachers across our partner schools have already been trained to deliver singing lessons; 140 teachers and others attended the CATS Conference in January. This programme continues to grow. Chipping Norton Town Council's support for CATS would directly strengthen arts provision for children in the town and surrounding area, at a time when school budgets are under severe pressure and arts provision has been systematically reduced in state primary schools across the country.

How will you measure the impact of your project? (maximum 100 words).

We measure impact through teacher feedback forms after every workshop, termly school reports from partner school headteachers, attendance data before and after programme delivery, and longitudinal evaluation in partnership with ImpactEd. We track the number of children reached, types of arts experiences delivered, performances and exhibitions staged, and teacher training completed. Our visual literacy research programme with Oxford Brookes University provides independent academic evaluation. We report annually to all funders and others with a full Impact Report drawing on this data.

3.8. Supporting documents and declaration.

Supporting Documents Checklist ☒ ^{CHARITY COMMISSION CERTIFICATE} Constitution or governing document ☐ Bank statement ☐ Safeguarding policy (if applicable) ☒ Other supporting documentation *

Declaration ☒ I confirm the information provided is true and accurate. ☒ I confirm I am authorised to submit this application. ☒ I confirm the organisation accepts the grant scheme terms and conditions.

Name: _____

Position: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Incomplete applications will not be presented to the Committee for consideration.

* IMPACT REPORT

* OPPORTUNITIES & SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

* ARTICLE BY RICHARD MORRISON IN THE TIMES.

the arts column

Richard Morrison

Some schools are spending £1 per pupil per year on arts. Will Labour act?



If 2025 was a good year for little else, it did offer one glimmer of hope. At last, it seemed, the government had woken up to the problem of arts in state schools — the problem being that in thousands of schools there is virtually no art, music, dance or drama happening at all. Keir Starmer and Bridget Phillipson, the education secretary, made encouraging noises about the importance of remedying that. The ill-conceived EBacc, which downgraded arts GCSEs, was scrapped. And in her scathing report about Arts Council England (ACE) Baroness Hodge recommended something that should have happened years ago: that ACE, the Department for Education and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport actually consult with each other about how to bring the arts into more schools.

Encouraging words, but what are the chances of significant improvements happening? Very slim, if the experience of one arts education project is any guide. Cotswolds Arts Through Schools (Cats) grew out of the biennial sculpture shows put on by the privately owned Kingham Lodge estate in Oxfordshire. In 2018 the people running them started inviting primary school children to participate then realised that — though the usual image of the Cotswolds is one of wealth and privilege — many state schools in the region (especially in socially deprived rural areas) had absolutely no arts activities going on. “Their art cupboards were empty; they didn’t have any art teachers and most of them had an arts budget equivalent to £1 per pupil per year,” Christopher Stockwell, a Cats trustee, says. So Stockwell and his colleagues raised the money to send art materials into the schools, followed by art teachers and syllabus support materials to help non-specialist teachers to deliver effective art lessons. Then they realised that many of those schools didn’t do any music, drama and dance either. So they set up a partnership involving music organisations and choirs in the area and arranged for performers to go into schools and do workshops in everything from opera and African drumming to clay modelling and oral literacy. Cats was born.

More and more schools came on board. Now Cats reaches 10,000 children in 60 schools. It’s a remarkable success story. And

the vast bulk of its £300,000 annual budget is met by private donations. Local authority contributions? The project gets £30,000 a year from West Oxfordshire but almost nothing from the others in the area.

Nevertheless, Cats has ambitions. Its leaders feel they have hit on a successful formula for bringing the arts into primary schools and they want to roll out the scheme more widely — first across the whole of Oxfordshire, then perhaps further afield. But private money alone cannot do all that. They need some public funds. Two years ago they applied for an ACE grant — a hugely laborious process requiring the details of the 40 schools in which they then operated to be typed



into a computer program that (as ACE admits) crashed more often than a drunk on a bike. The result of their labours? Complete rejection. ACE doesn’t comment publicly on the reasons an application is turned down but the Cats people say they were told there wasn’t enough LGBTQ representation and ethnic diversity among those involved in the project.

The local music hubs (the ACE-backed organisations that supposedly provide music tuition for children right across England) weren’t much help either. According to Stockwell, they have largely withdrawn from working with primary school children in the region but appear to resent a non-state organisation trying to do so. “They know what they ought to be doing, they aren’t doing it and they get very tense about someone else doing it instead,” he says.

“Arts funders in the state seem hostile to private efforts

He reckons that expanding Cats’ work across the whole of Oxfordshire would cost between £5 million and £6 million. He is confident that he could raise half that privately if the county council and Department for Education clipped in the rest. Yet nobody in government or local government seems interested.

If that’s the case, they are missing a golden opportunity. The Hodge report specifically suggested that the government seek out private and public funding to address the catastrophic lack of arts teaching in the state sector. Here is an organisation with a proven track record of doing just that, and with the ambition and experience to reach out to many more children.

Yet arts funders in the state sector seem hostile to its efforts. Stockwell says his attempts to talk directly to government ministers about Cats’ work have been “blocked by officials”.

Could that be because those officials are embarrassed that a privately run and financed operation has made a significant difference to arts provision in dozens of primary schools, while the government offers little except vague promises and inertia? Even if Hodge’s vision — of a coalition between the education and culture departments to boost national arts provision — comes to fruition, it will undoubtedly take years for it to change anything in the classroom, especially in primary schools. And if children don’t experience the arts before they turn 11 there’s little chance they will be interested later.

The tragedy is that all round the country there are dozens of private individuals and groups doing wonderful subsidised work to bring the arts into children’s lives. Cats is just one shining example. I know, because readers often write to me to draw attention to admirable educational initiatives in their regions. And their message is always the same: with just a tiny bit of public investment these visionary pioneers could reach many more kids than they do.

But that would require a completely new mindset in Whitehall — one that would have public money being used to back proven success, rather than to impose political correctness and centralised control. Is Labour capable of embracing such a radical change? Despite those platitudinous statements from Starmer and Phillipson, I still doubt that.

1. Application Form

3.1. Organisation Details.

Organisation name:	Cotswold Youth Choir (CYC) Part of Chipping Norton & District Choral Society (CNCS)	
Contact name:	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Position in organisation:	CNCS chair	CYC subcommittee chair
Address:	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Telephone:	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Email:	chair@cncs.org.uk	cotswoldyouthchoir@gmail.com
Organisation type:	Registered charity	
Charity number (if applicable):	1005363	
Social media links:		
Website:	https://cncs.org.uk cncs.org.uk/cyc/introduction	
Social media links:	https://en-gb.facebook.com/Chippychoralsociety/ https://m.me/Chippychoralsociety/ https://www.instagram.com/chippychoralsociety/	

3.2. Bank account details.

Bank account name:	Chipping Norton & District Choral Society – CYC
Sort code:	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]

Payments will only be made to a bank account in the name of the applicant organisation.

3.3. Fundraising Activity.

Fundraising activities in the last 12 months.
Private donations and approaches to local organisations have provided unrestricted funding to assist with running costs to date. The choir benefits from the Town Council's preferential charity booking rates for our rehearsal space. Donations have been received at the Youth Choir's end of term performances.

Fundraising activities planned for the next 12 months.

Expansion of bids to grantmaking bodies.

3.4. Project Details.

Project title:	Cotswold Youth Choir
Project start date:	April 2024
Project end date:	Ongoing
Project location:	Chipping Norton

3.5. Project budget.

Budget item cost (£)	Funding source
Music Director 3 termly preparation fees, 30 rehearsals, 3 concerts £2,718	Subscriptions and private donations
Pianist Fee (9 rehearsals plus 3 concerts) £1,800	Subscriptions and private donations
Venue hire (Upper Town Hall 72 hours discounted rate per annum) £1,404	Subscriptions and private donations
Total project cost £5,922	

Amount requested from Chipping Norton Town Council Grants to voluntary bodies scheme (£) 2000.00

Tick here if you requesting free use of Council venues as part of this application? Yes **(If you tick yes, you must complete section 3.6. below).**

3.6. Details of free venue use.

Please list the dates and times of each venue you are requesting free use of.

Wednesdays during school term time 1645-1815 (Chipping Norton Town Hall)
Concert at the end of each term (3 per year) with an advance dress rehearsal 1645 - 2045 (Oak Room, Glyme Hall plus communal meeting area)

3.7. Project description, benefits and measuring impact.

Describe your project (max 300 words).

The Cotswold Youth Choir (CYC), affiliated to Chipping Norton Choral Society, started in April 2024, and meets weekly during school terms. Our goal is to establish a choir in the town for young people aged 8-18 years with musical education at its heart. The choir is non-auditioned and music-reading ability is not required. We use sessions to teach reading music, vocal technique and performance. As primary schools' music education has been almost lost, this opportunity to engage with and learn music is a great skill for children's development.

The choir is small, currently 12-15 members, but aiming to grow as we establish ourselves across the local area. Our current cohort includes participants with additional needs, and we provide a safe and inclusive environment. We are currently campaigning through local school workshops to raise numbers to sustain the Choir long-term.

We are prudent in managing our costs; key expenses cover the professional services of our excellent Musical Director and Accompanist, and hire of the Town Hall (at CNTC's reduced registered charity rates). Generous financial help from individual private donations has allowed us to charge modest fees for participants to ensure genuine affordability for parents. Sessions are supported by adult volunteer singers, who provide supervision and ensure the safety and well-being of all children attending.

We would be immensely grateful if you would consider awarding a grant to this worthwhile project as it develops and transitions to become fully self-supporting.

What benefits will your project bring to Chipping Norton residents? (max 300 words).

The choir helps to fill the current gap in musical education in schools, and the participants will gain lifelong musical skills, develop confidence in performance and make new friends, as well as fostering creativity and collaboration. The involvement of adult singing volunteers also helps to develop cross generational engagement with a common activity. As the youth choir expands, there will be opportunities to join with the adult Chipping Norton Choral Society for shared performances. The choir has already participated in events such as the town's Christmas lights switch on, bringing the children's parents and grandparents to swell audience members.

How will you measure the impact of your project? (maximum 100 words).

Participant numbers will increase and the choir will become self-supporting through membership subscriptions and choir fundraising events. This will demonstrate that the participants are enjoying their involvement through regular concerts and contributions to the musical life of Chipping Norton. Development of the choir will show that the teaching of music, vocal technique and performance is effective within the choir.

3.8. Supporting documents and declaration.

Supporting Documents Checklist ☐ Constitution or governing document ☐ Bank statement ☐ Safeguarding policy (if applicable) ☐ Other supporting documentation

Declaration ☐ I confirm the information provided is true and accurate. ☐ I confirm I am authorised to submit this application. ☐ I confirm the organisation accepts the grant scheme terms and conditions.

Name: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Chair, Chipping Norton Choral Society & Cotswold Youth Choir

Signature: [REDACTED]

Date: 5 July 2026

Incomplete applications will not be presented to the Committee for consideration.

3. Application Form

3.1. Organisation Details.

Organisation name:	Chipping Norton Town Festival
Contact name:	[REDACTED]
Position in organisation:	Committee Member
Address:	N/A
Telephone:	[REDACTED]
Email:	cntownfestival@gmail.com [REDACTED]
Organisation type:	Voluntary fundraiser
Charity number (if applicable):	N/A
Social media links:	https://www.facebook.com/chippingnortontownfestival/
Website:	www.chippyfest.co.uk
Social media links:	

3.2. Bank account details.

Bank account name:	Chipping Norton Town Fest
Sort code:	[REDACTED]
Account number:	[REDACTED]

Payments will only be made to a bank account in the name of the applicant organisation.

3.3. Fundraising Activity.

Fundraising activities in the last 12 months.

Money was provided to local charities in the form of the Chipping Norton Lido and Chipping Norton Choral Society (£600 to each charity).

Fundraising activities planned for the next 12 months.

Money raised from the festival will be made available to local charities that apply. An advert will be posted in Chipping Norton News for charities to make applications.

3.4. Project Details.

Project title:	Chipping Norton Town Festival
Project start date:	Jan 2026
Project end date:	28 th June 2026
Project location:	Chipping Norton Town Hall and High Street

3.5. Project budget.

Budget item cost (£)	Funding source
Signage and advertising £500	Sponsorship
Stage and sound engineers £2500	Sponsorship and Town Council grant
Seating for festival attendees £700	Raffle and stallholder fees
First aid and insurance £1000	Sponsorship
Total project cost	£4700

Amount requested from Chipping Norton Town Council Grants to voluntary bodies scheme (£) 2,000

Tick here if you requesting free use of Council venues as part of this application? ☒ Yes **(If you tick yes, you must complete section 3.6. below).**

3.6. Details of free venue use.

Please list the dates and times of each venue you are requesting free use of.

Chipping Norton Town Hall – 28th June 2026 (this is a retrospective application).

3.7. Project description, benefits and measuring impact.

Describe your project (max 300 words).

The Chipping Norton Town Festival is an annual community celebration that brings residents of all backgrounds together. It promotes inclusivity, cultural enrichment, youth engagement, and economic prosperity.

In terms of inclusivity, the festival creates an inviting atmosphere for people of all ages and backgrounds, fostering connections and unity within the community. It's a unifying event that celebrates our town's cultural diversity through live music, art, and food, promoting mutual understanding and respect.

The festival particularly engages youth through music and entertainment, encouraging their active participation in community events and fostering a sense of belonging.

Economically, the festival benefits local businesses by boosting their visibility and sales, contributing to the town's prosperity.

A dedicated team of volunteers plans and executes the festival, offering a diverse range of attractions like live music, dance performances, food stalls, children's attractions, and arts and craft stalls.

To participate, residents can attend as visitors, enjoy the entertainment, and engage in festival activities. Those looking to contribute can volunteer their time and skills, become sponsors to support the event financially, or showcase their talents and products as performers and exhibitors.

All of the profits made from the festival will be made available to local charities and organisations via donations to applicants after the festival.

In summary, the Chipping Norton Town Festival promotes inclusivity, cultural appreciation, youth engagement, and economic growth. It's organized by a dedicated volunteer team, offers diverse attractions, and welcomes various forms of participation, making it a cherished tradition that strengthens our community.

What benefits will your project bring to Chipping Norton residents? (max 300 words).

The free music festival brings together people of all ages and backgrounds, fostering connections and unity within the community. It's a unifying event that celebrates our town's cultural diversity through live music, art, and food, promoting mutual understanding and respect.

The social aspect of the festival increases subjective well-being and fosters a sense of pride in Chipping Norton. It brings positive attention to the town centre and the town hall.

Economically, the festival benefits local businesses by boosting their visibility and sales, contributing to the town's prosperity.

In summary, the Chipping Norton Town Festival promotes inclusivity, cultural appreciation, youth engagement, and economic growth. It's organized by a dedicated

volunteer team, offers diverse attractions, and welcomes various forms of participation, making it a cherished tradition that strengthens our community.

How will you measure the impact of your project? (maximum 100 words).

We will track the number of attendees to determine the impact on the wider community. A large attendance is indicative of the festival's popularity and community engagement with the event.

We will also measure community participation from the level of involvement from local businesses, volunteers and community groups. Increased participation from these entities indicates a growing sense of community involvement.

Finally, we will review the festival's safety measures and incident reports to ensure the festival continues to offer a safe environment for all attendees.

3.8. Supporting documents and declaration.

Supporting Documents Checklist ☒ Constitution or governing document ☒ Bank statement ☐ Safeguarding policy (if applicable) ☐ Other supporting documentation

Declaration ☒ I confirm the information provided is true and accurate. ☒ I confirm I am authorised to submit this application. ☒ I confirm the organisation accepts the grant scheme terms and conditions.

Name: _____

Position: _____ Committee Member _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____ 06th July 2026 _____

Incomplete applications will not be presented to the Committee for consideration.

1. Application Form

1.1. Organisation Details.

Organisation name:	Volunteer Link Up
Contact name:	██████████
Position in organisation:	General Manager/CEO
Address:	Methodist Church Centre, 10 Wesley Walk, Hight Street, Witney OX28 6ZJ
Telephone:	██████████
Email:	████████████████████
Organisation type:	Charity
Charity number (if applicable):	1133530
Social media links:	
Website:	vlu.org.uk (live, recently commissioned website still under construction, but close to completion)
Social media links:	Facebook/Instagram

1.2. Bank account details.

Bank account name: Volunteer Link Up (West Oxfordshire)
Sort code: ████████
██████████

Payments will only be made to a bank account in the name of the applicant organisation.

1.3. Fundraising Activity.

Fundraising activities in the last 12 months. We continually fundraise to support our core activities (Community Transportation and Befriending). We continually apply for Service Level Agreements and smaller pockets of Grant Funding. In the last 12 months we have been supported by WODC, OCC, Witney Town Council, Carterton Town Council, National Lottery and smaller grant funding bodies, such as The Richard Early Trust and The Christopher Laing Foundation.
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Fundraising activities planned for the next 12 months.

We currently have outstanding applications with OCC and Carterton Town Council. We are about to begin a round of tendering with WODC for a 3 year SLA to support our core services. I have a meeting with representatives of National Lottery on 14th July to discuss further funding for this financial year. As with the National Lottery, Oxfordshire Community Foundation have often supported us, I constantly monitor their many grants, I will be applying for funding from them when relevant opportunities arise.

1.4. Project Details.

Project title:	Volunteer Link Up Core Services
Project start date:	1/04/2026
Project end date:	31/03/2027
Project location:	We deliver our Community Transportation and Befriending Services to all residents of West Oxfordshire.

1.5. Project budget.

Budget item cost (£)	Funding source
See note below and attached accounts	See note below and attached accounts

Total project cost	

I have attached a copy of our most recent annual report and accounts. As you will see the total cost of delivering our services is approximately £113,000.00 per year. This figure includes £25,000.00 per year SLA income from Age UK to deliver Good Neighbour Scheme support across Oxfordshire. The figure also includes £21,200.00 per year from WODC to provide Asylum Seeker support. These activities are fully funded and we are not seeking any funding towards them. All of our fundraising activities are to support our Community Transportation and Befriending Services, you will see from the accounts that 82% of our funding goes towards employment costs.

Amount requested from Chipping Norton Town Council Grants to voluntary bodies scheme (£) **2000** _____

Tick here if you requesting free use of Council venues as part of this application? ☐ Yes **(If you tick yes, you must complete section 3.6. below).**

1.6. Details of free venue use.

Please list the dates and times of each venue you are requesting free use of.

N/A

1.7. Project description, benefits and measuring impact.

What are the activities and/or aims of your organisation?

COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION: Our Community Transportation Service supports individuals who cannot travel to urgent appointments, either because they cannot drive or because they have difficulty using public transport. Drivers use their own cars and are directly paid expenses by the client (currently 55p per mile). We prioritise medical, dental and well-being appointments, therefore supporting improvements in physical, psychological and emotional health, drivers will wait for up to 2 hours for a client at a medical or well-being appointment. If we have the capacity, we will transport individuals to other appointments or drivers may assist with shopping trips. Our clients are usually not able to easily access public transport, either because of availability or location and they do not qualify for hospital transportation.

BEFRIENDING: Loneliness and isolation will have devastating effects on an individual, directly impacting their physical and psychological health.

1 in 5 older people in Oxfordshire report feeling lonely and isolated.

Studies have shown that loneliness is worse for your health than smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day.

People who feel isolated are nearly 20 months older than their chronological age.

Loneliness can increase the risk of early mortality by 26% as well as increased risk of poor mental health, depression and cognitive decline.

(Source Age UK)

Those who feel lonely and isolated will not take good care of themselves leading to a deterioration in their physical and psychological health.

Our volunteer befrienders seek to reduce loneliness and isolation within their communities. Our Volunteer Co-ordinator goes to great lengths to match volunteer and client appropriately, matches may be based on practical requirements, age, interests etc. The Volunteer Co-ordinator regularly 'checks in' with volunteer and client to ensure the arrangement is running smoothly and positively.

All volunteers who deliver our services are enhanced DBS checked.

What benefits will your project bring to Chipping Norton residents? (max 300 words).

We seek to achieve the following outcomes:

- Improved Physical Health
- Improved Psychological and Emotional Health

BY

- Improving and facilitating access to medical and well-being appointments
- Reducing the effects of loneliness and isolation for individuals

Addressing our Community Transportation Service: The average journey is approximately 25 miles and a driver will wait for up to 2 hours. Drivers receive 55p per mile directly from the client. The average journey cost is therefore £13.75. An equivalent taxi fare is £72.50 rising to £120.00 for a 2 hour wait. During the last financial year our drivers completed 125 return journeys for Chipping Norton residents, at a total cost of £1718.75 (125 x £13.75). Equivalent taxi fares would have been a total of £9062.50 to £15,000.00. A total saving of £7343.75 to £13,281.25.

We have 4 Befriending relationships which we oversee in Chipping Norton.

Of our 127 registered volunteers, 10 are Chipping Norton residents, Charlbury volunteers often help with Chipping Norton transportation requests if capacity allows. We have 89 registered clients who are Chipping Norton residents.

As stated, the majority of our costs are employment costs, the Transport Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator roles are crucial to carry out the following:

- Taking transportation requests
- Allocating drivers to requests
- Day to day management of volunteers
- Registering new clients
- Improving volunteer recruitment and retention
- Ensuring the DBS application process runs smoothly and efficiently
- Professionally matching befriending volunteers and clients
- Establishing availability of volunteers
- Ensuring the volunteer experience is a positive one

How will you measure the impact of your project? (maximum 100 words).

We use an online package called Optimise CT for our monitoring. We are often called upon to provide a variation of reports by our funders. The system is able to provide information on journey numbers, client demographics, journey destinations, client numbers and volunteer numbers. Customised reports are available from the providers at a cost.

1.8. Supporting documents and declaration.

Supporting Documents Checklist ☐ Constitution or governing document ☐ Bank statement ☐ Safeguarding policy (if applicable) ☐ Other supporting documentation

Declaration ☐ I confirm the information provided is true and accurate. ☐ I confirm I am authorised to submit this application. ☐ I confirm the organisation accepts the grant scheme terms and conditions.

Name: _____

Position: _____General Manager/CEO_____

Signature: _____

Date: _____02/07/2026_____

Incomplete applications will not be presented to the Committee for consideration.