

COLEHILL PARISH COUNCIL DONATIONS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

The Council budgets a fixed amount each year for grants to voluntary organisations. These notes explain how local clubs, organisations, leagues, societies and special event committees may obtain financial assistance from the Council.

Before you complete an application form on behalf of an organisation, check to see that the following conditions are met:

1. The organisation is situated in the East Dorset District Council area and has a direct benefit to Colehill residents.
2. Membership of the organisation is not restricted so as to disqualify unreasonably any person genuinely interested in its activities.
3. The organisation is properly constituted with a Management Committee and Officer.
4. The organisation keeps acceptable financial records which you would allow a Representative of the Council to inspect if requested.
5. The organisation has not committed itself in advance by purchase, contract or other binding agreement to the project for which assistance is sought, unless prior consent in writing has been obtained from the Council.
6. There is a real financial need for the grant.

WHO CAN APPLY?

There are three main types of organisation eligible to apply for grant aid. These are:

1. Sports Clubs and Organisations – These may include for example, a basketball, netball, bowls, rugby or a cycling club.
2. Community and Cultural Groups – These are divided into three sections:
 - (a) 'Cultural' such as dramatic societies, musical groups and art clubs.
 - (b) 'Festivals' – in art, music, drama, local history.
 - (c) 'Community Support' such as playgroups, over 60's clubs, community associations and self-help groups.
3. Youth Organisations

It is not the Council's policy to contribute towards churches or religious groups.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? Requests for grants are considered by the Parish Council annually. Grant applications should be returned by 8 September 2017 when they will be considered in the following year's budget. An appointment may be made with the Chairman by telephoning 01202 900821 to discuss your application if you feel this would be helpful. You may also be requested to attend Finance and General Purposes Committee to answer questions about your application. All grants will be awarded at our Annual Parish Meeting in April 2018, it is hoped that the applicant or a representative will attend this meeting to collect the grant.

POINTS TO NOTE It may be of help to you to know that requests for grants are considered according to certain criteria prior to any award being made.

The factors which are taken into account include:

- Whether your funds are sufficient to cover the costs not met by the grant.
- How much effort has been devoted to raising funds.
- Whether the activity would cease to function without a grant.
- What level of contribution East Dorset District Council has made.
- Whether a grant would help more people participate in your organisation's activities.

It may also be useful to note some examples of why a grant could be refused:

- No clear evidence that, or how, a new project would benefit parishioners.
- It was unclear how the grant would be spent and how it would benefit parishioners.