



COLEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

DONATIONS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

The Council sets aside budget each year for grants to voluntary organisations. These notes explain how local voluntary organisations 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 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 the Council can inspect.
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 – e.g. a basketball, netball, bowls, rugby or 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' e.g. playgroups, over 60's clubs, community groups 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 can be made at any time from 1st April to 31st January. The request will be considered at the next appropriate Council meeting and, if successful, payment will normally be made within 3 months of application. If you feel it would be helpful, you can make an appointment with the Chair of the meeting to discuss your application by telephoning 01202 880049.

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 Dorset 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.
- The four documents listed on page four of the application were not provided.