Grants Policy

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| **Who can apply?** | Voluntary and community groups and organisations within the Parish of Farington and/or who benefit the residents of Farington. |
| **What can funding be used for?** | * To benefit the Parish as a whole or a significant number of residents
* To enable Farington residents to participate in voluntary groups and activities
* To help voluntary and community groups benefit community life
* To ensure the provision of services, needed by Farington residents, via the voluntary sector
* To support organisations which meet the needs of Farington residents experiencing social and economic difficulties
* To ensure that there is equality of access for all residents to the services the applicant provides
* To improve or enhance the local environment
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| **What/who is excluded from applying to the grant scheme?** | * Commercial activities
* Organisations that do not provide a service to the community of Farington
* General national appeals or charities
* Statutory organisations
* Political groups or activities promoting political beliefs
* Religious groups or the promotion of religious beliefs unless for the purposes of maintaining buildings or items which are part of the local heritage.
* Arts & sports projects with no community or charitable element.
* Retrospective applications
* Reserves
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| **How often can the same organisation apply?** | * Not more than once for the same project or activity in the same year
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| **Financial information** | * Payments can only be made to organisations or partnerships and not to individuals
* A copy of the current year’s accounts must be provided
* Supplementary information to support the application may be required
* Unspent monies must be returned to the Council
* Full income and expenditure for the project must be detailed on the application, giving evidence where available
* A statement of reserves must be provided, explaining the amounts and their use (if relevant)
* The Council reserves the right to withhold 25% of the grant, payable on receipt of a final project report
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| **General principles** | * Assistance will be given on the basis of need, merit, contribution to the local community and availability of funds
* Applicants must clearly show how any assistance given will benefit the people or the environment in the Parish
* There can be no presumption that funding will continue on an annual basis, nor that making an application means any grant will be made
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| **General points** | * Upon completion of the project the Council requires a written statement of how the grant was used; mandatory for all grants above £2k
* Applications demonstrating support from other funders and organisations will be more likely to succeed
* The Council should be credited for supporting the project
* The Council may choose to highlight the grant award with a feature in print, website and social media
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| **Process** | * All applications must be made on the Grant Application Form
* All applications will be considered by the Parish Council at the next relevant Parish Council meeting following the application for the grant
* The Clerk will advise on the outcome of the application within 4 weeks of the decision being made by the Parish Council
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