



Grants Policy

Date	Version	Notes	Approved By
13/02/2025	1.0		Full Council

Bedlinog and Trelew Community Council sets aside a sum of money each year for general grants which can be applied for by local organisations and community groups for projects which will be of benefit to residents within the community of Bedlinog and Trelew.

If no statutory power or duty exists, then the Council may make grants in any case up to an annual limit if it believes the grant is in the interest of the community. In these cases, the grants are made under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits each Community or Town Council to incur expenditure for purposes for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure incurred.

Section 137 monies cannot be spent on an individual. For example, a scout may ask the Council for financial help to enable them to travel abroad on an exchange visit. Worthy as this may be, the Council cannot agree because the statute states that S137 monies must benefit some or all its inhabitants. However, if a request came from the Scout Leader for the whole troop to travel abroad on an exchange visit, the Council could consider a grant for the whole group as this would then be benefiting some of its inhabitants.

Every year the Community Council can accept applications from local not for profit groups and charities. Examples of grants that may be given are (not an exhaustive list):

- Sporting groups such as the local rugby, football, tennis and bowls clubs.
- Craft groups such as artists.
- Children and young people groups like the Brownies, Scouts, dance groups, Air & Army Cadets and youth clubs.
- Adult groups like the Over 50's group, OAP groups, Choirs and the Ramblers.

Grant application forms need to be returned to the Clerk with a completed set of audited accounts for the last year. A grant application cannot be considered until this is received. The grant application will then be considered at the next Full Council meeting.

Priority is given to applications from groups based within the Community Council area. Other groups may apply, and Council will take into consideration the number of their members who live within the Community Council area when deciding to allocate a grant.

COMMUNITY GRANT POLICY

1. Grants will not be made to individuals or commercial organisations.
2. Grants applications will normally be considered at the next Full Council meeting and must be received no later than three clear working days before the meeting to be considered.
3. Grant applications must be made on the official application form with a completed set of audited accounts for the last year.
4. Applicants must set out how the community in the Community Council area will benefit from the work funded by any grant.
5. The maximum grant allowance is usually £500. Council will consider higher amounts but will take into consideration the number of inhabitants within the Community Council area that will benefit when making its decision.
6. Applicants that have received a grant payment in the previous financial year may not be prioritised.
7. Any incorrect information provided may lead to the applicant being disqualified from consideration and/or the withdrawal of any grant awarded.
8. If successful, the Community Council will be expected to be included in any publicity and its contribution noted.
9. A condition is attached to any grant awarded that it must be repaid should it not be used as per the completed application form.
10. A grant report template must be completed and returned to the Community Council within three months of any grant being awarded, including copy invoices to demonstrate that the grant was used as per the grant application. Failure to do so will mean the applicant organisation will not be able to reapply for a future grant.
11. Acceptance of funds will be deemed to be an agreement to the conditions set out in this policy.

PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY GRANTS

The system aims to:

- Help the wards voluntary groups to improve their effectiveness.
- Help to ensure the provision of services needed by the residents via the voluntary sector.
- Support organisations which meet the needs of people experiencing social and economic difficulties and
- Ensures that there is equality of access and opportunity for all residents to the services and funds it provides to increase community inclusion.

The Community Council values the diversity and strengths of the local voluntary sector and acknowledges its independent role in the community as:

- A source of valuable services.
- A means of enabling people to work together.
- A channel for campaigning and advocacy.
- To reduce loneliness in all ages in our community.

The Community Council defines a voluntary group as a 'not-for-profit' organisation, set up and run by a voluntary, management committee.

This document gives the Community Council's general funding principles and details its expectations of all groups in receipt of a Community Grant.

GROUPS APPLYING FOR A COMMUNITY GRANT SHOULD NOTE:

- Grants are restricted by law to applications made by groups only and on matters that benefit a majority of ward residents.
- Grants are made to meet deficits on future running costs, to encourage new groups or new projects, or to help with the costs of some one-off expenditures.
- Grants will only be made to groups which need financial help.
- Grants are made for immediate expenditure and should be spent for the purpose for which they were given. They should not be added, wholly or partly, to reserves.
- Grants will not be made to groups, which operate for private gain.
Organisations may be required to return the Community grant or a percentage of it, if they cease to function during the 12 months following allocation of the grant.

VOLUNTARY GROUPS RECEIVING A GRANT FROM THE COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO:

- Ensure efficient levels of administration, hold regular meetings, keep minutes and circulate information to group members.
- Keep proper accounts. Grants may only be made to groups, which have submitted satisfactory accounts, unless the group is recently formed.
- Report back as required to the Council on their activities.
- Involve group members and users in policymaking and in the management of activities and services.
- Be open to eligible users, as defined by the group's constitution.
- Establish and monitor safeguarding, and equal opportunities policies and practices.
- Meet the legal responsibilities of an employer where appropriate; adopt, implement and monitor good employment practices and procedures.
- Recruit and support volunteers where appropriate.
- Acknowledge the Community Council's support in annual reports.