

Hever Parish Council – Community Support Grant Application Form

Each year HPC allocates a limited amount of funding to support parish projects and assets. If you wish to apply for a grant please complete the application form below and return to the clerk at least 2 weeks before the next meeting. Please note, if funding is no longer available, your application will be considered in the next financial year

Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972 allows a local authority to incur expenditure which in their opinion is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants.

Section 19(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 gives a local council the power to make grants to voluntary organisations.

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| Name, address and contact number of main contact | Mrs Audrey Batchelor 01732 700602 (address below) Mrs Sharon petto treasurer.07557966752 Kestrel view itchinwood common road oxted rh8 ORL EMAIL: stones.edenbridge@gmail.com |
| Name and address of Organisation requesting grant | Stones, registered address (Mrs Andrey Batchelor), 5 Oak Cottage, Ide Hill Road, Four Elms, Nr Edenbridge, KENT. TN8 6NW Premises address: Stangrove Park Office (front of EBLC) |
| Description of project / intended use for funding / date the funding is needed | <p>Formed in October 2023, we provide a community help room in the form of a drop-in centre/safe space/warm space based in the old tourist information offices at Edenbridge Leisure Centre. Here, local people can come for support, help, and advice irrespective of their situation and circumstance.</p> <p>Run by volunteers, we find that most people just want a 'friendly ear', a cup of tea or coffee and information about various services, local groups, activities, and places to go both in the local community and around Kent in general.</p> <p>Community partnerships have been formed to benefit service-users eg with the local Community Health worker, West Kent Housing, Sevenoaks Council, FAM Trust (biggest local charity supporting disadvantaged families), Flamingo Social Club (who meet there on a Thursday morning and includes their Fatbusters sessions which provide advice on healthy living and weight loss/gain through social support).</p> <p>The main expenses include general day-to-day costs of refreshments as well as minor admin eg printer ink, telephone, DBS checks etc. However, we are aware that we need to get more of our volunteers training in first aid as well as cover the costs of our annual insurance and would be very grateful for any help towards these costs that you can provide.</p> |

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| Details of individuals / groups involved in planning | <p>Stones is a constituted charitable organisation run by volunteers but the income is too small to apply for formal registration as a charity so opportunities for funding applications is very limited.</p> <p>We have the ongoing support of a local charity that overseas our administration and finances through their mentorship scheme.</p> |
| Total project cost | We need approx. £1.5k pa and have approached Kent Community Foundation for help with c£1k of these costs. A decision is hoped for by the end of next month. |
| Amount requested from HPC | £500 would be perfect to help with our first aid training and other essential costs. |
| Other sources of funding considered / applied for | As mentioned, we currently have an application outstanding with Kent Community Foundation for about 2/3 of our annual costs. |
| Who will benefit from this project over what time period? How will this be demonstrated? | <p>Edenbridge and the surrounding parishes has a lot of problems. There is violent crime, hate crime, robberies, vandalism and drug-related crime especially when the 3 main crime factions 'go to war'. We have no regular police presence and this small area even now has a high street 'massage parlour' which is gaining a reputation amongst a specific group of the male population!</p> <p>All our management team and volunteers live on the main social housing estates and are very aware of the problems. They have 'lived' experience of very challenging situations and genuinely want to help support others in need.</p> <p>Safe spaces play an essential role in promoting mental health. They are popping up in communities all around the country and provide a vital service especially for isolated older adults. Here, we provide a break from judgement, unsolicited opinions and having to explain yourself. People feel supported and respected and never need to pay for a cup of tea!</p> <p>We have been able to make this a welcoming, comfy space and have created a sense of peace and calm. On most occasions that we are able to open there is rarely a spare seat to be had and all based on our main principle of 'no money changing hands'. We rely completely on small grants and the kindness of others and it works. However, we are struggling to find the necessary funds to cover the main costs outlined in this application.</p> <p>Please refer to previous application for attachment s</p> <p>We have produced a short newsletter which we will attach to this application together with a recent article in the local magazine. We feel these provide good information on the positive difference we are making and also includes information on the new sessions about to be added.</p> |

Hever Parish Council annually sets a community support budget in order to provide financial assistance to a range of organisations, projects and activities which provide services for local residents.

The budget is discretionary funding and as such is separate from any other services which the Parish Council may fund under contract to fulfil statutory obligations or the delegated works of its Committees.

Hever Parish Council & The Clerk is available to anyone in the parish to assist community groups / projects in a number of ways;

- with further grant searching through local, regional and National bodies
- assistance with project planning
- A local council may also make loans to voluntary organisations in relation to running village halls (this may be a direct loan during the current year, from accumulated revenue, or unspent capital receipts).
- A local council which purchases equipment or building materials or pays for building work for a village hall, may reclaim VAT under section 33 of the VAT Act 1994, provided a number of conditions are met.
- A local council can also give practical help to the running of a local charity in many ways, for example; encouraging local people and organisations in the area to use and support activities and events
- calling a parish meeting to help organise fund raising activities
- facilitating use of parish noticeboards
- providing information and advice about other local authorities / groups
- raising the profile of the group / project

The Parish Council may wish to seek evidence against all or some of the following criteria:

- there is clear evidence of local need or demand for the proposed project/activity
- the grant will help provide a facility or service that will be of real and direct benefit to local residents
- the project/activity is properly thought through, is viable, of good quality and will ensure proper use of public funds, providing best value and value for money
- the organisation/project demonstrates clear knowledge and commitment to equal opportunities and Health & Safety.

The focus of the bulk of the grant process will primarily be for organisations/projects located within Hever, Four Elms and Markbeeceh Parish

BUDGET FOR GRANTS/DONATIONS

Please do come to the meeting to present your application if you would like to.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The development of monitoring and evaluation systems, particularly in respect of outcomes, is an area of good management practice all voluntary sector organisations should be prioritising. The Parish Council would welcome the provision of findings from grant aided organisations/projects.

Please contact in the first instance the Clerk and Financial Officer to Hever Parish Council (clerk@hever.org) and see the website (hever.org) for more information and dates of full council meetings should you wish to attend.