

Policy 38

Trimley St Mary Parish Council Communities Grant Fund

The Parish Council is committed to supporting initiatives that directly benefit our parishioners. Each year, a specific sum is set aside for grants, which are intended to assist charitable, voluntary, community, or non-profit organisations that provide meaningful contributions to our local community.

The total funds available for grants is between £100 and £2500

If your organisation aligns with these goals and serves the parish directly, we encourage you to apply for funding to help make a positive impact in our community.

Applications for funds to the clerk@trimleystmary-pc.gov.uk.

WHO CAN APPLY

Voluntary groups and societies, clubs and not-for-profit organisations operating in Trimley St Mary where the benefit will be or some or all of the residents of the St Mary are encouraged to apply.

CRITERIA

- The grant must meet the needs of the community and be of positive benefit.
- The applicant must be financially sustainable.
- The applicant must provide appropriate and realistic costing.
- The group/organisation must be able to use the grant effectively.

PRIORITIES

The Parish Council prioritises applications which:

- Promote social engagement
- Benefit those in greatest need
- Protect the social and physical environment of the Trimley St Mary
- Respect and improve the natural environment and biodiversity of Trimley St Mary
- Protect and enhance the local heritage

EXCLUSIONS

We want to be able to respond to the needs of the community but there are some exclusions that guide our decisions.

1. **Places of worship/religious bodies where** the activity is for the furtherance of a religion or religious activity are likely to be excluded from awards.
- However, Trimley St Mary Parish Council will consider grant applications from groups who use church property for their activities and who need equipment, but not for improvements to the property itself. So, for instance, a craft group could apply for funding for a loom, but not for a new window or a toilet.

- **Schools and other Public Sector bodies** are likely to be excluded. Trimley St Mary Parish Council will not award grants for items and activities previously provided by statutory bodies such as the Department for Education or the NHS. This would apply to the bodies themselves, like a school, or its supporters, – e.g. 'friends' groups or PTAs. This would apply to capital investment, or extra-curricular activities. Examples include:
- Activities/projects previously provided by statutory funds.
- Projects/activities which benefit only the school and its children and not the wider community. HOWEVER, if a school was, for instance, improving a garden for use by the whole neighbourhood, this will be considered.
- 3. **Individuals, or individuals within a group**, for example, one or two scouts from a local group going to an international jamboree. This is recognised as difficult to define precisely, but the cause must benefit a reasonably-sized group of residents. Our aim is that the grants we award should benefit as many people as possible.
- 4. **Groups who have previously received grants but have failed to submit evidence of how the grant was used** are unlikely to be considered for awards.
- 5. **Groups that could reasonably have been expected to obtain funding from another more appropriate source**, including their own reserves, are unlikely to be considered for awards.
- 6. **For profit organisations**.

However, the Parish Council is flexible on its awarding processes, and may treat applications as special cases, even if they might otherwise be liable for exclusion.

ACTIVITIES OR PROJECTS THAT ARE UNLIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED

Fundraising Campaigns. Any applications for fundraising, even if the ultimate beneficiary is a local individual or organisation, are unlikely to be considered. The Parish Council gives grants out that will pay expressly for specific items, services or projects identified by an applicant. It will not award money where the application has no designated target other than to simply raise money. The Parish Council is also unlikely to underwrite charity fund raiser events like black tie balls or local marathons. Funding these would amount to TSMPC financing the event without having any control of whether the beneficiaries fulfil its criteria.

Projects where most of the beneficiaries are outside of the Activities which spread beyond the village will be judged on their merits.

Basic equipment for sports clubs / bands etc are unlikely to be considered for awards. The Parish Council feels that purchase of sporting equipment, musical equipment, uniforms and kits for adult members of organisations should be the responsibility of that organisation, group or club, and not the Parish Council. However, items which would benefit the wider community could be considered. So, for instance, instruments would be excluded but grants for trainer instruments for younger members, or improvements to club facilities used by non-members could be awarded.

ROLLING ANNUAL GRANTS

Some applications may be considered for Rolling Annual Grants. These may apply to a fixed term, or for the duration of a Council term. Funds for rolling grants come from the same money pots as other grants.

- Rolling grants can be considered by the Parish Council.
- Rolling grants can be considered for any Community Asset or Community Benefit project or event.

Rolling Grants Process

- Initial applications will be made through the normal grant process.
- Where the application has been made for the same amount for 2 consecutive years, a rolling annual grant should be considered.
- If a similar grant has been applied for twice yearly and approved, i.e. 4 applications over the 2 consecutive years. The rolling grant should only be considered annually.
- If a grant for a project/event has been made for 2 years, but the budget spend is for slightly different items, a rolling grant form can still be considered.
- Once approved by the Parish Council, a rolling grant form, should be completed, and will be honoured for the term of the current Council.
- Groups will need to complete a brief application each year with an updated Financial Statement and appropriate Accounts.

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL

- Details of your project may be used in the Parish Council's newsletter, social media, or on its website.
- Councillors may want to meet with you to see how public money has been spent.
- Grant recipients are expected to complete a Grant Evaluation Form after the project is complete, providing a report to the Council on how the grant has been spent. Since the grant is public money, receipts and invoices of expenditure are required to be kept.