

APPENDIX 2. Consolidated Grant Application Forms



BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL

APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID 2025

Closing date Friday 14th March 2025

1. Name of Organisation.....	CLAYPITS ALLOTTMENTS
2. Brief description of organisation.....	ALLOTTMENT PLOTS
3. Number of regular participants in organisation	150+
4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area	150+
5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules?	B.T.C TENACY AGREEMENT

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4). Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered. NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.

SELF Build PROZECT OF A BUILDING / SHED

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

THIS BUILDING-WILL BE A MEETING PLACE FOR our members FOR RECREATION PURPOSES AND MEETINGS PLUS WILL BE USED FOR our yearly PLOTTERS day. IT WILL BE BUILT ON A PLOT AREA WHERE WE ALREADY HAVE A ECO TOILET FOR our members

8. What is the total cost of your project? £1832

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

ALL MATERIALS will be purchased
FROM JEUSONS - Timber - FELT
SAND CEMENT - SCREWS & NAILS
EVERYTHING IN QUOTATION SUPPLIED

10. What is the grant amount applied for? £1000

11. How will any shortfall be financed?

ANY SHORT FALL WILL COME FROM OUR BANK

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026? Yes

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- ☐ Previous year's accounts
- ☐ Documentation in support of project
- ☐ Copy of rules/Constitution
- ☐ GDPR form

APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID 2025

Closing date Friday 14th March 2025

1. Name of Organisation.....Bicester Evergreens (Formerly OVER 50's CLUB)

2. Brief description of organisation.....

A seniors' club offering a safe place to meet others of a similar age for friendship, support, enjoyment and mental stimulation.

3. Number of regular participants in organisation25

4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area24

5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules?Yes

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered. NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence**

- 1) Funding for a Summer tea party.
- 2) Part funding towards the cost of a Christmas lunch.

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

We meet weekly in the West Bicester Community Centre, (due to refurbishment we are temporarily meeting at Bicester East Community Centre). To my knowledge WBCC is the only facility in this locality where older people and disabled people can meet in a safe environment.

Most members live alone and we help to ease the loneliness and isolation which so many of them experience. We provide a 'family' atmosphere where they have a strong sense of belonging.

We aim to provide both mental and physical stimulation in a relaxed and fun-filled way. In the colder months we are also providing a warm space for them to come to.

Due to the rising costs of hiring transport suitable for elderly and disabled people we are no longer able to have outings. Instead we provide local events which our members enjoy.

8. What is the total cost of your project?

£900. (This is an approximation based on price rises. We will be having home-made tea party. No-one has their Christmas menu available yet.)

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

Summer tea party £8 x 25 = £200

Christmas lunch £28 x 25 = £700

10. What is the grant amount applied for? £800

11. How will any shortfall be financed?

From club funds and by members themselves.

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026? Yes

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- ☒ Previous year's accounts
- ☐ Documentation in support of project (CHRISTMAS MENUS NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE.)
- ☒ Copy of rules/Constitution
- ☒ GDPR form



BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL

APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID 2025

Closing date Friday 14th March 2025

1. Name of Organisation LIONS CLUB OF BICESTER
2. Brief description of organisation A LOCAL ORGANISATION 14 MEMBERS
SERVING LOCAL COMMUNITIES
RAISING FUNDS FOR LOCAL CHARITIES
3. Number of regular participants in organisation 8 + 4/5 OCCASIONAL
4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area 9
5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules? YES see attached

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4). Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered. NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE
(see attached sheets for full details. Lions Club of
Bicester currently supplying approx 100 bottles a month
to organisations & individuals requesting Bottles

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

In compliance with Grant & Awarding Policy GP 7
para 2.6. "The Lions Club of Bicester is based in
Bicester para (2a) The money will be used to purchase a
bulk supply of bottles to be distributed locally 2b The
bottles will be given free to local organisations or
individuals free of charge 2c Bottles are purchased as a
bulk supply to obtain best price 2d Lions also use funds to
provide bottles The group is formally managed by the Club
The bottles are provided free of charge and given to all
organisations on request

8. What is the total cost of your project? £500

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

The cost and delivery of the bottles
£500. Members distribute the bottles
on request to hospitals, surgeries, health centres,
Care Homes and individuals. We give out
approximately 100 bottles per month

10. What is the grant amount applied for? £500

11. How will any shortfall be financed? From Club funds

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026? YES

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- ☐ Previous year's accounts ✓
- ☐ Documentation in support of project ✓
- ☐ Copy of rules/Constitution ✓
- ☐ GDPR form ✓



APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID 2025

1. Name of Organisation = Oxfordshire Play Association (OPA)

2. Brief description of organisation = The Oxfordshire Play Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Registered Charity Number 1160320) and has been offering a Countywide Service across Oxfordshire since 1974.

Our Vision is to 'Improve Lives Through Play'

Our Mission Statement is to 'Champion and to support the rights of all Children and Young People to have access to high quality, inclusive, Play opportunities to improve their Physical, Mental and Spiritual wellbeing'

Our Purpose, Values and Objectives are

- Create Playful communities for Children and their Families
- Raise awareness amongst parents and carers of the importance of Play in their Children's lives
- Promote the importance of Play to Statutory, Corporate and Voluntary organisations
- Increase the number of qualified Playworkers delivering high quality Play as part of a qualified workforce
- Provide services and support to settings and partnerships that promote and influence Play and Playwork

We deliver 3 main strands of work:

- Play Projects (Playday, Street Play, Stay & Play, ~~Saturdads~~, Play Rangers, Playful Woodlands, Therapeutic Playwork, Junior Youth Clubs etc)
- Play Training
- Support Services (Advice, Guidance, Outreach, Partnerships and Networking)

3. Number of regular participants in organisation = 10,000 Per Annum

4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area = 500 Per Annum

5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules? Yes

6. Details of Specific Project that funding is applied for (see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered. NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.**

Each year OPA organises a series of Play and Activity days at multiple venues across Oxfordshire in line with the ethos of National Playday, the celebration of the Childs Right to Play, (www.playday.org.uk)

From 2012 to 2024 inclusive we have delivered over 150 events across Oxfordshire which have been attended by over 160,000 Children, Young People and their Families (Our 2020 Events were postponed due to Coronavirus Lockdowns / Restrictions)

The key selling point of our project is that all of our events offer both FREE Entrance and FREE Activities to ensure an Inclusion for ALL.

For the last 2 years we have worked in partnership with A2 Dominion to deliver an event for the new Elmsbrook Community in Bicester and for 2025 we would like to return to Bicester but deliver an event at a different location at Spider Park to benefit a different cohort of Bicester residents. This is scheduled to be delivered on Saturday 2nd August 2025

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

These events were already becoming increasingly important with the savage cuts previously imposed on Children and Families services in Oxfordshire (including the closure of local Children's Centres and Youth Services) during Austerity in terms of providing activities and information on services available to local families.

These needs were further exacerbated by the issues caused by Covid-19.

In addition to all this Children, Young People and their Families now face an unprecedented Cost of Living Crisis.

It is of no surprise to anyone then that we are now seeing unprecedented increases in children's mental health problems and loneliness, alongside reduced physical activity.

Our project has the following key, aims and objectives:

For Children & Young People

- 1) Promote Positive Behaviours & Activities (reduce anti-social behaviour)
- 2) Promote Increased Levels of Physical Activity
- 3) Promote a Healthy Lifestyle (healthy choices)
- 4) Promote Healthy Weight Management (obesity reduction)
- 5) Provide information on services and activities to promote a sense of Wellbeing and Inclusion

For Parents / Carers

- 1) Provide an Event offering both FREE Entrance & FREE Activities to Ensure an Inclusion for ALL
- 2) Demonstrate how Play can be achieved on a Zero / Minimal Budget using Natural & Recycled materials
- 3) Provide information on services and activities available in the local and wider area

For Communities

- 1) Encourage a greater sense of belonging to promote Active & Engaged Communities (Love where you Live)
- 2) Promote local clubs, groups and societies
- 3) Involve local groups, communities and Children & Young People in the planning and delivery of each event

8. What is the total cost of your project? £4,500

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

Facilities Management = First Aid, Event Insurance, Toilet Hire, Land Hire Fee etc = £500

Volunteer Expenses = Volunteer Travel Costs and Refreshments = £50

Marketing and Publicity = Flyers and Leaflets = £100

Project Management Fee = Staff Time to plan event, complete necessary documentation, book and confirm activities, produce marketing material, post event reports and monitoring etc = £500

Hire of Activities = A range of activities for all ages and abilities = £3,350

10. What is the grant amount applied for? £500

11. How will any shortfall be financed?

Sanctuary Housing, Oxfordshire County Council, Cherwell District Council and Grants & Trusts

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026? Yes

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- ☒ Previous year's accounts
- ☒ Documentation in support of project
- ✓ Copy of rules/Constitution
- ✓ GDPR form



BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL

APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID 2025 Closing date Friday 14th March 2025

1. Name of Organisation Launton Village Players
2. Brief description of organisation Amateur dramatics group who give all profit to charity, local, national and international
3. Number of regular participants in organisation 100
4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area 100
5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules? Yes

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered. NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.**

Last year the council kindly granted Launton Village Players some money to contribute towards the cost of some new Stage Blocks. These have been purchased and should be in place to be used for our 2025 summer show 'Heroes and Villains'. We are now in the process of trying to secure some extra money in order for us to buy the additional items we need to complete our staging, namely guardrails, black scenery flats, drape post sets, clamps and storage shuttles.

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

We're raising funds to purchase essential pieces of equipment that are needed for the new stage blocks we have already raised money for. This allows us to create dynamic, multi-level staging that enhances the visual impact of our productions while ensuring the safety of our performers.

- Enhanced Performances: With multi-level staging, we can add depth and dimension to our scenes, creating more engaging and professional-looking productions.

- Safety First: Guardrails and clamps are crucial for preventing accidents and ensuring that our actors can perform with confidence and security.

- Community Impact: By improving our staging capabilities, we can offer even better performances to our loyal audience and attract new members to join our group.

We need to raise £4,155.00 to cover the cost of:

Stage Block guardrails

Black scenery flats

Drape post sets

Clamps and storage shuttles

With these additions we can continue to raise significant amounts of money for local charities through our performances. Our 2024 production of 'Rapunzel' raised £11k for Bicester Autism and our summer show 'It's Showtime' raised £1000 for the Bicester Baby Bank. This year's pantomime 'Beauty and the Beast' will raise money for The Hummingbird Centre.

As mentioned in our Grant Application 2024, ~~Launton~~ Village Players provides so much to the local people. We are run by local people and open to anyone to join, with a wide range of members from 6-97yrs old. There are no auditions to join the group and anyone is welcome, either on stage or behind the scenes. Our very popular pantomimes and productions attract locals of all ages and backgrounds, we provide a relaxed and BSL signed performance to make it accessible to all. We also visit local care homes and sing to them regularly.

8. What is the total cost of your project? £4155

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

Guardrails, black scenery flats, drape post sets, clamps and storage shuttles- totalling £4155

10. What is the grant amount applied for? £1000

11. How will any shortfall be financed? Other fundraising activities

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026? Yes

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- € Previous year's accounts
- € Documentation in support of project
- € Copy of rules/Constitution
- € GDPR form

1. Name of Organisation.....Bicester Foodbank
2. Brief description of organisation..... Helping families through times of financial crisis by supplying them with emergency food.
3. Number of regular participants in organisation50 – 75 per week
4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area50 – 75
5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules?Yes

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered. NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.**

We are intending to provide packs to support those in temporary accommodation or are rough sleeping since they have no access to cooking facilities. The pack will contain equipment to heat food (flask, microwaveable bowl, cutlery, tin opener), hygiene products, socks, gloves, underwear, sanitary products, bin bags, homeless pocket guide and specific food items suitable for heating up or rehydration. The approximate cost of each pack is £35. With any surplus funding, we will be able to provide additional items for clothing, blankets or sleeping bags for individuals in tented accommodation, with no access to laundry facilities.

.....

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

*How effectively the group will use the grant – All the funds will be spent on the project to provide basic equipment to those in dire need.

*How well the grant will meet the needs of the community- See previous response.

*Whether the costs are appropriate and realistic - Everything will be purchased at market value and appropriate to the amount required.

* Level of contributions raised locally- Any shortfall will be funded from Foodbank funds which are all raised from local donations.

* Whether the applicant could reasonably have been expected to obtain sufficient funding from a more appropriate source – This is a local project for local people.

* How the group is managed – Bicester Foodbank is part of Bicester Christian Action and has its own Management Committee,

* How the grant positively benefits residents residing within the town of Bicester – All clients are Bicester based.

* Whether it meets equality social inclusion and community inclusion aims - No-one in genuine need is turned away.

8. What is the total cost of your project? We aim to provide 50 packs @ approx. £35 each. This totals £1750.

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

...Each pack will contain equipment to heat food (flask, microwaveable bowl, cutlery, tin opener), hygiene products, socks, gloves, underwear, sanitary products, bin bags, homeless pocket guide and specific food items suitable for heating up or rehydration. It is estimated that each pack will cost ~~approx~~ £35.
.....

10. What is the grant amount applied for?£1000.00.....

11. How will any shortfall be financed?Bicester Foodbank funds

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026?YES

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- ☐ Previous year's accounts
- ☐ Documentation in support of project
- ☐ Copy of rules/Constitution
- ☐ GDPR form

APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID 2025
Closing date Friday 14th March 2025

1. Name of Organisation..... ARCh (Assisted Reading for Children)
2. Brief description of organisation... Registered charity which recruits, trains and supports volunteer reading helpers and places them in local schools encouraging a love of reading.
3. Number of regular participants in organisation .11 staff, 270 volunteers supporting approx. 800 children
4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area 4 staff & 27 volunteers helping 81 children
5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules? Yes

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered. NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.**

.....
Covering the cost to schools of 2 trained, supported reading helpers for 1 year (2 x £525)
.....

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

This year we have worked with 8 Bicester primary schools and supported over 80 children in Bicester.

Each year we ask schools to report on our impact, with results independently evaluated by Research Oxford Ltd.

Year on year we achieve similarly impressive results. Our 2024 survey revealed that, of the children we supported

98% improved their attitude to reading

97% improved their confidence and self-esteem

95% Improved their performance in reading

93% improved their reading comprehension

Our 2024 Impact Report is available here <https://archoxfordshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/ARCh-Impact-Report-2024.pdf>

We would also like to share this short film <https://youtu.be/z4xG-dqQxo0> which demonstrates the transformational impact ARCh can have on children's lives.

8. What is the total cost of your project? £1050

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

1 Volunteer recruitment	£42
2 Volunteer training	£82
3 Placement and initial observation	£44
4 Volunteer ongoing support	£61
5 Volunteer and staff travel	£234
6 Books, games & resources	£333
7 Administration & Management	£56
Total	£852

We request that schools pay £525 towards the full cost recovery of each trained reading helper in school.

10. What is the grant amount applied for? £1050

11. How will any shortfall be financed? Contribution requested from the schools

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026? Yes

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- X Previous year's accounts
- X Documentation in support of project
- X Copy of rules/Constitution
- X GDPR form



APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID 2025

Closing date Friday 14th March 2025

1. Name of Organisation The Hummingbird Cancer Support & Therapy Centre
2. Brief description of organisation We support families impacted by cancer from diagnosis to End of Life from the age of 4 upwards
3. Number of regular participants in organisation 50+ on a daily basis (Tuesday to Friday)
4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area 100+
5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules? Yes

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (**see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4**). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered.** NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.

Recently The Hummingbird Centre's made changes to the branding, making the "bird" become our key link with the centre, we have been able to change our literature but it's the outside marketing changes we need to make to our Gazebo, and table cloths. Even though we realise branding is important its our policy that all donations go back into providing the services of the centre that we provide for our guests. Costs increase due to the colours in the logo hence the reason for being considered for grant funding.

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

Our project meets the criteria of 2.6 as it will enable us to be visible when attending events within the community enabling us to reach out more by being visible, as well as being able to talk to those who may be thinking about attending the centre. The project will be managed by our Founder to ensure that we are on budget with the re-branding of the gazebo, table cloths, A Frame and the outside entrance sign to the centre so that people can find us, as well as manage any shortfall funding.

By being seen within the community and surrounding villages it will give us an opportunity to hopefully connect with those who may want to visit the centre but not sure what to expect, if they can connect with a face and know what days that person is in the centre then hopefully it would encourage them to come and visit.

Being able to provide collection pots with our updated logo rather than the tired looking ones will enable us to maintain our professional standards even if we are not present at an event.

For those travelling to centre its not always easy to find, albeit we give them landmarks, improving our outside signage would be easier.

Reaching out for support is not always easy as it's admitting you are on the journey or have been on the journey and the reality of what you have been through suddenly hits you, and if someone can see us via our logo being seen in and around the community hopefully it will encourage them to make contact.

8. What is the total cost of your project? £1,325

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

To replace the existing gazebo back panel with the logo £500.00

Table Cloths x 4 £32.40 = £129.60

Wrap Around Collection Pot Labels £4.50 x 50 = £225

A Frame Signage £100

Main signage outside The Hummingbird Entrance £500

10. What is the grant amount applied for? £1000

11. How will any shortfall be financed?

We will look to secure the shortfall via looking for alternative grants, trust and foundation funding, as well as seek the permission from private funders who have chosen to donate to the centre via their own funding activities.

We have two upcoming events taking place in March and May if we still short of the funding then the monies will go towards the project. It's important to the charity that we have the correct branding before we become busy with attending external events.

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026? Yes

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- ✓ Previous year's accounts
- ✓ Documentation in support of project
- ✓ Copy of rules/Constitution
- ✓ GDPR form



APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID 2025

Closing date Friday 14th March 2025

1. Name of Organisation:

Bicester Hindu Society

2. Brief description of organisation:

Bicester Hindu Society is a non-profit organisation set up to provide opportunities for the Indian community in Bicester and surrounding areas to connect, celebrate rich cultural diversity and undertake activities for advancement of education, sustainable development and spiritual welfare.

3. Number of regular participants in organisation:

Approx 140

4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area:

Approx 125

5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules?

Yes

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered.** NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.

If the grant is awarded, it will be used for development activities for children and adults along with celebrating the Hindu festival of light- Diwali. This would also be used to encourage people to contribute towards local charities e.g., Bicester Food Bank.

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

The Bicester Hindu Society is a newly established organisation with ambitious goals to support the local community in Bicester through devotional activities, the advancement of education, spiritual welfare, and the promotion of sustainable development. As a relatively new organisation in the area, it requires financial support to strengthen its foundation. Since its inception, the Bicester Hindu Society has successfully organised three events, with a total of approximately 370 attendees across the three of them. These events included around 25% children and young adults, and the feedback received was overwhelmingly positive. It is also noteworthy that during Diwali 2024 (Festival of Lights), the Bicester Hindu Society coordinated a food collection drive from the local Indian community for Bicester Food Bank. Below is the message from Bicester Food Bank:



In the 2025/26 financial year, continuing our mission to advance educational activities, our focus will be on supporting the development and encouragement of both children and adults. In this context, we plan to organise an art competition and a Diwali event. Like 2024, on the day of the event, we will also encourage attendees to contribute to charitable causes, such as donations towards Bicester Food Bank. To keep costs low, our intention is to organise both the art competition and Diwali event on the same day.

The benefits of this event for the people of Bicester and surrounding areas are as follows:

- a. *This event will cater to both children and adults, offering an activity that provides not only a learning experience but also a sense of achievement.*
- b. *It will encourage participants to demonstrate generosity by contributing to charitable causes, such as donating towards Bicester Food Bank.*
- c. *The event will bring families together to create art and celebrate a festival. Since it will be a competition, participants will have the opportunity to create artwork they can cherish as a lifelong memory.*
- d. *The event will promote an appreciation of art, colours, and creative thinking, particularly for children, reinforcing the art education they receive at school and enhancing their understanding of the subject.*
- e. *It will offer a platform for people of all ages to engage in a family-friendly activity, supporting their spiritual and mental well-being.*
- f. *The activities will support children's development, particularly their religious knowledge.*
- g. *The event will provide an opportunity for people in Bicester to connect with each other, fostering networking opportunities.*
- h. *This networking will facilitate the sharing of knowledge among families, especially those with young children.*
- i. *We anticipate that Bicester businesses providing quality services will benefit from word-of-mouth promotion, positively impacting the local economy.*
- j. *As a unique local event, it will encourage residents to participate without the need to travel long distances to attend similar events in places like Oxford, Birmingham, Leicester, Aylesbury, or London. This will not only reduce the environmental impact of travel but also alleviate traffic congestion on local roads.*
- k. *Many families with young children struggle to travel long distances, preventing them from participating in Hindu festive activities. Our event will provide a local opportunity for Bicester families to celebrate a key Hindu festival.*
- l. *By supporting Hindu families with young children, this event will align with the Bicester Town Council's social inclusion and community engagement goals.*

In summary, Bicester Hindu Society believes that awarding the grant will benefit Bicester residents in the following ways:

- *Facilitating devotional activities and the celebration of Hindu festivals.*
- *Enabling the community to contribute to local charities, such as the Bicester Food Bank.*
- *Supporting mental well-being by offering local events for participation.*
- *Promoting sustainability by reducing long-distance travel.*
- *Helping children gain knowledge of Hinduism, which complements their primary and secondary education.*
- *Contributing to the growth of the local economy through word-of-mouth promotion during the event.*

- Supporting the Bicester Town Council's goals of social and community inclusion.

8. What is the total cost of your project?

The estimated cost for the project is £1,885.

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

The breakdown of estimated cost is shown in the below table

S NO	Particulars	Estimate
1	Prizes for Art competition	£200.00
2	Food for attendees	£785.00
3	Music and children's activities	£400.00
4	Hall including cleaning	£250.00
5	Soft Drinks	£50.00
6	Disposables	£100.00
7	Decoration and Miscellaneous expenses	£100.00
Total		£1,885.00

10. What is the grant amount applied for?

£1,000

11. How will any shortfall be financed?

Shortfall will be financed by raising funds from the community via ticket sale, and through personal finances of the committee members

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026?

Yes

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- ☐ Previous year's accounts
- ☐ Documentation in support of project
- ☐ Copy of rules/Constitution
- ☐ GDPR form

1. Name of Organisation.....Bicester East Community Association, (BECA)
2. Brief description of organisation.....BECA is a group of local volunteers, who together manage the Bicester East Community Centre, Keble Road, Bicester, OX26 4TP on behalf of the local community. The Centre hosts a wide range of local community groups and activities on a weekly basis, such as anti-natal classes, mums and tots exercise, yoga for mental well-being, sewing and crafts, Indian dancing, fitness classes, martial arts, autism support for both parents and children and so on. The Centre is also used on an ad-hoc basis by local residents for events such as birthday parties, baby showers and so on. It also acts as the local Polling Station.
3. Number of regular participants in organisation BECA has 8 committee members
4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town areaAll BECA committee members live in Bicester.
5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules?yes

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (**see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4**). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered. NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.**

Our project is called "BECAuse Talking Matters" and aims to combat loneliness and social isolation within our local community. We provide a safe space in which residents, aged 50 and over, can come together once a month for a free to them 2-hour coffee morning to make new friends, reconnect, relax, and socialize. BECA provides hot drinks and snacks, plus games and crafts for those that wish to take part. We are applying for this grant to enable us to increase the frequency of our BECAuse Talking Matters coffee mornings and to enable us to provide special activities on a quarterly basis, such as Licia's Tiny Farm, singers or other entertainers. This will enable us to support more people within the local community.

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

The grant will help local residents, particularly those unable to travel far due to health reasons, by offering a nearby opportunities to help them overcome loneliness and social isolation. BECA believe the requested funds are appropriate and realistic for supporting this project. Additionally, we plan to host a community craft fair and other events to raise contributions, aiming to increase sessions from monthly to fortnightly. Managed by BECA committee members, the project benefits the Bicester town residents, especially those around the Keble Road area, where many elderly people live alone in bungalows. The project promotes equality, social inclusion, and community participation.

8. What is the total cost of your project?

The total investment BECA have made in the ~~BECAuse~~ Talking Matters Coffee Mornings so far is £518.

In addition to this expenditure, three BECA committee members volunteer three hours each of their own time to staff the coffee mornings (including set-up and close down time). They have donated games and craft supplies for use at the events. The printing of our promotional posters has been donated.

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

Initial Set-up Costs	Purchase of coffee mugs	£230
	Purchase of hot water urn	£90
	Bulk purchase of catering supplies, such as tea, coffee, sugar, squash etc	£118
Ongoing Monthly Costs	Purchase of milk, cakes and biscuits etc	£40 per month
Total expenditure to date (Feb 2025)		£518

BECA estimate that, if we are successful in obtaining this grant, and we are therefore able to increase the frequency of the coffee mornings to a fortnightly basis, and to provide additional activities as outlined above, then our costs would increase as follows:

Ongoing Costs	Purchase of milk, cakes and biscuits etc	£60 per month
Provision of Special Activities / Entertainers		£150 per quarter

10. What is the grant amount applied for?£500.....

11. How will any shortfall be financed? The BECA committee plan to host a community craft fair and other events to raise funding for the ~~BECAuse~~ Talking Matters coffee mornings.

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026?yes.....

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- ✓ Previous year's accounts
- ✓ Documentation in support of project
- ✓ Copy of rules/Constitution
- ✓ GDPR form

1. Name of Organisation.....Bicester Autism.....

2. Brief description of organisation

Bicester Autism is a local charity seeking to exchange learning, experiences, support and opportunities with the families and carers of autistic children, those with ADHD or those awaiting a diagnosis of autism or ADHD.

3. Number of regular participants in organisation

Approximately 650 Families

4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area

650 Families

5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules?

Yes

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered. NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.**

Bicester Autism Teen Social Group

We are seeking to continue run a social group for teenagers, primarily utilising the bowling alley at Heyford for this purpose. We have run this for the past year and found that having a fun activity to focus on makes attending more comfortable for our autistic / adhd teenagers and allows them a rare chance to socialise, practising their social skills in a judgement free, safe and supportive environment.

We require that a parent / carer accompanies each teen, and this also gives them an opportunity to socialise with other parents and carers and share experiences and support.

We have to date found these events incredibly successful and well attended and received very positive feedback from attendees. Some of the highlights for us are the friendships we see forming amongst the teens and also the parents which are now being established away from our group setting as well.

The Heyford provide us with an excellent discounted rate of £5 per bowler and we intend to have 16 bowlers across the two lanes at each session (£960 per year). We intend to ask for £2 per bowler to reserve a space (we have found that this reduces our drop out rate, but we waive this fee for anyone for whom this may be a barrier). Our expected cost for bowling is therefore £576 per year.

In addition, we wish to run several holiday events through the year including events aimed at and dedicated to the teenage age group. Once such event we plan to run is a

visit to Urban Battlefields for a laser tag event. We intend to take 30 children from school years 6 – 11 at a cost of £22 per person for a total cost of £650. As with other events we would seek to charge a nominal booking fee of £2 per person to reduce the drop out rate and ensure the funds are well utilised.

We therefore kindly request a grant of £1000 towards the cost of running this valuable service, with the remainder of the funds to be raised by Bicester Autism through our own fundraising via, for example, our summer and Christmas fairs.

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

Bicester Autism is currently the only group within Bicester supporting families of children with Autism, ADHD and related conditions. We are one of the only groups in the wider area that provide support to those awaiting diagnosis.

It has been widely publicised that waiting lists for diagnosis through CAMHS locally can regularly exceed 4 years. There are large numbers of children waiting for specialist education provision and for other vital services such as occupational therapy and speech and language support. This is adding immense strain to local families who are in limbo waiting for support.

With no public funding and run exclusively by a small number of volunteers we believe Bicester Autism are providing a vital service to our local families.

One of our members wrote to us to say *'I was lost and didn't know where to go and what to do. Then I found this amazing group! I am forever grateful'*. This is a sentiment we hear from members on a regular basis.

If awarded, this grant would allow us to provide local families of teenagers with some time each month where they can be themselves, find support amongst others in the same boat and feel free of judgement.

We believe a Teen social group project provides excellent value for money whilst providing an incredibly beneficial service to our members.

Alongside this project, Bicester Autism also aim to deliver holiday activities for our families, a weekly activity group for families (Magical Minds) as well as regular training sessions, coffee mornings and pub socials.

Funding for these has been secured from other organisations such as the national lottery community fund and Launton Village Players as well our own direct fundraising efforts through activities such as our summer and Christmas fairs which raised over £1200 in the last year.

Bicester Autism is run by a small committee consisting of a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and SEN support. All of which are volunteers claiming no personal expenses and who are parents of children with Autism themselves.

8. What is the total cost of your project?

£1166

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

Item	Cost	Income	Item Total	Overall Total
Bowling	£5 per bowler x 16 bowlers once per month		£960	
Booking Fee Revenue		£2 per bowler	-£384	
Urban Battlefields	£22 per person x 30		£650	
Booking Fee Revenue		£2 per attendee	-£60	
				£1166

10. What is the grant amount applied for?

£1000

11. How will any shortfall be financed?

We will fundraise directly through events such as our summer and Christmas fairs.

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026?

Yes

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- ☐ Previous year's accounts
- ☐ Documentation in support of project
- ☐ Copy of rules/Constitution
- ☐ GDPR form

APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID 2025
Closing date Friday 14th March 2025

1. Name of Organisation..... BCOS (Bicester Choral & Operatic Society)
2. Brief description of organisation..... Community based choral society with a membership of approx.70 individuals aged from 18 to 83, presenting three/four events (concerts/shows) per year. The largest of these is a fully staged musical/opera with typical costs in excess of £12,000. We are a registered charity whose stated aims are "to educate the public in the choral orchestral, dramatic and operatic arts, and to further the development of public appreciation and taste in the said arts."
3. Number of regular participants in organisation ~70
4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area 90%.....
5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules? Yes.....

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered. NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.**

To assist with funding the costs of presenting the stage musical Sweeney Todd (29/5 – 31/5 2025)

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

- How effectively the group will use the grant
The production has costs of ~ £13,500 (breakdown provided). The provision of this funding will assist in mitigating any potential losses on a production of this scale.
- How well the grant will meet the needs of the community
 - The society is based in the community for over 60 years, founded in 1963.
 - Its membership is drawn overwhelmingly for the Bicester community (currently ~90%)
 - Presenting this staged performance provides one of very few opportunities for residents of the fastest growing towns in south of England to see/participate in the arts.
- Whether the costs are appropriate and realistic
The society has been producing shows for over 60 years. The current management team have been in place for 10 years and are experienced in knowing the costs of production. Costs (and income) are based on previous experiences.
- Level of contributions raised locally
In addition to the grant application the society will be looking to raise approx. £500 from local businesses by way of adverts in the programme. In addition, Bicester Village have agreed to be event sponsors for the sum of £600
- Whether the applicant could reasonably have been expected to obtain sufficient funding from a more appropriate source.
The society believes it has exhausted all reasonable options.
- How the group is managed
As a registered charity the society is governed by a management team of 4 trustees (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and secretary) along with up to 6 additional committee members.

- How the grant positively benefits residents residing within the town of Bicester
Provision of the grant enables the production to proceed, providing residents with the opportunity to perform in, and to see, a staged musical production.
- Whether it meets equality social inclusion and community inclusion
The society operates an inclusive approach to its events. Some societies restrict participation to members of a certain length of service. This is not the case for BCOS – once again this year we have a number of new members, taking part in the cast of 40 and once again 3 of those new members have been successful in gaining lead roles. We are an adult society, but welcome young adults too and operate a clear safeguarding policy in this respect.

8. What is the total cost of your project?~£12,500.....

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

COSTS

Royalties & Music £2350

Band £1200

Set hire/Props/Costumes £1800

Venue £2000

Programmes & tickets £ 300

Promotional materials/activity £ 800

Musical Director - £1900

Other prof fees £ 750 (1st aid, sound,)

Refreshments £ 950

Other £ 450

TOTAL £12,500

INCOME - estimate - assumes 80% capacity.

Tickets £8100

FOH £2500

Event sponsor £600

Advertising £500

Total £11,700

10. What is the grant amount applied for?£750.....

11. How will any shortfall be financed? from reserves/further sponsorship/advertising

.....

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2025?Yes.....

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- ☐ Previous year's accounts
- ☐ Documentation in support of project
- ☐ Copy of rules/Constitution
- ☐ GDPR form

1. Name of Organisation.....**Cafe 103**.....

- 2. Brief description of organisation...
- **Cafe 103 is a charity and outreach for Orchard Baptist Church Bicester. We provide a twice weekly drop in Café space to support those in our community struggling with mental health issues, learning difficulties, or experiencing loneliness and bereavement. A place where it is ok not to be ok.**
- **We have one part time manager and are otherwise staffed by volunteers. We offer generous hospitality, a craft activity each week, great coffee and tea and homemade cakes. We do not charge but welcome donations.**
- **Our users tend to be over 50, with mental health issues, physical or learning disabilities, struggling economically and we are regularly used by the homeless in Bicester.**
- **We over time have responded to the needs of our users by becoming a warm space, a TVP safe space, hosting a citizens advice CHIP session weekly and being part of Cherwell District Councils food support network. We also work closely with the Foodbank, the Open Doors Café and other local charities in Bicester.**
- **We operate from Bicester Methodist Church every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon and have been in Bicester for 3 years.**

3. Number of regular participants in organisation**45**.....

4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area ...**90% +**.....

5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules?

.....**yes**.....

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered.** NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.

- **One of the needs we have identified in many of our service users is that they do not have smart phones or laptops. Lots struggle with literacy and have few or no IT skills.**
- **These users tend to be over 60 and facing financial hardship as well as mental and physical health issues is an inability to access the internet. This makes accessing all kinds of services extremely difficult or impossible. We have previously signposted to the library, but our users tell us they haven't the confidence to go in and ask for the help they need. We have only discovered this after being able to build a trusting relationship over many months.**
- **We would like funding for a laptop, and a printer. This would be kept in the Café for the support of our service users. An example of a suitable laptop would be an**

HP Rysen currently retailing at £369 in Argos. A suitable printer would be an HP Envy printer also from Argos retailing at £79.99.

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

- *Our group would use the grant very effectively, it would be used at most sessions to help and support Bicester residents. We have researched the need and how to most effectively meet it for our situation. We have already attended two online training events and have been given a mentor to help us maximise its potential.*
- *We think this is a need identified by use and users in our group and the prices given previously are realistic and reasonable. Previously we have used the Café phone to send emails to the likes of HMRC, Housing agencies, benefits agencies etc. Also to refer to organisations such as StepChange and Carers Oxfordshire. To have a laptop to do this would be more secure as users can have their own accounts, and we can set up emails for them. Many of our users do not use emails. This makes modern life extremely difficult for them.*
- *The use of the laptop will be overseen by the Café manager and all volunteers are DBS checked and have had safeguarding training. It will be kept on site in a secure cupboard.*
- *We have been working with the Good Things Foundation, who offer training and advice on setting this up safely and securely and bridging the digital divide. Good Things also offer a very user-friendly training program to help those who struggle to use IT which we would utilise. Our volunteers would be there to support. We already have secure Wi-fi.*
- *Our Café is an inclusive, welcoming non-judgemental space and our user demographic reflect this.*

8. What is the total cost of your project?

£449.....

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

- *An example of a suitable laptop would be an HP Rysen currently retailing at £369 in Argos. A suitable printer would be an HP Envy printer also from Argos retailing at £79.99.*

10. What is the grant amount applied for? To purchase a lap top and printer

11. How will any shortfall be financed?

.....

.....

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026?

...yes.....

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- ☐ Previous year's accounts
- ☐ Documentation in support of project

- Copy of rules/Constitution
- GDPR form

Closing date Friday 14th March 2025

1. Name of Organisation.....Bicester community Hub
2. Brief description of organisation.....We support the community & Community projects by collecting surplus food / items and distributing back out to who can use them
3. Number of regular participants in organisation ...400 per week
4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area ...400 per week
5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules? ...yes

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered. NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.**

.....We service many elderly and vulnerable members of the Bicester community at the hub sessions and at other projects. We have 24 Volunteers I would like to provide First Aid training for all. This is an essential safety tool that I think we could all have to further support the community and feel confident when dealing with any health issues that arise.

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

.....
The grant will be used within 2025 asap to support the safety of the volunteers and the community members using the hub.

If we could all be first aid trained this will benefit the community massively, not only at hub sessions but we do visit other community projects to talk about the hub and the environment.

I believe this is not an expensive request to fulfil. I personally feel that this ticks every box of 2.6

8. What is the total cost of your project?£462.00

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

2 hours certified first aid training for a group of 20 plus £385 plus VAT
Each member will get emergency training and Defib training

10. What is the grant amount applied for?£462.00

11. How will any shortfall be financed?
If you are unable to help us will we will fund raise as I believe this is essential (it may just take us longer)

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026? Yes

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- ☐ Previous year's accounts
- ☐ Documentation in support of project
- ☐ Copy of rules/Constitution
- ☐ GDPR form

APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID 2025 Closing date Friday 14th March 2025

1. Name of Organisation Caroline's Café and Thrift Shop
2. Brief description of organisation... *Caroline's Café and Thrift Shop is an initiative to bring the military and civilian families of Ambrosden together in a supportive environment.*
3. Number of regular participants in organisation ... *40 – 50 Daily*
4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area *40 – 50 Daily*
5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules? ... No Yes

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered. NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.**

To provide outdoor seating to allow alfresco meetings. This community café project is aimed at bringing people together outside. Outdoor furniture plays a crucial role by creating inviting spaces for social interaction and relaxation. Comfortable seating areas encourage patrons to gather, chat, and enjoy their time, fostering a sense of community. The aesthetic appeal of well-designed outdoor furniture enhances the café's ambiance, making it a more attractive destination. Additionally, it supports outdoor events and gatherings, such as children's parties or community meetings, further strengthening social bonds between the two communities. By promoting outdoor activities, the café can contribute to a healthier lifestyle for its patrons.

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

The café project will effectively use the grant by creating inviting outdoor spaces that foster social interaction and community engagement, meeting the needs of Bicester residents for communal gathering spots. The costs are appropriate and realistic, as they cover essential outdoor furniture and amenities that enhance the café's appeal and functionality. The project has garnered significant local contributions, demonstrating strong community support. While alternative funding sources were explored, the grant is crucial for timely implementation. The group is well-managed, ensuring efficient use of resources and alignment with community goals. The café will positively benefit Bicester residents by providing a welcoming environment that promotes equality, social inclusion, and community cohesion.

8. What is the total cost of your project? **£939.80**

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

4 x [Seater circular table](#) - £160 each = £640

4 x [Umbrella with stand](#) - £74.95 each = £299.80

.....
10. What is the grant amount applied for? £704.85 (3 Sets).....

11. How will any shortfall be financed?By Café and Thrift shop funds

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026? ...Yes.....

1. Name of Organisation: Home-Start Banbury, Bicester & Chipping Norton

2. Brief description of organisation: We are a home-visiting service, committed to promoting the welfare of families with at least one child under the age of 5. By recruiting and training volunteers, we provide an early intervention service, supporting families experiencing disadvantage who are struggling to cope. Through offering non-judgemental, confidential emotional support and practical help, we work to improve parents' skills and confidence, building better lives for their children.

3. Number of regular participants in organisation: 7 staff, 9 trustees, 48 volunteers, supporting 281 families

4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area: 18 families living in Bicester were supported in the last year, improving the lives of 40 children. 14 families are currently being supported, and a further 3 will be beginning support soon as they are waiting to be matched with a volunteer. We have 8 volunteers who live in the Bicester area, and 3 new volunteers on our preparation course.

5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules? Yes

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (see **Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4**). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered. NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.**

We are applying for a grant from Bicester Town Council for funding towards our Preparation Courses for new Volunteers taking place in the next year. In 2019, we received funding from the National Lottery Community Fund to extend our work into Bicester, and employed a Family Support Worker so we could immediately begin family support while recruiting volunteers in the area. We have slowly recruited volunteers who live in Bicester, but this continues to be an area of focus for us as we know there are more families in Bicester in need of our support.

Our volunteer preparation course for new volunteers is an eight-week course consisting of 16 sessions (taking place one day a week). This course has a hybrid approach to delivery with some sessions taking place in person and others online. It prepares volunteers for supporting families and all volunteers must be trained before they are matched to a family to begin providing weekly home-based support. The course covers areas such as safeguarding, confidentiality, communication, mental health difficulties, domestic abuse as well as setting our expectations of what our volunteers do.

We are experiencing a high demand for our home-visiting service - 26 referrals received since April 2024 and we have only been able to accept 15 of these for support due to our volunteer capacity. Our New Volunteer training courses allow us to at least maintain, and hopefully increase, our number of available trained volunteers. Currently, we have volunteers who are travelling to Bicester from other parts of the Cherwell area and this obviously adds a huge expense to our scheme in terms of reimbursing volunteers' travel expenses. We need more volunteers who live in Bicester themselves to become aware of our work and volunteer in a befriending capacity. By advertising for, and recruiting new volunteers in Bicester, it will also raise the profile of Home-Start Banbury, Bicester and Chipping Norton in the Bicester area. This is important so that more families in need become aware of the services we offer – including our Stay & Play group as well as home-visiting.

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

This grant will benefit Bicester residents in more than one way. The positive benefits of volunteering are well-known and include improved confidence, self-esteem, life satisfaction and is a way to improve a volunteer's mental health. Our volunteers are also of differing ages and backgrounds. We advertise for volunteers through several methods: word of mouth, social media, leaflets given out at fundraising events/volunteering fairs, adverts in local magazines to try to ensure that any person who would like to volunteer has the chance to find out about us.

'I enjoy being a part of the Home-Start team and never feel alone due to the support given to me by everyone. The training I receive keeps me current and confident in my role as a volunteer.'

Helen – Bicester volunteer – currently supporting 2 families in the area

By recruiting and training new volunteers in the Bicester area, they will then be able to carry out family support to families in the area, so families in Bicester will also benefit indirectly from the grant. Home-Start supports families with at least one child under the age of 5, where there are difficulties and stresses in the family home. Some of the most common issues experienced by the families we support are: isolation, mental health difficulties, relationship problems, financial difficulties, domestic violence, substance abuse, disability, multiple births and newly-arrived in this country. Our families are from a range of diverse backgrounds, including those disadvantaged and/or struggling with the daily challenges of parenting and since the pandemic and effects of cost-of-living crisis, we are finding we are supporting families with increasingly complex needs.

Our evaluations show that our Home-Start family support has many positive outcomes including families feeling less isolated, with improved emotional wellbeing for parents and children and parents feeling more able to cope with family life. Last year, after receiving support:

- 92% of families reported higher self-esteem
- 91% of families reported feeling less isolated
- 80% of parents said they were more involved in their children's development

Our charity has been operating for almost 40 years and we have a proven track record of having a positive impact on family life.

8. What is the total cost of your project? £3,758

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

Volunteer Preparation Course: Home-Start Banbury, Bicester & Chipping Norton					
Pre-training	Per Hour	Hours	Amount		
Organiser time		10	£	184.50	Interviews x 1hr x 10 Organiser hours
Advertising			£	250.00	
Travel Expenses			£	50.00	
			£	484.50	
Training	Per Hour	Hours	Amount		
Organiser time - preparation		32	£	590.40	32 hours
Organiser time - delivering		80	£	1,476.00	2 Organisers x 8 x 5hr sessions
Room hire			£	350.00	
Travel Expenses			£	50.00	
Admin time		8	£	112.56	
DBS Checks			£	150.00	
Stationery and training resources			£	100.00	
External trainers			£	150.00	
Refreshments			£	60.00	
			£	3,038.96	
Post-training	Per Hour	Hours	Amount		
Organiser time		10	£	184.50	Interviews x 1hr x 10 Organiser hours
Travel Expenses			£	50.00	
			£	234.50	
			£	3,757.96	

We do try to keep costs to a minimum, for example, making use of cheaper hall hire, mainly using external speakers who will provide their time for free, reduced resources etc.

10. What is the grant amount applied for? £1,000

11. How will any shortfall be financed?

Several avenues will be explored to support the shortfall. There are several Trusts/Foundation who will be interested in funding this type of work and they will be approached.

In the past, we have also received funding from One Stop and Tesco stores in Bicester, as well as Bicester Village's Make a Difference fund.

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026? Yes

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- ☐ Previous year's accounts
- ☐ Documentation in support of project
- ☐ Copy of rules/Constitution
- ☐ GDPR form

1. Name of Organisation The Friends of Bardwell School

2. Brief description of organisation

The Friends of Bardwell School is a UK registered charity (number 272369) which raises funds for Bardwell Community School. The school caters for children and young adults between the ages of 2 and 19 years with severe, profound, and multiple learning disabilities. Bardwell supports pupils with a wide range of needs and is committed to high quality teaching and learning for all. The school's website is www.bardwell.oxon.sch.uk

3. Number of regular participants in organisation. 118

4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area 55%

5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules? Yes

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered. NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.**

Equipment for Forest School. We would like to request equipment to enable the initial set up of an accessible forest school/outdoor learning sessions in a designated area on the school site. The school has already allocated funds for fencing and training. This equipment will be suitable for all our students and their needs.

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

Forest school will be used by students from Bicester that have special educational needs and may not have ever worked outside or had the opportunity to care and grow plants. There is a wealth of research that suggests a positive link between wellbeing and time spent in nature. In addition, students will learn new outdoor skills, learn about the natural world, develop confidence, self-esteem, and independence as well further cross curricular links. They will have the opportunity to grow their food and to learn how and where food comes from.

What do we know so far from research about the effects of forest school?

Research in the UK into Forest School and its impacts on young children found positive impacts on children in terms of confidence, social skills, language and communication, motivation and concentration, physical skills and knowledge and understanding.

A study that investigated life stress and rural children discovered that children who had significant, direct contact with the natural world were better able to deal with stresses in daily life compared to those who hadn't.

It is argued that developing this relationship with nature early on (the earlier the better), might not only bring about positive results for children's mental health but also impact their future, and how they act in relation to the environment.

8. What is the total cost of your project? £914.92

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

The equipment needed are as follows:

Folding camping chairs – blue (Argos 958/4479) £13 each but 2 for £18 so $x6 = £54$

Argos Home 3m x 3m Pop Up Weather Resistant garden Gazebo 464/8059. £200 from Argos

Thermos Mondial Flask - 1.8L 943/3245 £18 from Argos

Multi-purpose compost e.g. B&Q GoodHome Peat-free Multi-purpose compost 100L= £11.75 x 4 = £47

2 watering cans e.g. (Verve dark green plastic watering can 6L. B&Q- £6.80 each) = £13.60

Set of 2 Fork & Spade Green Garden Farming Lightweight Gardening Hand Tools Soft Plastic Handle Grip Strong & Durable Carbon Steel - B&Q online £26.99.

MASSIVE Capacity Outdoor Garden Storage Box Plastic Shed - Weatherproof & Sit On with Wood Effect Chest (680L, Anthracite) by BQ online £137.99

X2 14L Gorilla tub. £5.99 each excl. VAT $x2 = £11.98$ from Muddy Faces

Beginners sweep net = £26.99 excl. VAT from Muddy Faces

Bug pots (Pack of 10) = £15.39 excl. VAT from Muddy Faces

Kids gardening rigger gloves age 7-8 £4.99 each $x4 = £19.96$ + age 9-12 £4.99 each $x4 = £19.96$
Total = £32.92

Field guides (Muddy Spaces)

Field Guide – hedgerows £4

Field Guide - Playing field plants £4

Field Guide - Bugs and Beasties £4

Field Guide - woodlouse name trail £4

Field Guide - Park & Garden birds £4

Field Guide - Name Trail clouds £4

Total £24

Brace Drill with 5 drill bits = £41.99 excl. VAT from Muddy Faces

Softwood hand drill- set of 3 = £4.79 excl. VAT from Muddy Faces

X2 Palm drill (5mm) £4.95 each excl. VAT = $2 \times £4.95 = £9.90$ from Muddy Faces

X2 claw hammer £7.49 each excl. VAT = $2 \times £7.49 = £14.98$ from Muddy Faces

Bacho bow saw 53cm = £25.20 excl. VAT from Muddy Faces

Waterproof IP53 Toolbox = £58.61 excl. VAT from Muddy Faces

Padlock-combination aluminium = £7.69 excl. VAT from Muddy Faces

Kids Rigger Gloves age 4-7 £4.99 x2= £9.98 age 8-12 £4.99 x2= £9.98. Total = £19.96
from Muddy Faces

Trekker hammock = £24.99 excl. VAT. from Muddy Faces

Slackline 17.5m = £49.99 excl. VAT. from Muddy Faces

~~Floatline~~ (6mm x10m) = £8.99 excl. VAT. from Muddy Faces

Plastic Fire bucket with lid = £22.99 excl. VAT. from Muddy Faces

Fire Gloves = £4.99 excl. VAT. from Muddy Faces

Fire Blanket = £10.99 excl. VAT. from Muddy Faces

Total: £914.92

10. What is the grant amount applied for? £914.92

11. How will any shortfall be financed? I will be applying to grants and trusts for funding

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026? Yes

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

✓ Previous year's accounts

✓ Documentation in support of project

✓ Copy of rules/Constitution

✓ GDPR form

1. Name of Organisation	
Lowland Rescue Oxfordshire	
2. Brief description of organisation	
Lowland Rescue Oxfordshire is the county's Search and Rescue Team. We work closely with Thames Valley Police in searching for vulnerable missing individuals in our community and provide <u>flood</u> and water support to Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service. During major incidents, such as natural disasters and extreme weather, we also provide aid to Oxfordshire County Council. We are members of the Thames Valley Resilience Forum and are affiliated to the National Association of Lowland Rescue. WE are part of the UK's Search and Rescue framework (UKSAR) which also includes the RNLI and Mountain Rescue. Our 100% volunteer team are on call 24/7, 365 days a year and, as a charity, we are completely unfunded by any central body. 3. Number of regular participants in organisation 104 4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area 15 5. Constitution/set of rules? Yes (attached)	

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered. NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.**

Approximately 90% of our searches for missing people in Oxfordshire now involve water and in 2024 we were called out to search for a vulnerable missing person in the county approximately every 4 days. From 2023-2024 we have seen approximately a 33% increase in the number of searches we have been called out to which puts pressure on our current resources and decreases the lifespan of our equipment due to its regular use.

We would like to purchase a new upgraded water trailer that would provide several functions for the team.

- a) It will have a larger area and enhanced weight capacity that will allow us to carry more equipment to a search and to be able to manage the increased weight of our water equipment when wet (and very heavy), on our return from searches.
- b) It would enable our team to use it as a sonar data analysis area, away from the emergency vehicles, providing a space to sit and review captured data during deployments.
- c) It would be set up as an office and kit hub which would also serve as a secondary incident control point.
- d) This dual functionality would enhance our operational flexibility and readiness in case of vehicle breakdown or multiple deployments.
- e) Having a craft within the trailer to deploy the sonar, without needing to bring a separate boat would be a huge operational benefit, streamlining our process and improving efficiency during deployments.
- f) The Ifor Williams Trailer that has been proposed has a nose access barn door and ramp access from the rear which will allow us to segregate the sonar office from the kit storage

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

Lowland Rescue Oxfordshire's grant application for a new water trailer meets Bicester Town Council's criteria effectively in the following ways: -

1. How effectively the group will use the grant

- As explained in the previous question, LRO would use the grant to purchase a new water trailer which will enable us to work more effectively and efficiently – therefore being able to find missing people in Bicester and the wider Oxfordshire area faster and potentially saving lives. It will also serve the following functions:
 - a) It will have a larger area and enhanced weight capacity that will allow us to carry more equipment to a search and to be able to manage the increased weight of our water equipment when wet (and very heavy), on our return from searches.
 - b) It would enable our team to use it as a sonar data analysis area, away from the emergency vehicles, providing a space to sit and review captured data during deployments.
 - c) It would be set up as an office and kit hub which would also serve as a secondary incident control point.
 - d) This dual functionality would enhance our operational flexibility and readiness in case of vehicle breakdown or multiple deployments.
 - e) Having a craft within the trailer to deploy the sonar, without needing to bring a separate boat would be a huge operational benefit, streamlining our process and improving efficiency during deployments.
 - f) The Ifor Williams Trailer that has been proposed has a nose access barn door and ramp access from the rear which will allow us to segregate the sonar office from the kit storage.

2. How well the grant will meet the needs of the community

- **Explanation:** The grant will meet an essential need in the Bicester community by enhancing the group's ability to respond effectively to local emergencies. Our team of volunteers have responded to emergency calls to search for missing people in Bicester 5 times in the last three years. Each of these people were found and returned to their family. The grant will enable us to respond more effectively to these emergency calls and will enable us to bring additional equipment to our deployments which will only benefit the Bicester community when a member of the community goes missing.

3. Whether the costs are appropriate and realistic

- Ifor Williams Trailer (see attached brochure)
- Model: BV105
- Net Price: £4,295.00
- VAT: £985.00
- Total: £5,910.00
- As part of our volunteer team we have qualified mechanics who can provide, FOC, the maintenance required to maintain the trailer extending the life of the trailer and therefore providing excellent value for money. We anticipate that the trailer should be available for deployments for at least ten years.
- **4. Level of contributions raised locally**
- Fundraising for the water trailer, so far, has come from the following places:
- Witney Town Council Grant of £2,495
- 2 x £500 from Oxfordshire County Councillors
- £500 from Henley Town Council
- We are due to provide safety boats for several regattas on the Thames over the summer of 2025 and hope to put some of the money towards the new trailer.
- We take part in several fairs such as Bicester Armed Forces Day each year from which we receive donations.

5. Whether the applicant could reasonably have been expected to obtain sufficient funding from a more appropriate source

Local government support is essential as one of our avenues of funding as a way of keeping our organisation afloat. Lowland Rescue provide a voluntary but lifesaving Search and Rescue service to the people of Bicester, as well as the rest of Oxfordshire. Our unpaid volunteers have rescued 5 members of the Bicester community in the last 3 years. This number however doesn't also consider their family, friends and the wider community who are also deeply affected whenever someone goes missing.

Lowland Rescue have also applied to grants from other sources but the water trailer is not the only item for which we are fundraising this year and so we are looking to all opportunities to provide us with the lifesaving equipment we require.

6. How the group is managed

Lowland Rescue Oxfordshire has 6 Trustees who oversee the overall management, governance and long-term sustainability of the charity. A Management Team comprising 10 people including the Chair as well as the Search and Rescue Team leads meet over 6 weeks and are responsible for the day-to-day management of the organisation. Every member undergoes 5 areas of nationally recognised training and examinations when they join the organisation to become Licensed Search Technicians and operational. Each operational member can undergo further training to join one of the specialised Search and Rescue teams which are: Medical, Drone, Water and Dog. Ongoing training for all members takes place at least once a week.

7. How the grant positively benefits residents residing within the town of Bicester

The grant will benefit residents by improving our emergency response capabilities, allowing us to provide better search and rescue services to the people of Bicester and potentially being able to save lives.

8. Whether it meets equality, social inclusion, and community inclusion aims

The LRO application supports inclusive efforts and providing equal access to our search and rescue services regardless of background or gender. We are called

upon by the emergency services when a vulnerable member of the community goes missing. The people we search for are generally the most vulnerable in society including the elderly and the young, those with dementia, autism, mental health crisis and suicide.

A new water trailer will enable us to provide more life saving equipment quicker to the most vulnerable when they most require it.

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8. What is the total cost of your project?

£5,900

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

Ifor Williams Trailer

Model: BV105

Net Price: £4,295:00

VAT: £985:00

Total: £5,910:00

10. What is the grant amount applied for?

£1,000

11. How will any shortfall be financed?

£2,500 grant from Witney TC

£500 grant from Henley TC

2 x £500 donations from Oxon CC Councillors

Proceeds from summer Thames regattas where our volunteers provide safety boats.

Other donations

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026?

Yes

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

Previous year's accounts

Documentation in support of project

Copy of rules/Constitution

GDPR form

1. Name of Organisation. Langford Village Community Association.....
2. Brief description of organisation.....LVCA is responsible for the running and maintenance of the Community Centre and representing Langford Village on local matters.....
3. Number of regular participants in organisation 5,500.....
4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town areaAll.....
5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules?Yes.....

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (**see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4**). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered. NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.**

In our continued strive to improve our efficiency, reduce costs and our carbon footprint, we are looking to introduce a heat saving product that works in conjunction with our online booking system.

This allows us to set a temperature required for each booking and the system takes the external and internal temperature and then works out how long is required to obtain the correct temperature for the booking.

This maximises the efficiency of the heating system and saves some groups being too hot or others too cold and also if a booking gets cancelled saves the human error of not turning the heating down or off

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7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

Langford Village Community Centre is the highest google rated hall in Bicester, and runs at near full capacity. It serves the community well, with regular classes for all ages during the week, and have 500+ using the hall weekly.

We are also registered with Cherwell District Council as a 'Warm Space' and for two years now have run a successful afternoon (Thursday Circle) which attracts up to 30 people per week.

With such diverse groups using the hall (young babies to elderly, yoga to martial arts) the required temperature varies considerably and this system regulates that efficiently, without human input, once set up.

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8. What is the total cost of your project? ...£4,159.61

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

...Provision of equipment, and installation.....£2633.01 +VAT = £3159.61.....

...Associated electrical and building works estimated.....£1,000.....
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10. What is the grant amount applied for? £1,000.....

11. How will any shortfall be financed? ...see below.....

£125 received from the Co-Op.....

£1,000 from Cherwell District Council... not yet confirmed

£ 2034.61 from LVCA Funds.....

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026? Yes.....

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- ☐ Previous year's accounts
- ☐ Documentation in support of project
- ☐ Copy of rules/Constitution
- ☐ GDPR form

1. Name of Organisation	1 st Bicester Intrepid Scout Group
2. Brief description of organisation	Provision of Scouting for young people in the Bicester area
3. Number of regular participants in organisation	77
4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area	70
5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules?	Yes – we use the Scout Association's Policy, Organization & Rules (POR)

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (**see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4**). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered.** NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.

Replacing the old strip lighting in our scout hall with LED Non-Corrosive Battens

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

1st Bicester Intrepid Scout Group has been providing Scouting for young people in Bicester for over 110 years. We are privileged to own our headquarters; however, this comes with the costs of upkeep. The running costs and upkeep of the property and grounds increase each year, and we are aiming to reduce our electricity costs by replacing our old strip lighting. The new LED lighting would offer a higher energy efficiency and a have a longer lifespan. In the long term we aim to save money and use less electricity.

8. What is the total cost of your project? £1,839.92

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

Screwfix quote £1,533.27 plus VAT, total £1,839.92

10. What is the grant amount applied for? £1,000.00
11. How will any shortfall be financed? From internal fundraising
12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026? Yes

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- ☒ Previous year's accounts
- ☒ Documentation in support of project
- ☒ Copy of rules/Constitution
- ☒ GDPR form

1. Name of Organisation: Bicester Community Fridge
 2. Brief description of organisation: environmental Waste Project
 3. Number of regular participants in organisation 500 + a Week
 4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area 500 + a Week
- Do you have a constitution/set of rules? Yes

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (**see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4**). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered. NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.**

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We are asking for £300 to cover the cost of our Level 2 Food Hygiene qualification. This is a requirement for all our volunteers, and it needs to be renewed every three years, and we are now coming up to the next cycle and have 30 + volunteers. Not only is this good from a health and safety point of view we are giving our volunteers some accreditation which they can go on and use in their own lives.

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

The group will use grant effectively and in turn will provide safety around food which is given out to public.

This will ensure the safety of our users that food is being handled in the correct way.

8. What is the total cost of your project? £300

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

30 Volunteers £10 per course

10. What is the grant amount applied for? £300

11. How will any shortfall be financed? N/A

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026? YES

1. Name of Organisation: Bicester Christian Action – Open Doors Cafe

2. Brief description of organisation: The Open Doors Cafe turns surplus food to tasty meals for everyone. We have been operating on Sheep Street in central Bicester since 2022 and provide lunch for between 80 and 120 people each week.

3. Number of regular participants in organisation: 40 volunteers, 80-100 sit down guests, 10-20 takeaway guests

4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area: majority are in the Bicester Town area

5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules?: Yes

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (**see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4**). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered.** NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.

We are applying to the grant to fund the Open Doors Café. Our mission is to provide meals made from in-date surplus food to the community in Bicester, prepared and served by our team of committed volunteers.

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

The Cafe provides meals made from largely donated, surplus food and is operated entirely by volunteers and therefore we are able to feed a large number of local residents with respect to our costs.

The Cafe asks no charge for the meals we provide and everyone is welcome to eat with us or choose a takeaway for those who are less comfortable with the dining-in experience. The Bicester Methodist Church hosts the Cafe and provides a disabled accessible setting.

Many people don't just come for the food. The Cafe is a great place to meet old friends and make new ones. Our designated 'chatty' table is where we encourage people to connect and has proved very popular.

We rely entirely on donations, grants, and the time our volunteers give to keep the Cafe running.

The group is managed by a committee of volunteers. This management committee sits under our board of trustees of our registered charity, Bicester Christian Action.

8. What is the total cost of your project?:

The Cafe has a weekly average cost of £122

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

Item	Cost per week (£)	Notes
Heating and Electricity	£45 pw	The church only charges us for the heat and electricity we use. They do not charge us a usual rental cost for the rooms we use or charge us for the use of all their equipment.
Food	£30 pw	The cost of food depends on the surplus food available to us at Oxford Food Hub. This varies across the year, particularly by season.
Transport	£13 pw	We almost always drive to/from Oxford Food Hub. Volunteers use their own vehicles.
Equipment	£20 pw	We use the church's equipment for free. We buy additional equipment as needed and share this with the church. This includes cutlery, crockery, cooking equipment, cleaning products.
Consumables	£14 pw	The cost of stationary, takeaway boxes and cleaning products spread across the year.

10. What is the grant amount applied for?:
£976

11. How will any shortfall be financed?:
Any shortfall will be financed by grants from other funders and donations from our guests and other members of the community

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026?:
Yes

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- ☐ Previous year's accounts
- ☐ Documentation in support of project
- ☐ Copy of rules/Constitution
- ☐ GDPR form

1. Name of Organisation: Bure Park School PTA (known as Buddies)
2. Brief description of organisation: School Parent and Teacher Association, raising money for the benefit of the pupils and school community at Bure Park Primary School
3. Number of regular participants in organisation: 10 committee members, 400 pupils at Bure Park Primary School
4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area: Vast majority of above
5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules? Yes

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered. NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.**

- Bure Park Primary have recently been rewarded recognition as an Artsmark Gold school. They are looking to celebrate this award via their annual Arts Festival Fortnight so we would like to support them by provide an additional extra-curricular arts opportunity for all pupils within this celebration. As per the schools' Arts Policy, they have suggested a local artist called Louisa Foster who offers schools workshops for across all ages, which will also continue demonstrating their commitment to supporting our local arts scene. We would like to fund two full days of her time in school so that all children could collaborate on a whole school project to commemorate the schools' 25th anniversary, which is also this year.

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

- The grant will be used to provide an extra-curricular arts opportunity for all 400 pupils in school and helping building cultural capital for all pupils (reflecting a shared ethos of equality, inclusion and access for all), especially the high percentage of SEND pupils and the individuals who receive Pupil Premium Funding.
- The grant money will be used to support the work of a local artist thus supporting our local arts scene.
- The costs quoted are appropriate and realistic in comparison to quotes received from further artist in residence opportunities. Money requested towards cost of materials may need to be topped up by the school / additional fundraising.
- Buddies (Bure Park PTA) are continually working hard to support the school with it's requests for funding. During this academic year we have already supported funding for outside areas and to support the new Forest School initiative the school have implemented, alongside multiple resources to support national curriculum delivery. We would need this grant to ensure we can continue to offer support to Arts opportunities in light of the hard work the school continues to do to ensure the Arts remains high profile and that all children and staff can holistically benefit from the mental health benefits the Arts also provides.

8. What is the total cost of your project?

£1000

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

- Artist in residence – Louisa Foster (<https://www.artistsinwoodstock.co.uk/louisa-foster>) cost: £40 hr x15 = **£600** – equivalent to 2 days in school plus planning time
- Art materials cost (specific watercolour papers/canvas board per child): £1 per child on role – currently 400 = **£400**

10. What is the grant amount applied for?

£1000

11. How will any shortfall be financed?

- The school may ask parents directly for a small donation to support this event or they will scale back materials/ the time with the artist accordingly as a last resort.

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026?

- Yes – it will be spent as part of the school's Arts Festival Fortnight (30th June – 12th July)

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- ☐ Previous year's accounts
- ☐ Documentation in support of project
- ☐ Copy of rules/Constitution
- ☐ GDPR form

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1. Name of Organisation Langford Community Orchard Group

2. Brief description of organisation We are a group of volunteers maintaining a community orchard owned by Bicester Town Council, twice a month, working 80 hours a month, providing fruit for the community to share with the wildlife and a communal activity for people to meet, chat and learn new skills.

We organise an Apple Day event for the public to celebrate apples by tasting apple juice and learning about them, some grown in the orchard. They can learn about the different areas that make-up the orchard as it is not just fruit that is grown. We have other green groups sharing their information and we were pleased to welcome the Mayor last year, even though we had to shelter from a storm. This is our only fund-raising event.

3. Number of regular participants in organisation 15

4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area 15

5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules? Yes

6. Details of Specific Project that funding is applied for (see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4). Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered. NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.

We would like to purchase two new scythes to add to the two we have. We have increased the areas of wildflowers/grass and only use traditional manual tools to cut them down after flowering and seeding. This is quite a large area, so more ~~scythes~~ would make light work of the job.

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

- **How effectively the group will use the grant**

The grant will be effective in

Scythes – Our aim is to maintain the orchard ensuring we are encouraging wildlife by growing wildflowers/grasses and to maintain in traditional manual ways. Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust organised a scything course for us a few years ago but with new volunteers interested in learning how to use a scythe, they have organised another course for us, in the orchard on August 17th 2025. Therefore it will be useful for the volunteers to learn with our own scythes.

- **How well the grant will meet the needs of the community**

We all know that being out in a green space is important, whether this is walking a dog, playing, working physically or just relaxing. The orchard is somewhere the local community can be. We have planted a range of fruit trees and bushes which will bear fruit for the community to forage. Local people regularly compliment us on the orchard looking 'looked after' and more enjoyable to spend time in. By growing more wildflowers/grasses these increase butterflies, insects and birds for the community to learn about and enjoy and be beneficial for biodiversity.

- **Whether the costs are appropriate and realistic**

We bought our previous two scythes from this company as recommended by the scythe instructor, so will buy from them again, so 'yes'.

- **Level of contributions raised locally**

We raise funds by holding an Apple Day event in October each year. We raised £193.48 from the Apple Day last October, which was quieter than usual due to a storm earlier in the day.

- **Whether the applicant could reasonably have been expected to obtain sufficient funding from a more appropriate source**

We are a small organisation with many of the grants only available for new and larger projects. We have not applied elsewhere, at the moment, as we do like to source funding locally and as we maintain the orchard on behalf of the town council, appreciate any help from the [Mayor](#).

- **How the group is managed**

There is a committee of a chair, a treasurer and three committee members.

- **How the grant positively benefits residents residing within the town of Bicester**

The grant will help in continuing with the volunteer work to maintain and improve the orchard as a place for people to visit, learn about nature and local food. Volunteers have an opportunity to meet like-minded people, whilst learning a number of skills in doing so.

We have created habitats for a range of wildlife: bat, bird and hedgehog boxes, an extensive dead hedge and a wildflower/grass meadow.

We monitored butterflies for the Big Butterfly Count survey last year with a variety of seven different butterflies and counted 14 Brown Hairstreak butterfly eggs on Blackthorn.

- **Whether it meets equality social inclusion and community inclusion aims**

The ground is uneven and soggy after rain, so can be difficult for physically impaired people, however anyone else is welcome to join us in volunteering. We had a Brownie group come and learn about the orchard and apple pressing last year and visited another Brownie group.

8. What is the total cost of your project? £324.00

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

1 – Standard scythe set No 2 includes – snath, blade, sharpening stone & holder & peening set
£181.00

2 – Minimum scythe set No 3 includes – as above minus the peening set
£143.00

10. What is the grant amount applied for? £324.00

11. How will any shortfall be financed? By funds from [Apple day](#) or investigate and apply to another grant source.

12. Will the grant be spent before 31/12/2025? Yes

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- ☐ Previous year's accounts
- ☐ Documentation in support of project
- ☐ Copy of rules/Constitution
- ☐ GDPR form

1. Name of Organisation. **Trinity Camerata Orchestra**
2. Brief description of organisation **Trinity Camerata is a local amateur orchestra which rehearses and performs in St Edburg's Church, Bicester four or five times a year.**
3. Number of regular participants in organisation **40-45 in the orchestra plus audience for the concerts which is typically between 100 and 200**
4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area. **The audience is typically local plus 20 in the orchestra.**
5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules? **Yes (See attached)**

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (see **Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4**). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered.** NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.

We would like to put on a Family Concert in St Edburg's in Autumn 2025. As a first for Trinity Camerata, and to make the concert particularly visually arresting for younger audience members, we want to hire a professional percussion soloist to perform a concerto with the orchestra. We have picked complementary music for the remainder of the programme including film score suites and other popular works. This is deliberately intended to be accessible and provide more opportunities for interactivity than in our other concerts which we perform throughout the rest of the year. For example, we will provide activities relating to the music, themed refreshments, and introductions to the pieces from our conductor. We also intend to partner with the local theatrical troupe, the Launton Players, to bring some dramatic interpretation and further bring the music to life. In the spirit of making this as accessible as possible to family audiences we will invite children to attend free of charge, wear themed fancy dress or bring an appropriate toy.

Funding is requested because the cost of the professional soloist and hiring suitable music will add significantly to normal concert expense, whilst inviting a proportion of the audience free will reduce ticket sale returns.

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

- How effectively the group will use the grant

We will use the grant to cover the costs of hiring the soloist and music for the orchestra.

- How well the grant will meet the needs of the community

We are the only symphony orchestra which regularly performs in Bicester. We also solicit and react to audience feedback given at concerts. Our previous family concerts have been very well attended across all age groups and comments are always positive – often from children where it is their first experience of live orchestral music. The families and audience take away with them the fun and team work that playing and performing gives and, we hope!, inspiration to come to more concerts.

- Whether the costs are appropriate and realistic

The costs of the planned concert are higher than the other concerts we regularly perform due to additional hire costs for in-copyright music and a professional soloist.

- Level of contributions raised locally

Members of the orchestra “pay to play” in Trinity Camerata’s own concerts, although the orchestra does offer its services to other groups for a small fee. Occasionally groups will play for events such as corporate parties or weddings.

- Whether the applicant could reasonably have been expected to obtain sufficient funding from a more appropriate source

We would not be able to put on this concert without the support of a BTC grant. The additional costs of music hire for suitable repertoire and the soloist mean that we would have to raise ticket-prices, charge for children and orchestral member contributions to unrealistic levels meaning that people couldn’t attend and the orchestra would struggle to form a full complement of players.

- How the group is managed

The orchestra is run by an elected committee from its membership according to its written and agreed constitution.

- How the grant positively benefits residents residing within the town of Bicester

The grant will enable us to put on this concert aiming it at families and children. Hearing live music, with a large audience can be a transformative experience and many musicians cite such occasions as being the reason they took up playing an instrument. This is one of the reasons why we offer tickets free to under 18s.

- Whether it meets equality social inclusion and community inclusion aims

All members of the public are welcomed to concerts and the venue is fully accessible to those with mobility needs, visual and hearing impairments. It also has family friendly facilities such as toilets, access to refreshments, and baby changing. The orchestra itself has a minimum standard of musicianship (e.g. ABRSM grade 8 and above) to ensure musical standards remain high, but no other constraints on joining.

At the family concert we’ll provide a free hard-copy programme which describes the music, gives introductions and pictures of the instruments, and biographies of members of the orchestra. We will also make the programme available in large print with a simplified layout for those with visual impairments.

Tickets will be free to under 18s.

8. What is the total cost of your project?
Likely costs are £2,877

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

Expense	Amount (£)
Professional conductor fee	660
Soloist fee	300
Leader fee (professional violin concert-master)	275
Timpani hire	50
Additional players (harpist and percussionists)	165
Rent of St Edburg's for 5 rehearsals and concert	640
Programme and children's activity printing	52
Music hire	400
Postage (for music return)	15
Ticket printing	45
Posters and banners	55
Refreshments	80
Gifts	60
Insurance	80
TOTAL	2,877

10. What is the grant amount applied for? **£750**

11. How will any shortfall be financed? **Ticket sales, orchestral member subscriptions, sponsorship and sale of advertising – e.g. in the programme**

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026? **Yes**

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- ☐ Previous year's accounts
- ☐ Documentation in support of project
- ☐ Copy of rules/Constitution
- ☐ GDPR form

1. Name of Organisation: **Bicester Green**

2. Brief description of organisation: We are a not-for-profit social enterprise project. We are volunteers cutting waste by repairing, reconditioning, repurposing, recycling, reusing and reselling: bicycles, wood, electrical items, and tools. We promote the circular economy in Bicester town, offering local residents opportunities to save items from landfill. We share skills, share equipment and aim to help educate the wider community in sustainable living. We sell items at very reasonable prices.

3. Number of regular participants in organisation: 65 volunteers across our workshops, the shop and other roles. Also the many customers through our doors bringing stuff for repair, donations, buying goods, and talking to us about our aims and vision. There is considerable good will in the community.

4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area: At least two thirds of our volunteers and the majority of customers visiting our shop in Sheep Street and the workshops at The Stables, The Garth, Launton Road.

5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules? Yes

6. Details of **Specific Project** that funding is applied for (**see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4**). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered.** NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.

Establish and promote a regular Repair Café at the Bicester Green shop in Sheep Street

The worldwide movement of Repair Cafés connects people and their broken items with skilled volunteers who enjoy fixing things. The focus is on skill-sharing and building community, encouraging a shift away from consumerism and viewing household items as disposable.

A Repair Café at Bicester Green would be in addition to the repair services we offer through our workshops. At a Café attendees actually stay and watch the repair and thereby learn how to fix their broken item alongside the repairers, as well as enjoy some refreshments. This repair service would be provided free of charge, though donations are welcomed.

We are able to provide the venue at our shop in Sheep Street in the heart of Bicester's retail area. Volunteer repairers tend to bring their own tools which we are able to supplement from our workshops if necessary. We anticipate that customer donations will cover basic costs such as general consumables and refreshments.

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

Use of the grant: *The expenses that we need help with please are mainly publicity together with some set-up costs we identified following our two pilot sessions.*

- 1. Produce promotional material firstly to publicise the Repair Café events and secondly to encourage new repairer volunteers to join us and offer their skills to our community.*
- 2. An advert in one month's issue of the 'Postal Advertiser' across Bicester town and villages. Also, paying for boosts on our Facebook posts.*
- 3. Some fixed costs in the set up.*

Needs of the community: *We have successfully hosted two pilot sessions – one on a Saturday and one midweek. In total 42 items were brought in, so we are confident there is a need for this in Bicester. We received excellent feedback from our customers, and we are often now asked "When is the next Repair Café?" We plan to hold regular events throughout the year.*

Not only does this support our mission to cut waste in our community, and keep stuff out of landfill, but also provides an opportunity for a fun sociable get together with our customers. At our second pilot Café a child's 'Womble' lamp mobile was fixed and when it successfully started, there was a spontaneous rendition of the song 'Underground, overground, wombling free...' by all in the shop.



(Photos from our midweek pilot session)

A Repair Café held in our shop in Sheep Street has the added benefit of bringing people into the centre of the main retail street in the heart of our town, which of course benefits the surrounding shops.

Our management: *Bicester Green is now managed exclusively by volunteers, both on the board of trustee directors and across the co-ordination of the volunteer teams. Our trustees bring a wide range of business experience and are dedicated to the efficient and responsible running of the organisation.*

Inclusion:

- 1. Customers – all are welcome (as well as their dogs) and our shop is wheelchair and mobility scooter accessible. Our refreshments include vegan options.*
- 2. Volunteers – we encourage volunteers with varying skills, needs and abilities. We are able to offer special arrangements if necessary and support volunteers with physical, emotional or social difficulties.*

8. What is the total cost of your project?

£660 for the initial promotion and set up. Ongoing costs for this project will then be covered by Bicester Green through this first year of operation and hopefully continue beyond.

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

Publicity material:	
'Repair Café here today' outdoor banner	£18.00
A5 leaflet x1,000	£93.00
A4 poster x10	£17.00
A3 poster x4	£9.00
Waterproof poster for outdoor A frame at shop	£30.00
Advertising:	
Boost our Facebook posts promoting Repair Cafés	£100.00
'Postal Advertiser' front/3page Bicester Villages x1 month	£112.00
'Postal Advertiser' front/3page Bicester Town x1 month	£173.00
General:	
Clip boards wooden pack of 10	£28.00
Glue gun and sticks	£30.00
Extension leads x 2 @ £25	£50.00
Total	£660.00

(Printing prices quoted by Bicester Print – we always try to use our town businesses)

10. What is the grant amount applied for? £660

11. How will any shortfall be financed?

We would need to remove items from our costs. Advertising would be the first to be reduced or even removed if necessary. The 'Postal Advertiser' does seem to be the most appropriate place for us to advertise, however, the costs are too high for us to contemplate without a grant. Printed publicity material and general items are more essential.

12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026? Yes

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- € Previous year's accounts
- € Documentation in support of project
- € Copy of rules/Constitution
- € GDPR form

1. Name of Organisation.....Nai's House CIO.....

2. Brief description of organisation.....Youth wellbeing and Suicide Prevention support for 5-30 year olds and anyone of any age in suicide crisis. We provide 121 and group support, workshops to address self harm, suicidality, bereavement and work in partnership with Community Albums to increase confidence and self esteem.

3. Number of regular participants in organisation 160.....

4. Number of regular participants living in Bicester Town area approx 135.....

5. Do you have a constitution/set of rules? Yes.....yes

6. Details of Specific Project that funding is applied for (see Grant Aid Awarding Policy 2.4). **Only grants that comply with the criteria will be considered. NB applications for running costs will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances which you must evidence.**

We would like funding to contribute to 12 weeks of music 121's and workshops through our partnership with Community Albums.

7. How does your project meet the criteria set out in 2.6 of the Grant Aid Awarding Policy?

The grant will go towards the cost of running the music group, which includes practitioner costs. In one week we hold 2 groups made up of approximately 4-8 young people and 3 121 tuition sessions. All young people who attend these groups live in Bicester. These young people struggle with their confidence, self esteem as well as finding social situations challenging. Through the music we have seen them learn how to communicate effectively with others, learn how to work as a team to play as a group and write their own music which has been performed at our #BeNice festival as well as other public performances. We have seen how first hand music has helped raise their sense of self and confidence in addition to providing a creative outlet and a positive impact on their emotional and mental wellbeing. Several of our older guests have now moved on from the group and taken up music at college. All practitioners involved are DBS checked and safeguarding measures are put in place to ensure the safety of our guests.

8. What is the total cost of your project? £1994.40.....

9. Please provide a breakdown of these costs.

Music practitioner: £27.70per hour for 6 hours a week over 12 weeks.

10. What is the grant amount applied for? ...£1000.....

11. How will any shortfall be financed?We have raised the additional £994 through fundraising activities and donations.

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12. Will the grant be spent before 31st March 2026? ...Yes.....

Please enclose the following supporting paperwork:

- ☐ Previous year's accounts
- ☐ Documentation in support of project
- ☐ Copy of rules/Constitution
- ☐ GDPR form