

# Stronger Communities

## Committee Meeting of Witney Town Council



**Monday, 14th July, 2025 at 6.00 pm**

To members of the Stronger Communities Committee - T Ashby, R Smith, G Meadows, A Bailey, D Edwards-Hughes, D Enright, A Mubin and J Treloar (and all other Town Councillors for information).

You are hereby summonsed to the above meeting to be held in the **Gallery Room, The Corn Exchange, Witney** for the transaction of the business stated in the agenda below.

### Admission to Meetings

All Council meetings are open to the public and press unless otherwise stated.

Numbers of the public will be limited, with priority given to those who have registered to speak on an item on the agenda. Any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting should contact the Committee Clerk [derek.mackenzie@witney-tc.gov.uk](mailto:derek.mackenzie@witney-tc.gov.uk) in advance.

### Recording of Meetings

Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 the council's public meetings may be recorded, which includes filming, audio-recording as well as photography.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings, please let the Deputy Town Clerk or Committee Clerk know before the start of the meeting.

### Agenda

#### 1. Apologies for absence

To consider apologies and reasons for absence.

Committee members who are unable to attend the meeting should notify the Committee Clerk [derek.mackenzie@witney-tc.gov.uk](mailto:derek.mackenzie@witney-tc.gov.uk) **prior to the meeting**, stating the reason for absence.

**Standing Order 30(d)(v)** permits the appointment of substitute Councillors to a Committee whose role is to replace ordinary Councillors at a meeting of a Committee if ordinary Councillors of the Committee have confirmed to the Proper Officer **before** the meeting that they are unable to attend.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests in any items under consideration at this meeting in accordance with the Town Council's Code of Conduct.

#### 3. Minutes (Pages 4 - 9)

- a) To adopt and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2025.
- b) Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda. (Questions on the progress of any item).

4. **Public Participation**

The meeting will adjourn for this item.

Members of the public may speak for a maximum of **five minutes** each during the period of public participation, in line with Standing Order 42. Matters raised shall relate to the following items on the agenda.

5. **Annual Residents Survey Results** (Pages 10 - 17)

To receive and consider the report of the Deputy Town Clerk concerning the results of the 2025 annual residents satisfaction survey for this Committee.

**Communications**

6. **Communications Report** (Pages 18 - 25)

The Committee received and considered the report of the Communications & Community Engagement Officer (C&CEO).

**Community Engagement**

7. **Community Engagement Report** (Pages 26 - 29)

To receive and consider the report of the Communications & Community Engagement Officer.

a) **Witney Forum Notes - 24 June 2025** (Pages 30 - 34)

To receive the notes of the Witney Forum held on 24 June 2025.

8. **Youth Council Minutes** (Pages 35 - 36)

To receive the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 19 June 2025 along with a verbal update of the meeting held 8 July 2025.

9. **Witney Chamber of Commerce Survey** (Pages 37 - 39)

To receive and consider the report of Witney Chamber of Commerce which was facilitated by the Council earlier this year.

**Street Furniture & Infrastructure**

10. **Queen Emma's Dyke Community Garden**

To receive a verbal update from Officers.

11. **Winter Preparations** (Pages 40 - 42)

To receive and consider the report of the Operations Manager.

12. **Exclusion of Press & Public**

To consider and if appropriate, to pass the following resolution: That in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, and as extended by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted

13. **Youth Services Grant - Evaluation of Applications** (Pages 43 - 233)

To receive and consider the applications received for the Youth Services Grant Fund.



Town Clerk

**STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE  
WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL**

**Held on Monday, 2 June 2025**

**At 6.00 pm in the Gallery Room, The Corn Exchange, Witney**

**Present:**

Councillor T Ashby (Chair)

Councillors:	R Smith	D Enright
	G Meadows	A Mubin
	A Bailey	J Treloar
	D Edwards-Hughes	
Officers:	Adam Clapton	Deputy Town Clerk
	Derek Mackenzie	Senior Administrative Officer & Committee Clerk
Others:	One member of the public.	

**SC298 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**SC299 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest from Members or Officers.

**SC300 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Stronger Communities Committee meeting held on 24 March 2025 were received.

**Resolved:**

That, the minutes of the Stronger Communities Committee meeting held on 24 March 2025 be approved as a correct record of the meeting and be signed by the Chair.

**SC301 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*The Committee adjourned for this item.*

The Chair welcomed Councillor Simon Watson from Carterton Town Council who was attended the meeting with a particular interest in Agenda Item 10 – Youth Council.

*The Committee reconvened.*



SC302 **YOUTH COUNCIL**

With the permission of the Chair, this item was moved up the agenda to allow the visiting Councillor from Carterton to hear the discussions.

The Deputy Town Clerk and Leader of the Council outlined the progress of the Youth Council to date explaining in brief how the Council has approached the re-establishment of the Youth Council. The recruitment had ensured it was open to all to apply and that each potential member had the opportunity of a face to face meeting to discuss what they wanted to achieve.

Overall, the Youth Council has been a great success with any challenges being overcome and objectives set.

The Committee then received the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council on 28 April 2025 and were pleased to see that it would be active and participate with interaction at the upcoming Witney Carnival.

Members also heard of the upcoming visit from the Le Touquet Youth Council on 8 July 2025 and it was proposed with all Members in agreement that a budget be set to subsidise the costs of providing a takeaway meal and use of the Corn Exchange that day. Additionally, it was suggested that non Youth Council members be invited to participate in the meeting to encourage cultural bonds between the twinned towns.

**Recommended:**

1. That, the verbal updates be noted and,
2. That a budget for a reception meal be considered by Policy, Governance & Finance at their meeting of 9 June 2025 and,
3. That, the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held 28 April 2025 be noted.

SC303 **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr J Treloar and seconded by Cllr T Ashby that Councillor D Edwards-Hughes be elected.

An additional proposal was made for the election of Cllr G Meadows by Cllr D Enright which was seconded by Cllr R Smith. There being no other nominations a vote was taken:

In favour of Cllr Edwards-Hughes	Four
In favour of Cllr Meadows	Four

The Chair exercised his casting vote in favour of Cllr Edwards-Hughes.

**Resolved:**

That, Councillor David Edwards-Hughes be elected Vice-Chair of the Committee for the 2025/26 municipal year.

**SC304 COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee received the report of the Deputy Town Clerk concerning the terms of reference for the Committee.

Members welcomed the suggested amendments and additions in the report which highlighted the Council's commitment to equality and engagement.

**Recommended:**

That, the Committee terms of reference be updated to include all suggestions in the report and recommended for Council approval on 23 June.

**SC305 COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES & WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR**

The Committee received the detailed report of the Town Clerk/CEO along with a verbal update concerning the Committee Objectives & Work Plan for 2025/26

The Deputy Town Clerk advised clarity would be provided to Members in respect of the quoted £40,000 at a later date.

In response to a question, Members reflected on the support the Council may provide to Witney Chamber of Commerce (WCoC) and the towns businesses in general following submission of results from a survey they had held earlier in the year, and due for discussion at the next meeting. It was noted that there were already several objectives included in the report and that the Town Council could work to explore these opportunities further.

The Mayor confirmed that she was due to meet with the Chairman of WCoC later that week to discuss their needs.

Later in the meeting when the Committee considered Agenda Item 9b – Annual Resident Satisfaction Survey – it was agreed that an objective be added to review the need for an indoor meeting venue for young people.

**Resolved:**

1. That, the Committee Objectives & Work Plan for 2025/26 be noted and
2. That, additional clarity of the amounts of Youth Service and Community Transport Grant be provided to Members and,
3. That, an objective be set to review in conjunction with The Station and Courtside Hubs for provision of an indoor meeting venue for Young People.

**SC306 COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Communications & Community Engagement Officer, with the points in the report being summarised by the Chair.

Members agreed that West Oxfordshire District Council be contacted in respect of the Welcome to Witney guide so that the Town Council could help promote the work being carried out by them as part of their wayfinding project.

The Committee considered the press coverage and asked that Officers ensure that press releases were issued whenever possible; Members were disappointed to hear that even when provided with a press release this had not necessary lead to publication as had been the case with the 80<sup>th</sup> VE Anniversary celebrations and the opening of the refurbished Splashpark, both of which would have illustrated and educated residents on the work of the Town Council.

**Resolved:**

1. That, the report be noted and,
2. That, Officers issues a press release when relevant and continue to monitor inclusion in the press.

**SC307 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Communications & Community Engagement Officer, again the points in the report were summarised by the Chair following thanks and pride in the management and facilitation of the excellent VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary events in Witney.

Members welcomed the news that The Station would attend to the next meeting of the Committee and provide their 3-year plan.

In respect of the Witney Carnival, the Committee considered their participation in the procession event with mixed interest. Members were reminded of the positive feedback received following the 2024 event which helped to show the Councils “human side”. It was agreed a decision be made by 9 June. However, the Committee noted the participation of the Youth Council and looked forward to supporting them on the Council stand.

Members were unanimous in agreement that the Town Council facilitate a Climate event to highlight the work of local organisations and Council bodies, additionally the Committee agreed that promotion of heritage events, walks, and activities be promoted such as those arranged by Witney Museum to coincide with Heritage Open Days.

The Committee heard from the Chair who highlighted the work of the Community insight Profile Steering Group and encouraged Members to engage with the group.

The Chair would

follow up with his Oxfordshire County Council contacts and also investigate how the Town Council could potentially get more involved.

**Resolved:**

1. That, the report be noted and,
2. That, the Council decide whether to participate in the Witney Carnival by 9 June and advise officers and,
3. That, the Council facilitate a Climate awareness event,
4. That, the council promote local heritage open day events.

SC308 **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Members received and considered the updated Community Engagement Strategy.

Members suggested some minor amendments and agreed to provide any final comments to the Community & Communications Officer ahead of the meeting of the Policy, Governance & Finance Committee on 9 June.

However, Members were unanimous in agreement with its recommendation for adoption.

**Recommended:**

1. That, the updated strategy document be noted and,
2. That, any final amendments to the Community Engagement Strategy be advised to Officers ahead of agreement at the 9 June meeting of Policy, Governance & Finance and,
3. That, the strategy be recommended for approval.

SC309 **ANNUAL SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS**

The Committee received and considered the results of the annual residents' satisfaction survey.

Members were pleased to see that the highest percentage of responses had been from the under 17 age group, Officers advised they believed this to be due to push on social media to local schools and also youth council members.

Officers advised that each individual Committee would receive detailed information and comments for areas under their jurisdiction and that Members were welcome to provide any comments or suggestions for improvement.

The Committee were pleased how highly the Councils Civic Events had been scored and how this reflected on the organisation and effort of Officers.

They were however, concerned to see comments from younger residents stating they were not made to feel "welcome" and were "moved on" when they congregated. In response to this it was suggested that the Council consider again what support that The Station could provide either utilising the Corn Exchange or the upcoming Courtside building on The Leys perhaps once a week as an indoor meeting venue for younger people. It was unanimously agreed that this be added an objective for the Committee.

**Recommended:**

1. That, the report be noted and,
2. That, an objective be set for the Committee to consider an indoor venue provision for young people.

SC310 **WITNEY FORUM NOTES**

The Committee received the notes of the Witney Forum Meeting held on 25 March 2025.

The Chair confirmed his intention to attend the next meeting of the Forum on 24 June 2025 in order to find out more about the groups that were working hard to provide assistance to the town's residents.

In reflection of the work of the Witney Forum he asked that a social media post be created to celebrate the work of volunteers across the town as it was currently National Volunteer Week, all Members were in agreement.

**Resolved:**

1. That, the Witney Forum minutes of 25 March 2025 be noted and,
2. That, Officers recognises the work of Volunteers in the community by way of a social media post.

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The meeting closed at: 6.58 pm

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Chair

## STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE



**Agenda Item:** Annual Resident's Survey 2025

**Meeting Date:** Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**Contact Officer:** Deputy Town Clerk

The purpose of this report is to present Members with the results of the annual residents' satisfaction survey, conducted between February and May, regarding services overseen by this Committee.

### Background

The survey was sent to every household in the post and was promoted online via social media and in the local secondary schools; 344 responses were received in total.

While the number of responses is a very small percentage of the population, the results are still an important resource in advising the Council in which areas projects, communications, and future spending should be considered.

### Current Situation

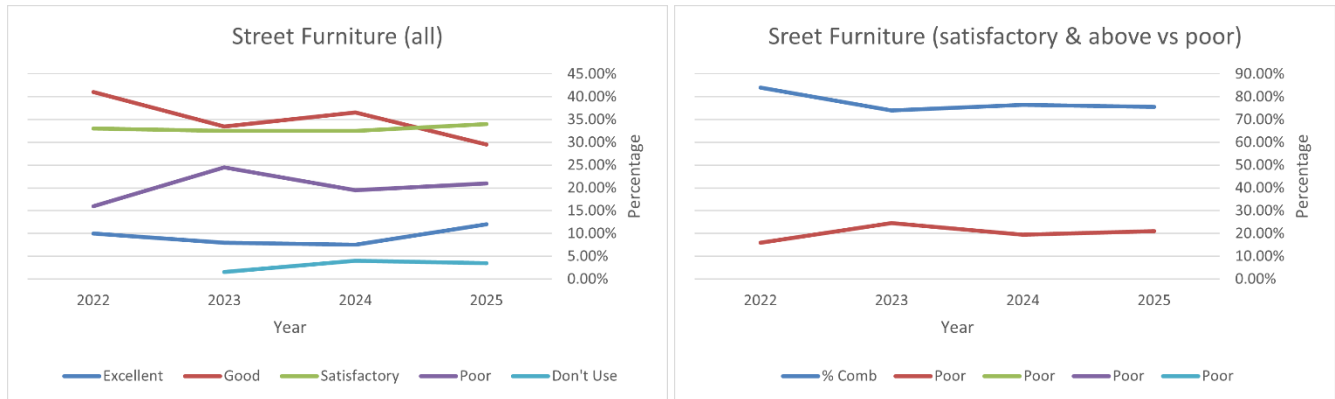
The following table shows how the services scored overall in the survey (with percentages rounded).

As a comparison, the figures/percentages from the previous three years surveys are included. It should be noted that in 2022 there was no n/a option available which is why the figures are vastly different from the last three years.

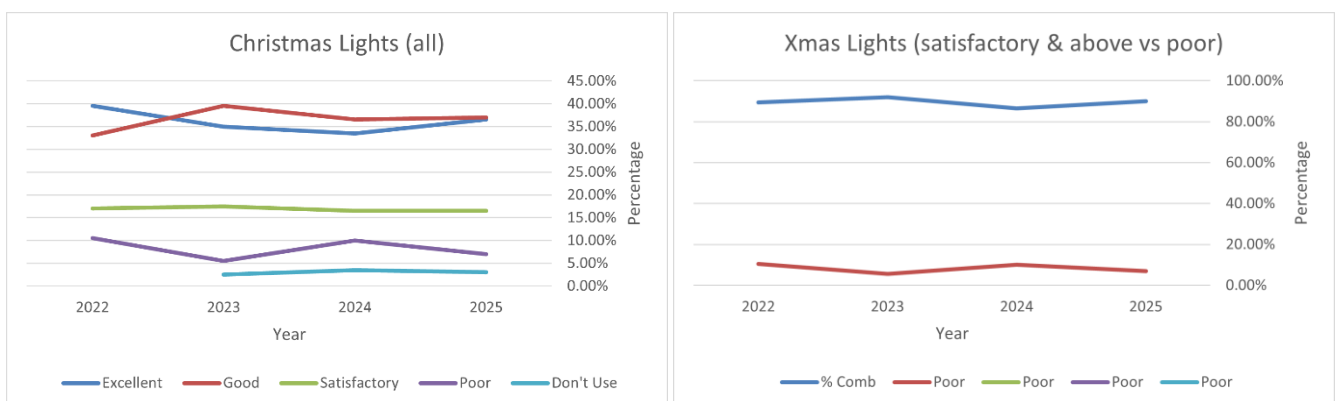
Service	Year	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	% comb	Poor	Don't use	Resp
Street Furniture (bins/benches/bus shelters)	2025	12% (42)	29.5% (100)	34% (116)	75.5%	21% (71)	3.5% (12)	341
	2024	7.5% (32)	36.5% (158)	32.5% (141)	76.5%	19.5% (84)	4% (17)	432
	2023	8% (17)	33.5% (73)	32.5% (71)	74.0%	24.5% (54)	1.5% (4)	219
	2022	10% (30)	41% (123)	33% (100)	84.0%	16% (49)	n/a	302
Christmas Lights Display	2025	36.5% (125)	37% (126)	16.5% (56)	90.0%	7% (24)	3% (10)	341
	2024	33.5% (146)	36.5% (160)	16.5% (72)	86.5%	10% (43)	3.5% (16)	437
	2023	35% (76)	39.5% (86)	17.5% (38)	92.0%	5.5% (12)	2.5% (6)	218
	2022	39.5% (118)	33% (97)	17% (51)	89.5%	10.5% (31)	n/a	297
Civic Events (e.g. Remembrance & Mayor's Carols)	2025	21% (71)	32% (110)	16.5% (56)	69.5%	5.5% (18)	25% (86)	341
	2024	16.5% (72)	34% (149)	19% (83)	69.5%	4.5% (19)	26% (112)	435
	2023	24% (52)	33% (72)	18.5% (40)	75.5%	6% (13)	18.5% (40)	217
	2022	28.5% (79)	40% (111)	22.5% (63)	91.0%	9% (25)	n/a	278
Community Events (e.g. Play Days, coffee mornings)	2025	5.5% (19)	18% (62)	14% (47)	37.5%	7.5% (26)	55% (186)	340
	2024	8.5% (36)	22.5% (98)	13.5% (60)	44.5%	8% (34)	47.5% (208)	436
	2023	7% (14)	21.5% (44)	16% (33)	44.5%	7.5% (15)	48% (99)	205
	2022	6.5% (15)	36.5% (86)	42% (98)	85.0%	15% (35)	n/a	234
Communication	2025	8% (28)	28% (94)	25.5% (87)	61.5%	22.5% (76)	16% (54)	339
	2024	8% (35)	35% (149)	27% (116)	70.0%	16% (68)	14% (60)	428
	2023	12.5% (23)	31% (56)	28.5% (52)	72.0%	18.5% (34)	9.5% (17)	182
	2022	7.5% (22)	36% (102)	38% (106)	81.5%	18.5% (53)	n/a	283

The following graphs track performance over the previous four years for these services and show the levels are broadly the same in the previous three years.

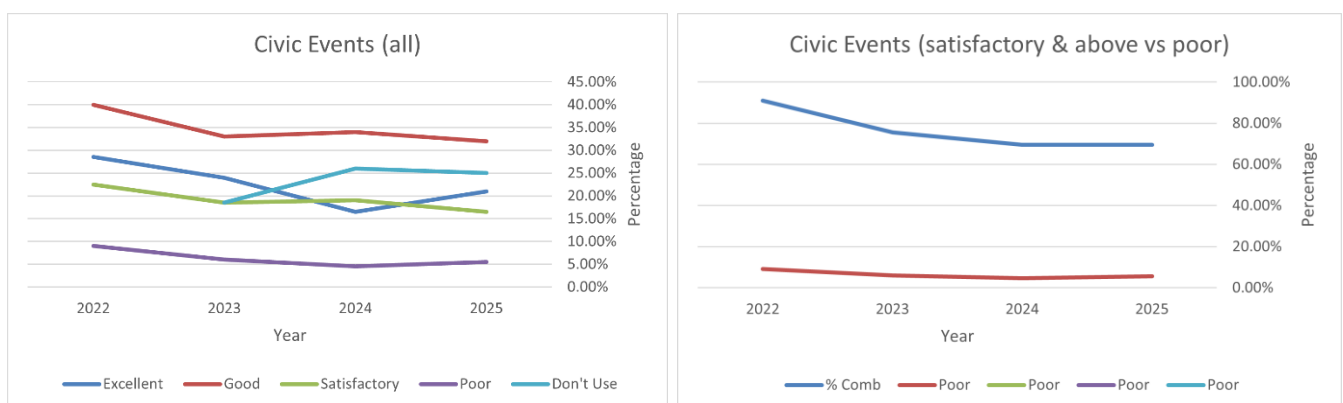
### Street Furniture infographics



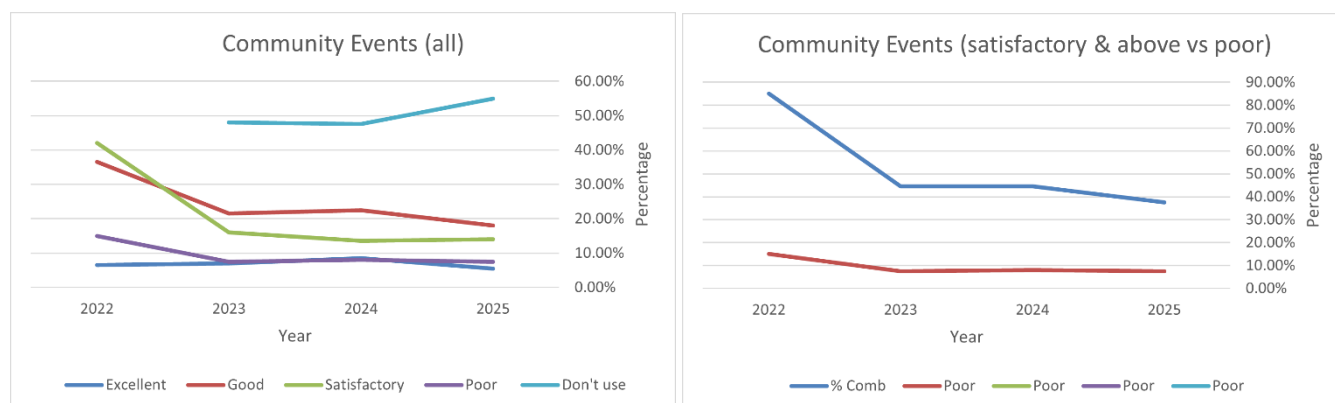
### Christmas Lights infographics



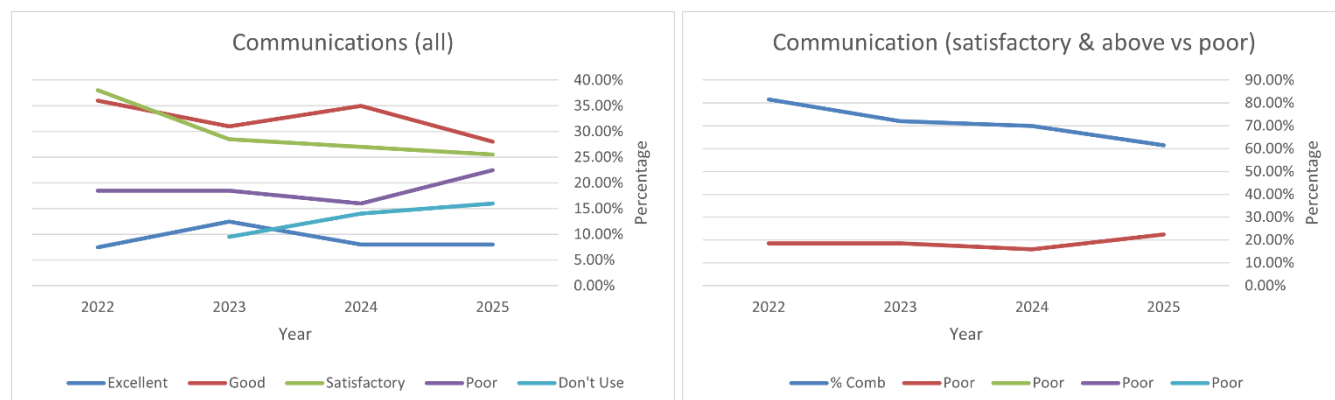
### Civic Events infographics



## Community Events infographics



## Communications infographics



In addition to the results above, the survey also welcomes specific comments, all of which relating to this Committee can be seen below:

**Please use this space to add more about your experience or feedback regarding any of our services, good or bad.**

Much as the infographic regarding which councils are responsible for which activity, etc. was very useful, it's a little frustrating that there isn't one single place to find all the information about what's happening in Witney.

We hear very little about what the town council are doing. The Christmas lights have become incredibly garish. Summer events in the market square were good

Benches often too dirty/rotten to sit on (tower hill for one).

Witney Town Council need to promote events on the Market Square - follow what Cirencester are doing and engage with Zoom events for a Spring/Autumn Fayre bringing life into the town centre on a Sunday.

We receive little or no communication from the Town Council. In contrast my mother in Ducklington receives a regular informative newsletter

Not everyone is online. Can we have a communication board back, was one outside bakers butchers.

It makes you feel welcomed but the benches are poor because of the paint scraping off

witney is rather boring for our age range (15-18)



Maintain services i.e Youth Support and develop further.  
 Good for families with young children but not for older children or young adults (10-18)  
 There is no community centre in Witney.  
 No youth club.  
 And no football stadium/ sports hub.  
 A town the size of Witney needs a central focal point for the community.  
 The kids need somewhere to go other than their bedrooms.  
 Witney needs a football club.  
 Like the one that existed at Marriots close.  
 It would be a place that parents can take their kids.  
 Discos wedding receptions Christmas parties children parties. All sorts of activities that would self finance such a venture.  
 Why is there no youth club?  
 Why is there no community centre?  
 Witney isn't a town if it doesn't have anything to feel proud about.  
 Give the community a sense of belonging.  
 You have to invest to see a difference.  
 People are people not economic stats.  
 Christmas Lights are poor, benches or seats not enough, please fly St George's flag on special events  
 Lack of benches.  
 More bins and benches please.  
 Nice to have a paper update in the post :)  
 I put 'Poor' for communications as I don't hear about events going on in Witney.  
 Christmas lights were poor this year.  
 Old people do not do internet. Visitors to town say it's the worst seen anywhere  
 Remembrance Parade particularly well-organised.  
 White font is very hard to read!  
 Benches under trees [are covered in bird mess]. Poor events  
 There are no events for middle aged adults, no groups for people who suffer with mental health, most groups are during the day so not suitable for working people, Remembrance Day seems very low key and not like it used to be with a military band, the band they have don't play for long  
 Communication - even this survey had to be forwarded to me 😊  
 I like the little newsletter I picked up in the town office which they said will go all houses. That's great.  
 Need bird [mess] off seats.  
 Thorney Leys (curbridge Rd to town) unable to see bus coming as side panel too high. This could be clear. Thorney Leys + Burwell 1st stop overgrown with trees - no light from street lights. Please make stops more visible as scary.  
 Councillors at the cafe I think is a really good idea to meet and share residents concerns.  
 Benches around Market Square trees would be nice.  
 Street furniture question is nigh on impossible to answer due to caveats on what you are & aren't responsible for. Almost like a single unitary authority would take away confusion  
 Please more bins for dog-poo & rubbish. I'm sick of getting both dumped in my garden. +benches at bus-stops?  
 There are a lack of restaurants and lack of fun activities in Witney and I feel like my town has gotten boring  
 Not you, but I like the displays shops and businesses put on for Witney in Pink, Remembrance Day, etc.  
 Sadly Halloween often not good taste.  
 We like the beer festival, events on the Leas have been very good  
 More waste bins needed near to benches, etc.  
 Street furniture is desperate for cleaning or renewal

Compared to some other villages Witney is definitely lacking. There needs to be much more for kids, and especially the youth to do  
Civic events remembrance needs attention & more comments  
The [who does what] diagram looks lovely but is not legible. The tint is too dark.  
There is nothing for teens to do other than hang around the town and then we get told off for loitering.  
WTC needs to promote the arts and crafts - displays of work by local artists - bring some culture to the town it is a bit of a cultural desert.  
the infographic you provided of who does what between the three tiers of local government is very helpful and long overdue. I suspect its shelf-life will be short lived with the Local Government reorganisation in the wings!!  
Benches are often too dirty/rotten to sit on (Tower Hill for one)  
Witney is boring  
More facilities for younger people  
Poor events

### **The following were also received from**

#### **If you are under 18, what would you like to see more of in Witney?**

More activities like balling and more clothing stores and foom  
Libraries and places you can go to learn  
N/A  
Better areas to play football  
More things for people between 16-18 to do  
More parks  
More big events with the whole town and days where you can go out with lots of stalls with people selling stuff  
Activities to do.  
Places for teenagers to be, climbing frames, parks  
KFC  
More shops for youngsters and Mabey more suitable parts for the parks for 12 and up in the park by the multi-storey  
things to do, yes there are good parks, but as you grow closer to 17 there isn't much for our age  
Groups and events for schoolchildren not including younger children or families  
Communication and consultation - Vikings is the largest grassroots club locally, and yet we are being ignored when it comes to facilities. A fact that is becoming more obvious to the wider community.  
Youth centre, Ice rink, bowling, night clubs just something to do.  
Make it more clean!!!  
Places to hang out with friends and more spaces to play (e.g. Playgrounds for older kids or teens)  
Problems getting sorted out  
Nando KFC astro open more activities  
Bit boring  
New benches because they are not very good  
Parks, restaurants, meeting areas,  
somewhere for you g people to go to hang out and feel safe  
although I'm old - more things for teens, need more things to do. Basketball hoops, teen club with café, foosball, etc.  
Not under 18 - Improvements made to wood green children's park  
More sports pitches, recreational facilities

I have family that are and they joke they want a KFC but really what they want is not to be victimised when they meet friends at the park area (Raleigh Crescent) in Deer Park Estate. There are some nasty people there walking dogs.

## **Analysis**

### Street Furniture

This year's survey showed a noticeable increase in positive responses; however, the service also received several negative comments. As the Town Council is responsible for the majority of public seating, general feedback has been included in this report. Where seating is clearly under the responsibility of other organisations, those comments will be addressed in a separate, forthcoming report.

### Christmas Lights

The service received a higher number of "excellent" ratings and a reduction in "poor" scores in 2024, which is expected and welcomed following the change of contractor and refreshed display. Feedback included a mix of both positive and negative comments.

### Civic Events

This service scored broadly in line with the previous year, with a slight increase in "excellent" ratings. The number of respondents selecting "don't know" or "don't use" remained consistent. Feedback included a mix of both positive and negative comments.

### Community Events

The responses indicate a decline in "satisfactory and above" ratings compared to the previous year, alongside an increase in residents selecting "don't know" or "don't use," suggesting lower engagement levels. The Council has recently adopted a Community Engagement Strategy aimed at improving participation, but the Committee may wish to consider additional ways to address concerns raised about these types of events.

Several comments also reflect a perception that Witney lacks vibrancy, with calls for more entertainment, cultural activities, and options catering to a wider range of age groups.

### Communication

Communication continues to be rated as one of the Council's lowest-performing services. There remains significant confusion among residents about the responsibilities of different tiers of local government. While the Town Council has made efforts to address this—such as the regular use of an explanatory graphic, which has been well received—it is clear that further action is needed. The Committee is encouraged to consider how best to respond to these ongoing concerns.

It is also likely that some of the negative feedback received in the survey reflects general frustrations with local government, as residents may not have similar opportunities to share

their views with other authorities. Comments that relate specifically to services outside the Town Council's remit will be included in the final report to the Policy, Governance and Finance Committee on 21 July.

### Young Person's Comments

A specific question was added to the survey to gather feedback from young people, and the survey was promoted through the Youth Council, schools, and youth groups. The responses highlight a clear need for improved sporting facilities, more activities, and dedicated spaces for young people.

The results will be shared with the Youth Council for discussion, but the Committee should also consider how best to address these issues.

### **Impact Assessments**

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

- a) Equality - The residents' survey helps identify service inequalities and amplify underrepresented voices, supporting fairer, more inclusive decision-making. It may also highlight items which need addressing under the Equality Act 2010.
- b) Biodiversity - The Council must ensure any issues are dealt with in line with biodiversity legislation and its own policy.
- c) Crime & Disorder - The survey provides the ability to highlight concerns about safety and anti-social behaviour. The survey can inform targeted responses, resource allocation, and partnership working with police and community safety teams. It may help identify hotspots, vulnerable groups, and areas needing intervention such as the cemeteries.
- d) Environment & Climate Emergency – The survey supports the Council's climate emergency commitments by ensuring resident feedback can help shape relevant policies and actions.

### **Risk**

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

There is a reputational risk if the Council does not address comments received in its satisfaction survey as it will be seen as not listening to residents.

The Council's committees will have competing demands on the overall Council budget so any additional project funding has to be balanced and proportionate. Additions should be in line with Councils objectives and adopted policies/strategies.

## **Social Value**

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

Listening to residents' feedback on Council services delivers significant social value by showing empowerment, inclusion, trust, and community wellbeing; It affirms that their opinions matter and helps building a sense of respect and transparency. This is especially important for the Council, where inclusive decision-making ensures diverse needs are reflected in service design and delivery.

Internally, it supports continuous improvement across the Council's services and helps identify future objectives thereby demonstrating meaningful change.

## **Financial implications**

- There are no new implications from the contents of this report at this point. The Committee may like to consider further projects based on the feedback or increasing/creating budgets for any item.

## **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. What action is required from the results of the survey for services under the remit of this Committee.

## STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE



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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	Communications Report
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Monday, 14 July 2025
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Communications & Community Engagement Officer

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### Background

This report will update members on various communication matters.

### Current Situation

#### Summer Newsletter

This was issued at the start of the month and is a large issue. We have printed a number of copies which have been delivered by hand and others posted to Care Homes as recommended in the Community Engagement Strategy. We have also printed A5 copies to go in 1863 Café and we will be taking a handful to the Carnival as we have Cllrs holding a surgery there.

#### Welcome to Witney Guide

Work has recommenced on this and is scheduled in for a couple of hours each week for the Communication and Community Engagement Officer, Administrative Support Assistant Communities and Planning and Administration Assistant – Communications & Engagement

#### Social Media Policy Review

A completely new and revised draft policy is attached, which contains two sections, how we as the Council use Social media and the legislation and guidelines that apply, and a section about the rules we apply as a council to dictate acceptable and expected behaviours for those interacting with us on our platforms.

#### Website

The website requires a spring clean and some tidy up tasks to ensure we won't have to purchase additional space. This will also be a regular and scheduled task where we remove old news posts and the associated images. Please let us know if you spot any broken links or missing images as some images may be used on static pages and deletion would impact these.

### Impact Assessments

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

- a) Equality – no direct implications.
- b) Biodiversity – no direct implications.
- c) Crime & Disorder – no direct implications.
- d) Environment & Climate Emergency – We are printing more copies of the newsletter to give access to certain parts of the community, but not in the numbers we were before we made the decision to create a digital version.

## **Risk**

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

## **Social Value**

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

## **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report and,

1. Review the Draft Social Media Policy; and
2. Consider any changes to the Draft Social Media Policy

Document is Restricted





**Friday 15th August 2025**

## **Schedule**

**9am: Official Town Cry (Corn Exchange) and afterwards  
Flag Raising (Town Hall)**

**11am - Wreath Laying at the Church Green War Memorial.  
Reinstating plaque and placing of Tribute flowers -  
Arthur Titherington's memorial Bench on Church Green**

**10am - 4pm Witney Museum will be displaying some of the  
photographs and books from the collection of  
Arthur Titherington (Local Japanese POW and Chair of the  
Japanese Labour Camp Survivors)**

**12 noon - 2pm Discover the Commonwealth War Graves walk  
and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission app and join  
us for refreshments at Tower Hill Chapel**

**Royal British Legion will be selling poppies in the Market  
Square**

## **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August**

**Civic Service VJ Day 80 service at St Mary's Church  
Church Green - details to follow**

In the weeks leading up to VJ Day, community groups have been invited to enhance our war memorials located at The Leys, Newland, and Church Green. They are encouraged to tidy and decorate these sites as they choose. They will be rewarded with a Thank You picnic while they are working on their memorial.

Paper Japanese Cranes will be made by various groups and collected for display in the Corn Exchange

Groups will also be invited to prepare post box toppers with a theme of peace if there is time.



## STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE




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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	Community Engagement Report
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Monday, 14 July 2025
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Communications & Community Engagement Officer

---

The purpose of this report is to inform Councillors about proposed projects, events and activities that will provide opportunities for engaging with the community.

### Current Situation

#### VJ Day 80th Anniversary – 15th August 2025

At the VJ Day working party meeting on Thursday 3 July Councillors agreed the fully range of proposed events as per the attached poster. The day has a distinctly different feel with a focus on Remembrance.

#### **Friday 15th August 2025**

- *9am: Official Town Cry (Corn Exchange)*
- *and afterwards Flag Raising (Town Hall)*
- *10am - 4pm Witney Museum will be displaying some of the photographs and books from the collection of Arthur Titherington (Local Japanese POW and Chair of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors)*
- *11am - Wreath Laying at the Church Green War Memorial with RBL and Reinstating plaque and placing of Tribute flowers - Arthur Titherington's memorial Bench on Church Green with Round Table who dedicated the original bench.*
- *12 noon - 2pm Discover the Commonwealth War Graves walk and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission app and join us for refreshments at Tower Hill Chapel*
- *Royal British Legion will be selling poppies in the Market Square*

#### **Sunday 17 August 2025**

- *Civic Service VJ Day 80 service 10.45am at St Mary's Church, Church Green - details to follow*

*In the weeks leading up to VJ Day, community groups have been invited to enhance our war memorials located at The Leys, Newland, and Church Green. They are encouraged to tidy and decorate these sites as they choose. They will be rewarded with a Thank You picnic while they are working on their memorial.*

*Paper Japanese Cranes will be made by various groups and collected for display in the Corn Exchange*

*Groups will also be invited to prepare post box toppers with a theme of peace if there is time.*

*The budget for the two events was reduced when the budget/precept were set, so there are little to no funds remaining to hold anything more substantial than the items above. The Communications and Community Engagement Officer is on leave that week, so there will be fewer officers available.*

### **Love Parks Week 26th July to 4th August 2025**

One of the Town Band Concerts is scheduled to fall within the time frame for Love Parks activities (27<sup>th</sup> July at Oxlease recreation Ground).

It is also proposed that the council uses the same period to run another awareness campaign about the hazards and unpleasantness of dog mess and remind dog owners of their responsibilities.

Officers will refresh the content of the activity leaflets for the Lake and Country Park. Is there anything else that Councillors would like to include?

### **The Community Shed**

This has been installed and all the events tables, chairs and Gazebos are now able to be stored safely. The Town Band has now used them for the first of their WTC funded concerts.

### **Youth Council Exchange visit from Le Touquet – 8th July 2025**

The Youth Council met with their French counterparts and shared a fish and chip supper. It was a lively event with lots of conversations taking place and relationship building. Plans have been established for them to meet on-line though many of them would also like to visit France at some time!

### **ASB meeting with TVP at Leys**

#### **Community Engagement Initiatives**

The Communications and Community Engagement Officer will be part of the WTC team meeting with Thames Valley Police on the Leys on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July to discuss activities that might displace and deter ASB from the area. This coincides with a TVP summer campaign on reducing ASB and is in line with Actions identified in the newly adopted Community Engagement Strategy:

1. Plan and co-ordinate activities and 5 Continue to partner and support our community organisations
- Consider any possible collaboration/partnership and make the most effective use of our resources
  - Continue to partner and support our community organisations

### **Climate Event (September 2025)**

The Community Engagement officers will be working with the Compliance & Environment Officer on this event which is due to be discussed at the initial Climate Action Working Party meeting.

## **Witney Community Insight Profile**

Officers will provide a verbal update on this project at the meeting.

## **Witney Forum Notes**

Notes from the Witney Forum (24<sup>th</sup> June 2025) are appended to this report.

## **Impact Assessments**

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

- a) Equality – no direct implications.
- b) Biodiversity – no direct implications.
- c) Crime & Disorder – as stated in the report. The ASB meeting is about any changes or adopted approach in deterring potential crime and disorder.
- d) Environment & Climate Emergency – Love Parks week helps promote environmental places. Use during heatwaves will be considered as part of the communications.

## **Risk**

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

## **Social Value**

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

By highlighting Love Parks week the Council will be highlighting the outside places families are able to enjoy at no cost. The Youth Council members gained cultural experience by meeting their Le Touquet counterparts. Offering events on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VJ Day acknowledges the past and personal links the town has to the occasion.

## **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report and consider,

1. The updates concerning the VJ Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Community Shed, the Le Touquet Youth Council visit, the Witney Community Insight Group and the forthcoming climate event.
2. Consider any further suggestion on how the Council could mark Love Parks Week.
3. Note the minutes of the Witney Forum held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

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**WITNEY**  
TOWN COUNCIL

Notes of the informal meeting of the Witney Youth Council held at 4pm in the Corn Exchange, Witney on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

**Youth Councillors Present:**

Three Youth Councillors

**Witney Town Council Mentors Present:**

Cllr J Aitman – Deputy Leader of the Council

Cllr G Meadows

Cllr S Simpson

**Witney Town Council Officers' Present:**

A Clapton – Deputy Town Clerk

A Hathaway – Admin Assistant for Communities and Engagement

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**Minutes**

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from 1 Youth Council mentor and 1 Youth Councillor.

With only three Members present, the meeting was unable to take place due to the rules of the Council so all suggestions would need to be considered at a later date.

**2. Guest Participation**

There were no participants at the meeting to speak with the Youth Council.

**3. Youth Council Logo**

The present Youth Councillors voted for option two to be the final logo from the three choices made by the Youth Council Admin following the results from the Logo Survey.



1.



2.



3.

4. **Witney Carnival**

Youth Councillors were informed of the meeting time and location for the Witney Carnival. There were no other questions.

5. **Le Touquet Youth Council**

Youth councillors agreed they would like to join and take part in the free fish and chips supper with the Le Touquet Youth Council.

6. **Youth-led Cultural Performance**

Town Council Officers were asked to provide dates for the performance. The details of the event could not be finalised with the number of youth councillors present and has been moved to the next meeting.

**Suggested:** That, the Youth Council Administrator prepare a survey with possible dates for youth councillors to use as their event date.

7. **High Sheriff Breakfast Meeting**

It was advised that the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire would be at the next meeting of the Youth Council to hear about who they would like to invite to a Breakfast in September. This was a chance to invite people to come and discuss issues which mattered to them– it could be the MP, Police Commissioner etc. Youth Councillors were asked to consider what issues to discuss and bring them to the next meeting.

8. **New Applicants**

Youth councillors were informed on the possibility of opening the Witney Youth Council over the summer to new applicants and agreed it would be beneficial.

9. **Items brought to members attention by the Town Clerk or Public**

No items were received or raised for discussion by members of the public or the Town Clerk.

10. **Items for Future Agenda**

No items were received for a future agenda of the Youth Council.

11. **Date of the Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Youth Council is 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 4.30PM in the Gallery Room at the Corn Exchange.



Town Clerk

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**The meeting closed at 16.05 pm.**

## STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE



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**Agenda Item:** Witney Chamber of Commerce Survey

**Meeting Date:** Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**Contact Officer:** Deputy Town Clerk

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the findings from a survey conducted by the Witney Chamber of Commerce and to seek a resolution on appropriate actions the town council may take in response.

### Background

Following discussions held in February 2025, the Town Council partnered with the Witney Chamber of Commerce to conduct an electronic survey. The survey was developed by Council officers using Survey Monkey, incorporating questions provided by the Chamber. It was promoted through the Council's annual newsletter and shared via the Council's online channels while being more widely promoted by the Chamber.

### Current Situation

The survey results have been analysed by the Witney Chamber of Commerce, incorporating detailed AI-generated analysis. A summary report, along with key recommendations, is included as **Appendix A**. The survey received over 500 responses and outlines a range of insights, including strengths, areas for improvement, and ongoing challenges.

The findings have now been shared with Witney Town Council for consideration, to explore how the Council may further support or contribute to the implementation of the report's recommendations

This Committee set the following objectives at the last meeting (Minute no. SC305 refers):

*'Possible partnership working with the Chamber of Commerce to support initiatives to:*

- improve the Welcome to Witney web pages and information resources to better guide visitors*
- Explore opportunities to enhance data collection on visitor insights to understand what draws people to Witney and inform future strategy development*
- Consider coach parking and drop-off solutions as part of broader visitor accessibility improvements*

*Explore opportunities for collaborative projects with local businesses and the Chamber of Commerce to strengthen the town's economic vitality.'*



While the town council does not have a statutory duty or direct powers relating to economic development—responsibility for which lies with the Economic Development section at West Oxfordshire District Council—there are key areas identified in the survey report where the Town Council could play a supportive or enabling role. These include:

- Leveraging the town’s heritage through improved signage and promotion
- Addressing growth by advocating for increased local facilities
- Enhancing floral displays and green spaces
- Creating more regular events in town centre locations
- Exploring family-friendly attractions to encourage longer visitor stays
- Installing more public art and heritage interpretation
- Developing spaces for teenagers and young adults
- Supporting arts and cultural venues

The Town Council exercises the General Power of Competence which enables it to “do anything that an individual may do, provided it is not prohibited by law.” This allows the Council to act in support of local initiatives, including those that contribute to the vibrancy and success of local businesses—within the limits of its resources.

The Committee is invited to consider establishing a framework for closer collaborative working with the Witney Chamber of Commerce, and to explore how the Town Council might assist in progressing the recommendations outlined in the survey report.

One option for consideration is the re-establishment of a Town Centre Forum, to be administered by Witney Town Council. This would serve as a successor/enhancement to the Town Centre Partnership, which is managed by West Oxfordshire District Council

## **Impact Assessments**

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council’s Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

- a) Equality - Positively, working with the Chamber on the issues in the survey would help promote economic inclusion, support diverse local businesses, and improve accessibility, especially if underrepresented groups are actively engaged. However, there is a risk that business-driven priorities may overshadow broader community needs.
- b) Biodiversity – Collaborative working could help ingrain environmentally sustainable practices, such as green infrastructure, reducing urban pollution, or enhancing green spaces. However, the council should be mindful there may be ecological impacts from decisions made.
- c) Crime & Disorder – A joint approach could focus on initiatives that improve public safety and community cohesion. Actions such as better street lighting, increased foot traffic in the town centre, support for local employment, and business-led community programmes could help deter anti-social behaviour and reduce crime. However, underlying social issues or not ensuring equitable access to improvements may leave certain areas or groups may feel neglected, potentially contributing to feelings of exclusion.

- d) Environment & Climate Emergency – If partnership work promotes green business practices, low-carbon transport, energy efficiency, waste reduction, and protection of green spaces, it can contribute positively to the Council’s environmental objectives.

## **Risk**

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

There is a reputational risk if the Council does not collaboratively work with the Chamber of Commerce for the benefit of the town, its residents and businesses.

The Council’s Committees have competing demands on the overall Council budgets; additional resources to any projects must be considered to reduce any financial risk.

## **Social Value**

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

As with the town council’s own survey, listening to residents’ feedback delivers significant social value by showing empowerment, inclusion, trust, and community wellbeing. In this instance it shows a commitment to improve the overall vibrancy of the town and its economy.

## **Financial implications**

- There is no specific agreed budget for any actions resulting from this survey
- There will be a cost of officer resource for any actions resulting from this item
- Members should consider whether a budget needs to be recommended for any actions in budget-setting for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

## **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. How the Council can work collaboratively with Witney Chamber of Commerce.
2. The re-establishment of a Town Centre forum, administered by Witney Town Council.



**STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**


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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	Winter Preparations
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Monday, 14 July 2025
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Operations Manager

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**Background**

Salt bins across Witney are purchased by the Town Council from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC). A request form is completed by the Town Council and forwarded to OCC who assess the location and requirements for a salt bin. If approved, the Town Council purchase and OCC will install and fill the bin, any subsequent refills required can be requested by the Town Council at no cost. If the bin is damaged and needs to be replaced the County Council will also cover this at no additional cost.

**Current Situation**

Members are asked to consider if there are any areas in their wards where a bin is a necessity. There are grit bins in place on the majority of council-owned sites and the Town Council retains a quantity of gritting salt for staff to spread.

Members are asked to noted that requests for salt bins in the new developments of Kingfisher Meadows and Windrush Place may arise once the roads are adopted by OCC in the coming years.

**Impact Assessments**

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

- a) Equality – The inclusion of a salt bin in the area will benefit vulnerable residents.
- b) Biodiversity – none.
- c) Crime & Disorder – none.
- d) Environment & Climate Emergency – none.

**Risk**

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

- In not approving a request it could generate a negative response towards Witney Town Council.

### **Social Value**

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

- Salt Bin provision provides a small element of safety for the local community.

### **Financial implications**

- The County Council charge £300.00 ex VAT per salt bin.
- The street furniture budget (4200/402) current spend is £13, with a £6,000 budget.

### **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report and,

1. Consider the locations for installation of additional salt bins.

## STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE



**Agenda Item:** Youth Services Grant – Evaluation of Applications

**Meeting Date:** Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**Contact Officer:** Deputy Town Clerk

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the applications received through the grant scheme and to invite recommendations for the allocation of funds.

### Background

The Council's Youth Services Grant scheme for 2025 opened for applications between 6 May 2025 – 27 June 2025. Grants will be allocated from a budget of £20,000 set for this scheme. For reference, the purpose of the fund is as follows:

*'The Youth Fund is open to applications from community and voluntary sector organisations, including existing organisations and those in the process of setting up to establish easily signposted and accessible youth opportunities, supporting open access to preventative services, particularly for those who may be hard to reach and to extend activities to support the young people of Witney.'*

*Activities may include, for example, providing guidance and support about their lives and issues relating to school, family life and peers through way of drop-in sessions.*

*Applications may, for example, facilitate the provision of a safe space for young people who would otherwise have nowhere to go, including a safe space to talk, and the ability to enjoy some self-directed or group/organised discretionary activities. In this instance funds could be requested towards facility hire costs and towards a permanent youth structure in the town.'*

The criteria for the scheme are attached as **Appendix A**.

### Current Situation

Fourteen applications for the fund were received, totalling £54,342. These are outlined below with the requested amounts:

Apollos Clothing	£3,100	Purchase of new school uniforms
Buttercross Scouts	£3,500	Activity equipment/ropes for bridge
Community Loft at West Oxon Boxing & Fitness Club	£9,740	Mental health boxing sessions
Ducklington Sports Club	£1,700	New footballs/first aid kits for youth teams
Friends of Springfield School	£2,850	Therapeutic horse-riding sessions
4 <sup>th</sup> Girl Guides	£680	To assist buying camp tent & equipment for first camp unit

Home Start Oxford	£12,000	Ongoing costs
Parish of Witney (St Mary's)	£4,326	A summer enrichment camp
The Station	£7,296	Parenting courses
Tower Hill FC	£1,000	Consumable equipment
West Oxfordshire Levellers	£1,000	Girls Rugby League Activity day
Witney Food Revolution	£4,650	Teen focused food skills programme
Witney Town Band – Junior band	£1,500	New equipment
Yellow Submarine	£1,000+	Witney Youth Club summer activities

Full applications and supporting documents are included as additional **appendices** to this report, providing comprehensive details of each request.

While the final decision on awarding grants rests with the Policy, Governance and Finance Committee, Members may wish to review the applications and supporting materials at this meeting to determine whether any further information is needed from applicants.

The Committee may also wish to make recommendations to the Policy, Governance and Finance Committee regarding the proposed grant awards.

## Impact Assessments

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

- a) Equality – Dispersal can help ensure that young people from diverse backgrounds, including those from marginalized, low-income, or underserved communities, have equal access to safe spaces, recreational activities, educational support, and social opportunities.
- b) Biodiversity – Awardees should encourage nature-based activities and environmentally sustainable development.
- c) Crime & Disorder - Well-designed youth services offer safe, structured environments that engage young people in positive activities, reducing the likelihood of anti-social behaviour, vandalism, or crime. These services can also address underlying causes of offending—such as social exclusion, lack of opportunities, or poor mental health.
- d) Environment & Climate Emergency – Applications such as for outdoor education, active travel can have a positive impact by promoting low-carbon behaviours and engaging young people in environmental matters.

## Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Given the number of applications and the total amount requested through the scheme, Members should ensure they are confident in three key areas: the demonstrated need for the service, the applicant's capacity to deliver it effectively, and the clear community benefit

to young people in Witney. These considerations, along with others, are outlined in the grant criteria for reference.

## **Social Value**

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

Providing grants to enhance or introduce new services for young people generates significant social value by fostering stronger, healthier, and more inclusive communities. These services help young people build confidence, skills, and resilience, improving their future prospects in education, and employment. They create safe spaces for social interaction, reduce isolation, and promote mental and physical well-being.

Investing in youth also supports early intervention and prevention, potentially reducing future demand on public services. Moreover, such grants can promote equality by reaching underserved or at-risk groups, ensuring all young people have opportunities to thrive in Witney.

## **Financial implications**

- A budget of £20k has been agreed and budgeted for within this fiscal year for the purpose of this grant scheme.
- There is no additional budget over and above the amount already set.

## **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. Whether further information or clarification on any matter is required from applicants.
2. Recommendations on the allocation of funds to the Policy, Governance & Finance Committee on 22nd July. *Given the high volume of applications, Members may wish to consider delegating the review process to a small group of Councillors, with the final decision on recommendations to be made by the Chair of the Committee and the Leader of the Council.*





**WITNEY**  
TOWN COUNCIL

## Youth Services Grant 2025/26

### Application Form

(PLEASE COMPLETE ELECTRONICALLY)

<b>Organisation</b>			
Name of Organisation	Apollos Clothing		
Registered Address (including Post Code)	[REDACTED]		
Website	www.apollos.uk	Telephone	[REDACTED]
Facebook/Twitter	facebook-apollos clothing	Email	info@apollos.uk
Contact Name	Chris Gaskell		
Position in Organisation	Trustee and Treasurer		
Registered Charity	Yes	Registration Number	1205794
<p>What are the activities and/or aims of the organisation?</p> <p><b>Eliminating clothing poverty and caring for the environment.</b></p> <p>Food and energy prices continue to rise, and an increasing number of households in the UK are struggling to provide clothing for themselves or their growing families through the ever-changing seasons.</p> <p>At the same time, almost 400,000 tonnes of used, but still wearable clothing ends up in UK landfill every year.</p> <p><b>At Apollos Clothing we set out to solve both of these problems. We collect pre-loved and out-grown clothes, saving them from landfill and providing good quality, clean clothing to those most in need.</b></p>			

<b>Membership</b>		
How many members do you have?	26 VOLUNTEERS WHO LIVE IN WITNEY	
Approximately how many of your members live in Witney?	ALL	
Is membership restricted in any way?	No	
What is your annual subscription, if any?	NA	
Are you affiliated to Oxfordshire Youth or other similar umbrella organisation? If so, which one?	No	
Do you have safeguarding procedures in place?	Yes	
Local venue/meeting place (if applicable)	High Street Methodist Church	
<b>Grant-Funding</b>		
<p>Purpose for which the grant is required:</p> <p><b>Young people in Witney are missing out on education</b> due to their families being unable to provide school uniform. The average cost of a complete school uniform and PE kit is now over £400 in the UK which families who are suffering from poverty cannot afford.</p> <p>Young people missing education perpetuates the cycle of poverty and Apollos Clothing is here to eliminate this.</p> <p>We recycle used school uniform for young people in Witney but we have to also purchase a lot of the stock that we give away. We are requesting your support in this endeavour as we strive to ensure that no young person is left behind. <b>This grant request will allow us to provide uniform for at least 25 young people living in Witney who are struggling to attend school.</b></p>		
Amount of grant applied for	£3100.00	
Has your organisation previously applied to the Town Council for a grant?	YES	
If YES, please give details	Cost of living grant, October 2024	

Have you applied for a grant to any other body or organisation?	YES																														
If YES, please give details	Our charity is predominantly grant-funded.																														
<b>Financial</b>																															
Please enclose a copy of your latest audited accounts, a financial projection for the period following the balance sheet or a Business Plan if a new organisation.																															
<b>Fundraising</b>																															
<p>What fundraising events or activities will your organisation be holding this year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We hold fundraising events, with our largest in 2024 being held at Cogges Church Center.</li> <li>• We sell branded merchandise.</li> <li>• We receive grant funding.</li> <li>• We raise money for specific projects eg. winter coats, bras, underpants, shoes etc.</li> <li>• We have an amazon wishlist.</li> <li>• we take donations directly from our community.</li> </ul>																															
<b>General</b>																															
<p>Please provide or attach any additional information which may assist the Council in reaching its decision.</p> <p>Please see below the projected project spend for the amount requested:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Item</th> <th>Pack Size</th> <th>Cost per pack</th> <th>Number require</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Trousers</td> <td>2</td> <td>18</td> <td>25</td> <td>450</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shirts</td> <td>3</td> <td>16</td> <td>25</td> <td>400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jumper</td> <td>1</td> <td>40</td> <td>25</td> <td>1000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PE Kit</td> <td>1</td> <td>50</td> <td>25</td> <td>1250</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>3100</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Item	Pack Size	Cost per pack	Number require	Total	Trousers	2	18	25	450	Shirts	3	16	25	400	Jumper	1	40	25	1000	PE Kit	1	50	25	1250				<b>Total</b>	<b>3100</b>
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PE Kit	1	50	25	1250																											
			<b>Total</b>	<b>3100</b>																											

I certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I am authorised to make this application for Grant-aid.

Signed:



Date: 19/06/25

*If posting, please return your completed application form to the address overleaf, for the attention of the TOWN CLERK*

For office use only:			
Acknowledged		Previously Applied	
Grant Aid Awarded/Amount	Y / N	Chq No.	

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## Youth Services Grant 2025/26

### Application Form

(PLEASE COMPLETE ELECTRONICALLY)

<b>Organisation</b>			
Name of Organisation	Witney Buttercross Scout Group		
Registered Address (including Post Code)	Scout Hut, Marborough Lane, Witney		
Website	www.witneyscouts.org	Telephone	[REDACTED]
Facebook/Twitter		Email	Chair@witneyscouts.org
Contact Name	David Kinchin J.P.		
Position in Organisation	Chair of trustees (i.e. Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary)		
Registered Charity	YES	Registration Number	034425
<p>What are the activities and/or aims of the organisation?</p> <p>To provide interesting, educational and exciting activities for young people aged 5 to 16years, in a safe and risk-managed environment.</p> <p>This includes all manor of camping and out-door activities as well as instruction and fun events.</p>			

<b>Membership</b>	
How many members do you have?	Approximately 310 boys and girls
Approximately how many of your members live in Witney?	Approximately 300
Is membership restricted in any way?	Membership is totally inclusive.
What is your annual subscription, if any?	This varies for the age groups but around !50 per year -
Are you affiliated to Oxfordshire Youth or other similar umbrella organisation? If so, which one?	Affiliated to the Oxfordshire County Scouts and the National Organisation
Do you have safeguarding procedures in place?	Yes, all regulated by the national Scout association
Local venue/meeting place (if applicable)	Scout hut,  Cogges school  Madley Park hall
<b>Grant-Funding</b>	
<p>Purpose for which the grant is required:: We have recently acquired a 6.3 acre site for activities and therefore need to increase our stock of activity equipment – partiluarly tents and marques for use on this new site. These items have a “shelf-life” when being used by young people and so several items need replacing.</p> <p>We would also like to buy ropes for climbing and rope-bridge building activities.</p>	

Amount of grant applied for	£3,500
Has your organisation previously applied to the Town Council for a grant?	YES
If YES, please give details	In 2024 we applied and received a Town Council grant to purchase kayaks and safety equipment. This Grant was successful.
Have you applied for a grant to any other body or organisation?	In the process
If YES, please give details	We are exploring sources for funding new toilet facilities on our newly acquired site.
<b>Financial</b>	
<p>Please enclose a copy of your latest audited accounts, a financial projection for the period following the balance sheet or a Business Plan if a new organisation.</p> <p>I will get these for our last financial year. However, please remember that since this date we have paid out around £210,000 to purchase land, and around £28,000 for our Capitation fees to the National Organisation.</p> <p>We are still assessing the running costs of our new site. "The Old Oak"</p>	
<b>Fundraising</b>	
<p>What fundraising events or activities will your organisation be holding this year?</p> <p>To a large extent we rely on the 'subscription fees' (SUBS) paid by each member, but we also do regular old clothing collections and occasional other activities.</p> <p>We have to pay an annual capitation fee to the National Organisation which is around £35 per member per year – and this gobbles up much of what is collected in Sibs.</p>	



## General

Please provide or attach any additional information which may assist the Council in reaching its decision.

With over 300 young members (boys and girls) and over 40 leaders, this is without doubt the largest youth organisation in the town of Witney. Indeed, it is amongst the largest Scout Groups in the Country.

Having just paid out £200,000 for our new activities site we are still assessing the running costs of that site: council tax, insurance, water and security being the main concerns. We have also incurred around £8,000 in legal fees.

I certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I am authorised to make this application for Grant-aid.

Signed:



Date: 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025

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Acknowledged		Previously Applied	
Grant Aid Awarded/Amount	Y / N	Chq No.	

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**WITNEY**  
TOWN COUNCIL

## Youth Services Grant 2025/26

### Application Form

(PLEASE COMPLETE ELECTRONICALLY)

<b>Organisation</b>			
Name of Organisation	The Community Loft at WOBC (West Oxon Boxing & Fitness Club)		
Registered Address (including Post Code)	Unit 12c, Crawley Mill Industrial Estate, Dry Lane, Crawley, OX299TJ		
Website	www.westoxonboxing.co.uk	Telephone	[REDACTED]
Facebook/Twitter	West Oxon Boxing and Fitness Club	Email	theloftwobc@gmail.com
Contact Name	Sharon Turner		
Position in Organisation	CEO  (i.e. Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary)		
Registered Charity	YES	Registration Number	1205475
<p>What are the activities and/or aims of the organisation?</p> <p>Our Club's objectives include but are not exhaustive</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of West Oxfordshire and surrounding area the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity, or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large the interest of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.</li> <li>2. To provide an avenue to guide at-risk people in the proper direction by teaching them the importance of discipline, fitness, camaraderie, and authoritative mentors to look up to in the form of head trainers or coaches.</li> <li>3. To encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle through the provision of equipment and training.</li> </ol>			

4. To encourage young people to achieve excellence, self-confidence, self-achievement, promote peer support as well as enable capacity building to take place between allies through working in partnership with established organisations through informal outreach work.
5. To nurture pride in the local community through success in sport.
6. To provide a safe environment for people to train and feel secure and we particularly aspire to work with any person who is vulnerable to anti-social behaviour or who might otherwise succumb to engaging in criminal activity by keeping them focused in sport.
7. Working with the local community to promote our outreach work and ensure that they are aware of young people's achievements, in order to bring cohesion between the club and the immediate community.
8. Building a community where people feel comfortable with failing at accomplishing their daily fitness goal just as often as they succeed therefore building a place where failure is not the end of the world. Pushing limits is encouraged, thus resulting in progress.

### Membership

How many members do you have?	552
Approximately how many of your members live in Witney?	All within a 15 mile radius
Is membership restricted in any way?	No restrictions. If a member couldn't afford to pay we are part of the You Move Scheme plus we have funding supported by The Rotary Club
What is your annual subscription, if any?	Monthly Subscription Junior £35, Adult £40, Reduced rate for families
Are you affiliated to Oxfordshire Youth or other similar umbrella organisation? If so, which one?	No
Do you have safeguarding procedures in place?	Yes
Local venue/meeting place (if applicable)	The Club

<b>Grant-Funding</b>	
<p>Purpose for which the grant is required:</p> <p>The initiative that we are hoping to run would be exclusive to those who are unable to access education, training or employment. This would also include anyone suffering mental health issues including addiction. We will provide two/three 2 hour Boxing Skills and Drills plus Fitness sessions per week. At the end of the session, we provide a safe talking space with a facilitator to discuss various topics such as Social, Emotional difficulties, Emotional regulation, Behaviour management, Drug and Alcohol awareness, Anger management, Depression and Anxiety and Conflict resolution.</p> <p>Our aim would be to provide an avenue to guide in the proper direction by teaching the importance of discipline, fitness, camaraderie, and authoritative mentors to look up to in the form of head trainers or coaches. To encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle through the provision of equipment and training. To nurture pride in the local community through success in sport and to work with the local people to promote and bring cohesion between the Club and the immediate community.</p>	
Amount of grant applied for	£9,740
Has your organisation previously applied to the Town Council for a grant?	yes
If YES, please give details	Applied for a community grant but was directed to the Youth Fund Grant
Have you applied for a grant to any other body or organisation?	YES
If YES, please give details	Thames Valley Police. £10,000 awarded in Sept 2023
<b>Financial</b>	
<p>Please enclose a copy of your latest audited accounts, a financial projection for the period following the balance sheet or a Business Plan if a new organisation.</p> <p>Because we have not and do not meet the necessary criteria for accounting purposes and we are a not for profit Club, I have attached our June statement to this application.</p>	



## **Fundraising**

What fundraising events or activities will your organisation be holding this year?

We held an inter club junior Show in May which was very successful. In total 34 juniors took part and we had another Witney club and also one from Oxford. We held a bbq and raised somewhere in the region of £1000. We also had some of our members, trustees and coaches take part in the Fire Walk organised by the Rotary Club in Carterton, again we raised in the region of £750 for the club. In September we are holding a boxing event at The Ice Centre (Langdale Hall). This should attract around 400 people and will give local people the stage to show the skills learnt and the art and discipline of boxing.

To promote the Club we do have a stall at the Ducklington Flower Show and also at Minster Lovell Festival later in the summer.

## **General**

Please provide or attach any additional information which may assist the Council in reaching its decision.

West Oxfordshire Boxing Club is a group of community-driven individuals looking to make a difference and provide support to those who need it most. Whilst some attend this family-run club to learn how to box, and compete in the ring, others use it to improve body strength and fitness levels, or to lose weight. However, the fact of which we are most proud is that we are fully inclusive and welcome everyone into our Club. Therefore, alongside the usual individual and group sessions for all ages starting from age 6 to senior citizens. We run ladies-only 'boxfit' sessions, as well as outreach programmes in the local primary and secondary schools, and team-building courses for businesses, focused around exercise and wellbeing. More recently, we have begun to get involved in supporting NEET (Not In Employment Education or Training) young people and to work with SEN (Special Educational Needs) children.

<p>I certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I am authorised to make this application for Grant-aid.</p>	
<p>Signed: Sharon Turner</p>	<p>Date:20/06/2025</p>

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**WITNEY**  
TOWN COUNCIL

## Youth Services Grant 2025/26


### Application Form

(PLEASE COMPLETE ELECTRONICALLY)

<b>Organisation</b>			
Name of Organisation	Ducklington Sports Club		
Registered Address (including Post Code)	Ducklington Sports Club, Glebelands Playing Fields, Aston Road, Ducklington, OX29 7US		
Website	www.ducklingtonsportsclub.co.uk	Telephone	[REDACTED]
Facebook/Twitter	www.facebook.com/ducklingtonsportsclub	Email	secretary@ducklingtonsportsclub.co.uk
Contact Name	Edward Todd		
Position in Organisation	Secretary		
Registered Charity	YES	Registration Number	1137103
<p>What are the activities and/or aims of the organisation?</p> <p><b>Activities and Aims of the Organisation</b></p> <p>Ducklington Sports Club is a community-focused, volunteer-led club providing inclusive grassroots football to children and young people aged 5–18. Our aim is to foster a love of sport, teamwork, and personal development in a safe, structured, and supportive environment. We run teams from Under 6s through to Under 17s, serving families from both Ducklington and the wider Witney area.</p>			
<b>Membership</b>			
How many members do you have?		208 Youth Players	
Approximately how many of your members live in Witney?		87 youth players (43%)	

Is membership restricted in any way?	No, our club is inclusive and open to all children of all abilities.	
What is your annual subscription, if any?	£150 per player, per year*  *average price – slight fluctuation in amount depending upon age and league in which team is entered.	
Are you affiliated to Oxfordshire Youth or other similar umbrella organisation? If so, which one?	Yes, Oxfordshire FA	
Do you have safeguarding procedures in place?	Yes, all coaches, managers and volunteers are DBS-checked and we follow FA safeguarding policies.	
Local venue/meeting place (if applicable)	Ducklington Sports Club, Glebelands Playing Fields, Aston Road, Ducklington, OX29 7US	
<b>Grant-Funding</b>		
Purpose for which the grant is required:  We are applying for funding to purchase new footballs and first aid kits for each of our youth teams (U6 to U17). In total, we would look to purchase at least one new football for each of our youth team players and a new first aid kit for each team. This will directly support safe and effective training and matchday experiences for more than 200 children, including 87 from Witney. New equipment is urgently required due to growth in participation and wear-and-tear from regular use. The first aid kits will ensure that our volunteer coaches can continue to run sessions confidently and safely, in line with FA best practices.		
Amount of grant applied for	£1,700	
Has your organisation previously applied to the Town Council for a grant?	NO	
If YES, please give details		

Have you applied for a grant to any other body or organisation?		YES
If YES, please give details	<p>Recent grant application to Oxford and Witney Round Tables.</p> <p>Oxford declined to provide grant funding and Witney didn't reply with a decision, having confirmed receipt of our application.</p>	
<b>Financial</b>		
Please find latest audited account enclosed.		
<b>Fundraising</b>		
<p>What fundraising events or activities will your organisation be holding this year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Beer Festival and Over 35s Football Tournament (May 2025)</li> <li>• Under 8s Football Tournament (May 2025)</li> <li>• Sponsored Team Challenges (Ongoing)</li> <li>• Local Business Sponsorship (Ongoing)</li> <li>• Club Quiz Nights (Monthly)</li> <li>• Fundraising music and dance event (August 2025)</li> </ul>		
<b>General</b>		
<p><b>Please provide or attach any additional information which may assist the Council in reaching its decision.</b></p> <p>Although based just outside Witney, Ducklington Sports Club serves a significant number of Witney families, 43% of our youth players are Witney residents. We provide year-round, affordable, inclusive grassroots football that enhances wellbeing, promotes healthy lifestyles, and supports the personal development of children aged 5 to 18.</p> <p>In recent years, we have faced significant increases in core running costs, including rising water and electricity bills, and a substantial increase in rent for the clubhouse that we lease along with ever increasing costs for the maintenance of community playing fields that we license. As a volunteer-run, non-profit organisation, these essential overheads place increasing pressure on our limited budget, directly impacting what we can invest in much-needed training equipment and safety provisions for our youth teams.</p>		

<p>This grant would relieve that pressure by ensuring each team is equipped with safe, high-quality footballs and updated first aid kits, helping us to continue delivering safe, inclusive, and enjoyable football to young people across the Witney area.</p>	
<p>I certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I am authorised to make this application for Grant-aid.</p>	
<p>Signed: </p>	<p>Date: 13/06/25</p>

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**Ducklington Sports Club****Percentage of players within each age group who live in Witney (based on registered home address fo**

<b>Current age group</b>	<b>Total players</b>	<b>Witney players</b>	<b>Witney Percentage</b>
U6	17	2	12%
U7	11	1	9%
U8	25	8	32%
U9	12	3	25%
U10 Blue	14	6	43%
U10 Yellow	15	9	60%
U11 Blues	14	7	50%
U11 Yellow	14	10	71%
U12	15	7	47%
U13	18	10	56%
U14	15	6	40%
U15	16	5	31%
U16	18	13	72%
Total	204	87	43%

or 2024/25 season)

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# Youth Services Grant 2025/26

## Application Form

(PLEASE COMPLETE ELECTRONICALLY)

<b>Organisation</b>			
Name of Organisation	Springfield School Parent Teacher Association		
Registered Address (including Post Code)	Springfield School, Bronze Barrow, Cedar Drive, Witney, OX28 1AR		
Website	<a href="https://www.springfield.oxon.sch.uk/friends-of-springfield-school/">https://www.springfield.oxon.sch.uk/friends-of-springfield-school/</a>	Telephone	01993 862976
Facebook/Twitter	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/601604206905238/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/601604206905238/</a>	Email	friends@springfieldwitney.co.uk
Contact Name	Christina Waddilove		
Position in Organisation	Treasurer (i.e. Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary)		
Registered Charity	YES	Registration Number	309567
<p>What are the activities and/or aims of the organisation?</p> <p>We raise money for the benefit of our special needs pupils who attend Springfield School. We aim to improve the facilities and enrich the experience of the pupils and also provide the families support and opportunity to attend events that have the needs of their children in mind.</p>			

Youth Services GrantMay 2025Version 1

<b>Membership</b>	
How many members do you have?	400+
Approximately how many of your members live in Witney?	200+
<p>Is membership restricted in any way? Parents/ carers/ pupils / staff and friends of Springfield Special needs</p>	

school	
What is your annual subscription, if any?	N/A
Are you affiliated to Oxfordshire Youth or other similar umbrella organisation? If so, which one?	No
Do you have safeguarding procedures in place?	We follow the school Policy
Local venue/meeting place (if applicable)	Springfield School, Cedar Drive, Witney
<b>Grant-Funding</b>	
Purpose for which the grant is required:We would like to be able to offer our pupils the opportunity to have theraputic horse riding sessions again through Riding for the Disabled, New Yatt- also a local charity.	

Amount of grant applied for		£2850	
Has your organisation previously applied to the Town Council for a grant?			YES
If YES, please give details	£50 anniversary grant accepted		
Have you applied for a grant to any other body or organisation?			NO
If YES, please give details			
<b>Financial</b>			
Please enclose a copy of your latest audited accounts, a financial projection for the period following the balance sheet or a Business Plan if a new organisation.			
<b>Fundraising</b>			

What fundraising events or activities will your organisation be holding this year?

We have held a family disco, Easter Trail and due to hold a summer party and attend Witney Carnival. We plan on holding a sponsored walk and wheel in September and have already had members of the cominity run the marathon for us and take part in a charity boxing match.

**General**

Please provide or attach any additional information which may assist the Council in reaching its decision.

The PTA has been inactive for several years and they used to pay for this experience for the children, so they have been missing out on this. We are newly reformed so are starting from scratch and therefore trying to raise funds.

We are asking for an amount which would cover 1 session a week for a year as a start (we would need at least 2 sessions but we have already started fundraising).

The children find the sessions so valuable and enriching and physically beneficial. It helps with sensory regulation, coordination and communication skills.

I certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I am authorised to make this application for Grant-aid.

Signed: Christina Waddilove

Date: 09/06/2025

*If posting, please return your completed application form to the address overleaf, for the attention of the TOWN CLERK*

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## Grant-aid to Local Organisations APPLICATION FORM

(PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM IN BLOCK CAPITALS)

### (1) Your Organisation

Name of Organisation	4TH WITNEY GUIDE UNIT		
Registered Address*	[REDACTED]		
Post Code	OX28 5FW	Tel No.	[REDACTED]
Contact Name	ABIGAIL JEFFS		
Position in Organisation	UNIT LEADER (i.e. Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary)		
Registered Charity	YES	Registration No.	306016

*What are the activities and/or aims of the organisation:*

Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women, helping them build confidence, develop skills, and have fun through a wide range of activities. Our programme supports personal development, teamwork, leadership, wellbeing, and community action. From outdoor adventures and creative projects to STEM challenges and life skills, Girlguiding empowers girls to discover their potential and make a positive difference in the world.

### (2) Membership

How many members do you have?	IN OUR UNIT WE HAVE CURRENTLY 9 GUIDES, 4 ADULT VOLUNTEERS
Approximately how many of your members live in Witney?	ALL
Is membership restricted in any way?	ONLY RESTRICTIONS ARE GUIDES: 1. CANNOT BE BORN MALE AND IDENTIFY MALE 2. MUST BE AGED 10-14.

What is your annual subscription, if any?	APPROX. £50 PER PERSON
Are you affiliated to a national organisation? If so, which one?	YES - GIRLGUIDING UK
Local venue/meeting place	BURWELL HALL

### (3) Grants

Purpose for which the grant is required: TO ASSIST WITH BUYING CAMP TENT AND EQUIPMENT FOR OUR FIRST UNIT CAMP



#### Tents

- Tent = ~£250



#### Camp Equipment

- Cooking pots/utensils = ~£80
- Water containers = ~£20 each x4 = ~£80
- Coolboxes = ~£30 each
- First aid/health = ~£40
- Storage boxes = ~£20 each x4 = ~£80



#### Other Essentials

- Camp tables or trestles = £40 each x2 = ~£80
- Survival bags = ~£20 for 5 x2 = ~£40

Amount of grant applied for	£680	
Has your organisation previously applied to the Town Council for a grant?	YES	
If YES please give details	£50 TO ASSIST WITH GETTING CRAFT AND ESSENTIAL UNIT SUPPLIES	
Have you applied for a grant to any other body or organisation?	NO	
If YES please give details	N/A	



**(4) Financial**

*Please enclose a copy of your latest audited accounts, a financial projection for the period following the balance sheet or a Business Plan if a new organisation.*

**(5) Fundraising**

What fundraising events or activities will your organisation be holding this year?  
THE GUIDES ARE DOING A SPONSORED WALK, AND WE ARE LOOKING AT DOING A STALL AT A FAIR.

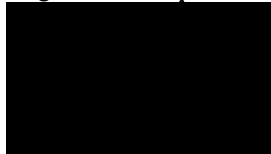
**(6) General**

Recipients of a grant from the Town Council should acknowledge the fact on all relevant literature.

Please provide or attach any additional information which may assist the Council in reaching its decision.

*I certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I am authorised to make this application for Grant-aid.*

Signed: ABIGAIL JEFFS


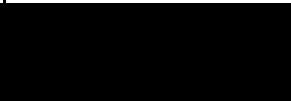


Date: 25/4/2025

*Please return your completed application form to the address overleaf, for the attention of the TOWN CLERK*

For office use only:		Previously Applied	
Acknowledged			
Grant Aid Awarded/Amount	Y / N	Chq No.	

\*Please note that if your address and telephone number are personal information and not that of the company or organisation, please complete the form below which will not be published on our website and will be held in accordance with GPDR regulations. By submitting this form, you are agreeing to the Town Council storing your personal information.

<b>Address for correspondence:</b>	
<b>Telephone number:</b>	
<b>E mail address:</b>	<b>4THWITNEYGUIDES@GMAIL.COM</b>

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# Youth Services Grant 2025/26

## Application Form

(PLEASE COMPLETE ELECTRONICALLY)

<b>Organisation</b>			
Name of Organisation	Home-Start Oxford		
Registered Address (including Post Code)	26 Kingfisher Green Oxford OX4 7BX		
Website	www.homestartoxford.org.uk	Telephone	01865 649003
Facebook/Twitter	facebook.com/HomeStartOxford	Email	development@homestartoxford.org.uk
Contact Name	Rachel Haydon		
Position in Organisation	Development Manager		
Registered Charity	YES	Registration Number	1108612
<p>What are the activities and/or aims of the organisation?</p> <p>Home-Start Oxford is an independent charity which has been supporting local families since 1988. We provide non-judgmental, compassionate, free support to families going through tough times with at least one child under 5. Over 36 years, Home-Start Oxford has supported thousands of children through their most challenging times, enabling a more positive start in life and the opportunity to thrive.</p> <p>Our local community network of trained volunteers and expert support improve children's life outcomes by supporting their play, learning and development while working alongside their families to deal with significant life challenges. These include mental health issues, poverty, illness, disability, bereavement, autism, relationship stress, refugeehood, imprisonment, social and rural isolation, domestic abuse, addiction, debt and trauma. For many of the families we support, children's practical, intellectual and emotional needs are not always being met. Children are often not given the attention and interaction needed for a healthy attachment.</p>			

<p>Our support is delivered through 1:1 home visits to families, as well as through a raft of inclusive, nurturing groups. We are parents supporting parents, and at the heart of our organisation is an amazing team of 50 volunteers who make us incredibly cost effective and create our Home-Start culture.</p>	
<p><b>Membership</b></p>	
How many members do you have?	In 2024/25 we supported 550 families reaching 750 children.
Approximately how many of your members live in Witney?	We are open to all Witney families with at least one child under the age of 5. Last year we supported 173 families through our group work alone.
Is membership restricted in any way?	No
What is your annual subscription, if any?	None
Are you affiliated to Oxfordshire Youth or other similar umbrella organisation? If so, which one?	Home-Start UK
Do you have safeguarding procedures in place?	Yes
Local venue/meeting place (if applicable)	In Witney we run regular weekly groups at Witney Methodist Church and Ceewood Hall.
<p><b>Grant-Funding</b></p>	
<p>Purpose for which the grant is required:</p> <p>We are requesting a contribution towards our total group work cost in Witney (our home-visiting support is separately costed).</p> <p>Our open-to-all groups for babies and toddlers deliver community connection and preventative support. Run by expert staff and trained volunteers they support mental health, play, attachment, and early learning. Informed by evidence-based 'PEEP Learning Together Programme', our groups give babies/children a great start, vital because 90% brain development happens before age 5. Inclusive and free of charge, we pro-actively reach out to the most vulnerable families.</p> <p>Our regular weekly groups open-to-all are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Little Splashers Baby Group:</b> weekly for under 1s, at Witney Methodist Church</li> <li>• <b>Puddle Jumpers:</b> weekly for 0-5s, Ceewood Hall, Smiths Estate</li> <li>• <b>Puddle Jumpers:</b> weekly for 0-5s, Witney Methodist Church (outdoor trip or walk once per month).</li> </ul>	

<p>Beyond our regular group sessions, we help the most vulnerable families by providing a range of opportunities and tailored support. This includes outreach support, our new specialist group 'Daisies' for families of children with special educational needs (SEN) and referrals to our one-to-one home-visiting service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daisies: weekly term-time for 0-5s, Witney Methodist Church</li> </ul> <p>We also offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Free summer fun days:</b> run in outdoor spaces and parks around Witney, these include games, craft, messy fun, free snack and lunch, baby facilities and activities for older children.</li> <li>• <b>Outreach:</b> an extended model of outreach to increase engagement in our groups amongst the most vulnerable families, giving additional, tailored support to develop relationships of trust.</li> <li>• <b>Support with hardship needs:</b> making applications for grants (e.g. for beds, white goods), referrals to food and baby banks.</li> </ul> <p>Please see attached information for more details about our planned work and our impact.</p>	
Amount of grant applied for	£12,000
Has your organisation previously applied to the Town Council for a grant?	YES
If YES, please give details	Witney Town Council is a key and valued supporter of Home-Start Oxford. We have received several grants over the past few years to fund our work in Witney which has grown into a much-relied upon source of support.
Have you applied for a grant to any other body or organisation?	YES/NO
If YES, please give details	Please see attached budget which includes a list of funding secured and in progress.
<b>Financial</b>	
Please enclose a copy of your latest audited accounts, a financial projection for the period following the balance sheet or a Business Plan if a new organisation.	
<b>Fundraising</b>	

<p>What fundraising events or activities will your organisation be holding this year?</p> <p>We have a team of 16 runners taking part in the Oxford Half Marathon (2 of whom are Witney residents), and for the first time have 2 places in the London Marathon.</p> <p>We will be taking part in the Big Give Christmas match funding campaign.</p>	
<p><b>General</b></p>	
<p>Please provide or attach any additional information which may assist the Council in reaching its decision.</p> <p>Please see attached document.</p>	
<p>I certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I am authorised to make this application for Grant-aid.</p>	
<p>Signed: Rachel Haydon</p>	<p>Date: 26/06/15</p>

*If posting, please return your completed application form to the address overleaf, for the attention of the TOWN CLERK*

For office use only:			
Acknowledged		Previously Applied	
Grant Aid Awarded/Amount	Y / N	Chq No.	



## Request to Witney Town Council – Youth Services Grant June 2025

Home-Start Oxford have been supporting struggling families with children under 5 across Central and West Oxfordshire for over 36 years. We are experienced in supporting families through challenges that include mental health issues, poverty, disability, refugeehood, isolation and domestic abuse. We support families through both one-to-one home-visiting, and a raft of inclusive, nurturing groups.

### Investing in the early years so every child can reach their full potential

Informed by evidence-based 'PEEP Learning Together Programme', our groups give babies/children a great start, vital because 90% brain development happens before age 5. Inclusive and free of charge, we proactively reach out to the most vulnerable families. Research shows that optimal brain development is dependent on stable, nurturing relationships with highly engaged adults. Children in families affected by issues such as low-income, mental health issues, disabilities and trauma in their early years are likely to have worse health and poorer educational attainment.

*'These children start school 5.5 months behind their peers in terms of a Good Level of Development at the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). This gap, if unaddressed, can widen to over 21.5 months by age 16, with significant implications for long-term outcomes in education.'*

(Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire West Integrated Care System Jan 2025)

The cost of a failure to invest in our youngest children and their parents is paid not only by individuals whose outcomes and happiness are compromised; it is also ruinously expensive for society. A 2021 study by the London School of Economics (LSE) estimated that insufficient early years support costs England over £16 billion annually. This figure encompasses expenses related to children's social care, crime, mental health issues, and economic inactivity among youth.

### Working together with families to give children the right start in life



*Little Splashers Baby Group*

Our early intervention, preventative support helps create secure attachment, community connection, and learning opportunities for Witney's next generation, helping families to give their children the vital foundations they need. Our group work in Witney is now a well-established and much relied upon source of support for families of young children in the town, providing opportunities for young children to play safely, to learn new skills, to enjoy healthy snacks, to interact with other children and to have fun. For parents – many of whom are struggling with the challenges of parenting – our groups can be their opportunity to see a friendly face, to enjoy a cup of tea and a chat, to learn how to play and interact with their child, to make friends and to get vital help and support when they need it. Our groups are some of the only provision accessible to ALL families in the town.

Beyond our regular group sessions, we help the most vulnerable families by providing a range of opportunities and tailored support. This includes outreach support, our new specialist group 'Daisies' for families of children with special educational needs (SEN) and referrals to our one-to-one home-visiting service.

## Our plans for the year ahead: September 2025 - August 2026

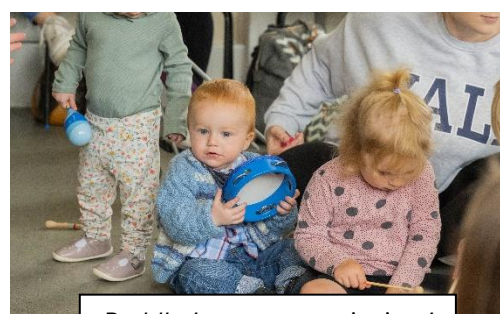
### Group stay and play groups

With your support, we will continue to run our three free regular weekly groups in the centre of Witney (Witney Methodist Church) and on Smiths Estate (Ceewood Hall):

- **Little Splashers Baby Group:** weekly for under 1s at Witney Methodist Church  
For babies, this group provides sensory and interactive play, sing and sign sessions with instruments and story time. It encourages interaction with parents and their babies, helping parents to understand the importance of attachment at an early age. There is a different activity within the session every week to encourage parents to try at home. Refreshments and a listening ear for parents with advice and follow up where necessary. We are always full and have a short waiting list. Parents express that this is the best hour of their week. Forming new friendships and support networks is a large part of the group's success.
- **Puddle Jumpers:** weekly for 0-5s at Witney Methodist Church  
Providing sensory play, messy play, craft, free play, home corner, role play, puzzles, baby sensory play, singing and story time. We encourage school readiness through learning and interacting. Healthy snacks for children and refreshments for parents and a listening ear/advice/follow up support. Once a month our group session is an outdoor buggy walk – as well as encouraging families out into the fresh air we promote free places to visit and give opportunities to families to visit local places such as Cogges farm and the Witney fire station.
- **Puddle Jumpers:** weekly for 0-5s at Ceewood Hall, Smiths Estate  
This group fills a gap in provision for families living in the most-deprived area of the town. Many families are isolated, and experience of peri-natal mental health problems, loneliness and depression are evident. A large number of single mums attend the group, and many have debt and other financial difficulties. We continue to progress this provision; this year we have introduced more sensory play activities (paint, water, play-doh), which many families do not do at home, and are increasing access to outdoor play – especially important as some children are not able to play in a garden and do not go to the park.

### Outreach support

We are always listening to families; we grow and adapt our provision year-on-year in response to need. As our groups and relationships with families have grown, so have the number of families turning to us for help with significant life challenges affecting their children and family. To enable our Family Group Co-ordinator, Jan, to meet this need, we recently introduced a new post of Family Group Support Worker (Agnes). This has enabled more time for outreach support, for planning and preparing sessions and activities, and more time for development of our new groups and initiatives.



*"I've been attending Home-Start groups since my son was 4 weeks old. They have been an absolute godsend. Me and my son wouldn't be where we are now without them." Witney mum*

### Supporting children and families with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Last year we observed an increase in children with special educational needs (SEN) accessing our groups, and, through our close partnership with health visitors who emphasised the ever-increasing need and lack of provision, we identified a gap.

- **Daisies:** our recently-launched referral only group, provides specialist support and play for families of children 0-5 with SEN (diagnosed and undiagnosed). This takes place on Wednesday afternoons at Witney Methodist Church. Our staff have invested time visiting groups in other areas, researching and purchasing new equipment to ensure the group provides the right support. We look forward to seeing this group grow and flourish over the next year. We have also adapted our existing groups to ensure a warm, welcoming and safe environment for everyone.

***“I was contacted by a Housing Officer about a Mum of three children, recently been made a single parent and struggling as her two older children have autism spectrum disorder (ASD). I texted Mum to invite the family to Puddle Jumpers. She replied to say that ‘her middle son has autism, so they don’t attend groups’. I replied to reassure her that our group is very welcoming to all, and that we have staff and volunteers to help with the children.***

***“Mum attended the group for the first time with her son and younger daughter. It was a really positive experience for Mum and the children. They have continued to attend. The 2-year-old girl does not get the opportunity to attend groups elsewhere due to her brothers’ ASD, school-runs and other commitments. She has made progress already with attachment and confidence.***

***“We have made some changes within the group to cater for the needs of her son – a quiet space when he gets overwhelmed, numbers and puzzles, the room lay out to reduce the chance of eating ‘messy play’ tray items. Mum has been able to chat to others and shared some of her anxieties and worries about school and her home life. She has really benefited from this safe space for her and her children.”***

Jan, Family Group Co-ordinator

### Year-round provision and exciting new experiences

Many families of young children find themselves feeling more isolated in school holidays. We continue to run our groups through half-terms and Easter holidays, and, over the Summer, we provide a series of fun days in outdoor spaces in Witney, each with a different theme, from beach party to sports day! These ensure that young children and their families have access to activities, healthy food and support over crucial weeks when other sources of support are often not available.

This year we have secured funding to run a summer trip for the first time! We are excited to take our families on a day-trip to Beale Park, where we will provide coach travel, entry fees, activities, healthy lunches and snacks, and even sun-hats and sun-cream! This will be the first time some of the children will have experienced an outing like this.



## The difference we make

Our inclusive, accessible and non-judgemental approach to working with children and families is key to the positive change we see. Families feel safe, welcome and included. Consistency in staff and volunteers enables both children and parents to establish strong and trusted relationships, enabling them to have the confidence to seek the support they need.

Last year we carried out several termly 'snapshot' surveys at our Witney groups. Of those who responded:

- 100% reported feeling more confident in supporting their child's learning and development
- 97% felt they had extended their support network of like-minded parents/carers
- 90% felt more confident to access the local community.

**Families have reduced loneliness and isolation and have increased their support networks:** Families attending groups meet new friends and network with other parents, and we give them confidence to share their experiences with each other. As a result, they form their own support groups, regularly attending other groups with new friends and socialising with other parents outside the group environment to lessen isolation. This is especially important to the many families who do not have a family support network of their own nearby, and our outreach work helps to ensure more vulnerable families know about Home-Start Oxford and feel confident to attend.

***“Last week, one of the mums asked if we could celebrate her son's first birthday with our group, as they have no family or friends nearby (the family immigrated and have English as an additional language). Today, she brought in a cake, balloons, a birthday card for us to sign, biscuits, and party bag toys for the children. Her little boy arrived dressed smartly for the special occasion. Mum was very grateful for this opportunity, and it made us realise the important role we play in the lives of some of our families.”***  
Jan, Family Group Co-ordinator

**Families access vital help and support:** Home-Start Oxford provide a non-judgmental confidential approach, with our volunteers and staff being trained in safeguarding, confidentiality and advice. We have a programme of enhanced training which offers courses in topics such as parent-infant relationships, domestic abuse and SEN. Families have been able to seek support with a variety of issues when they need it, either during group sessions or by communicating with our Group Co-ordinator via text during the week. We regularly signpost families who attend groups: because of our support, families are aware of and feel more able to access other services such as Early Help, Food Bank, school, family events, the library and other toddler groups.

***“Mum came to group very distressed - she asked for help with an eviction notice from her Housing Association. We sat on the phone together with CAB and worked through the forms needed to complete. Mum is pregnant and also has a child recently diagnosed with skin cancer. We spent 45 minutes together talking and sorting out her issues.”*** Jan, Family Group Co-ordinator

**Toddlers have increased school readiness and have improved communication skills:** All children who attend our groups experience singing, talking, playing, sharing books, games and activities. Children have access to activities many do not have at home, such as messy play, sensory play and outdoor play. They become more active learners, build their confidence to interact with other children and to play independently. Through our modelling from staff and volunteers, parents and their children are encouraged and supported to connect with one another through shared activities and experiences.

***“I really enjoyed today, it is always great to see the children playing and the carers relaxing, and to be helping with that.”*** Group Volunteer



**Improved outcomes for families with complex needs:** Our groups offer opportunities for connection with vulnerable families – as well as offering support with needs at group, for those who need more intense support we can refer to our one-to-one home-visiting service. Our groups also offer continued support to families reaching the end of their one-to-one support, thus providing ongoing care. Our support with various family challenges has long term consequences for these families and for their young children who are at the most vital stage of life for establishing life-long learning and development.

*"This is our favourite day of the week - we love coming."* Witney Mum, Little Splashers

**Reducing inequalities:** Our expertise in early years is recognised and highly valued in Oxfordshire: we are at the heart of work to reduce inequalities and play a leading role on cross-sector work for our own charity and the wider VCS sector. We are a leading partner in Oxfordshire for the Marmot Place initiative to reduce health inequalities: with one of the three priorities to 'give every child the best start in life'. We have been selected for our reach to families facing greatest inequalities and to bring the experience of those families to the fore to shape change. We are feeding into the call for evidence and will be a key partner in upcoming Marmot events.

*"An amazing service, valued by families and providing great support."* NHS Infant-Parent-Perinatal Service

### **Witney Town Council's continued support is vital**

Witney residents now receive the greatest amount of group provision and support from Home-Start Oxford across the county. The demand for our support remains at an all-time high, and we are dedicating more resources than ever to reach those most vulnerable and at-risk. With costs continuing to rise and higher levels of funding uncertainty, we rely on the support of local funders to continue our work. Families have fewer places to turn for face-to-face support; Home-Start Oxford offer a vital lifeline.

The continued support of Witney Town Council has been fundamental. As a small charity we have successfully bought further funding into the town through securing grants from national funders such as Children in Need – however local funding is vital for the continued provision of our work. We still have a significant funding gap for 25-26 and a larger gap for 26-27.



## Family Case Study: Now I love being a mum, it's who I am

"It was when my eldest was around 4 weeks old when I first went to the doctors thinking I wasn't a good enough mum. I couldn't look after him, I just felt really low and depressed about everything. You can't prepare for being a mum. I had no family support and I was just struggling.

I'd felt excited about being a mum but I was so worried about if I was doing the right thing, because I didn't have a mum figure myself. The way I was brought up was not the way you should be brought up as a child. I thought because of my background I wouldn't be able to bring a child up and I'd be judged. And I've struggled with depression since I was 16 and now I was feeling really low, no energy to do anything, no motivation, I just felt like I couldn't do it.



My health visitor suggested going to Little Splashers, one of the Home-Start baby groups. When I was there I met Jan who runs the group. She was so friendly, she made it easy to tell her what I was struggling with. Jan arranged for me to meet with their Family Coordinator, who told me they had a volunteer for me.

When Robin visited we just chatted at my house. I remember she told me to have a little rest and have a hot drink while she played with my son. Most of the time to begin with we just stayed at home because I couldn't go out. In my head I thought all my child was going to do was cry if we were out, so I wouldn't go out for long with him. Robin was like come on let's go for a walk, let's just get out, get some fresh air. I just didn't have the confidence then. I was petrified that something was going to happen to him and he was going to get germs. I needed to get home. It was all in my head. Robin taught me that no it wasn't scary outside, and that it's good for your mental health. She was next to me and I knew we were going to be ok.

And I feel like my eldest became happier, just by going out instead of staring at four walls. Just going to the park, I wouldn't have done that by myself. Or speaking to other people. I wouldn't have said good morning to anyone because I thought I'd be judged. Now we're out every day. We have our regular route. We see people all the time and they know me and they know the little ones and they always speak to them. And sleep... my eldest was a terrible sleeper from the word go. We had to sleep train him and that was all through Home-Start. They arranged for a sleep trainer and it was great. He's gone from waking every hour to now he sleeps 12 hours a night, all because of Home-Start!

I feel I'm so much more confident with my second child. I now go to the Home-Start groups every week with my newborn while my eldest is at nursery to get him socialising with other little ones and to get me out as well so it's great to have some one-on-one time with my youngest. I definitely wouldn't have done that with my eldest.

Looking back, I think if I hadn't have had Home-Start support maybe I would be on tablets to boost my mood and I reckon my toddler would still be in my bed and yeah I just feel it would have been completely different. The support has given the kids a different mum. At the start I didn't feel like I was good enough but now I know I'm a good mum and I love being a mum. It's who I am."

*Thank you for considering our application.*

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# Youth Services Grant 2025/26

## Application Form

(PLEASE COMPLETE ELECTRONICALLY)

<b>Organisation</b>			
Name of Organisation	The parish of Witney (St Mary's)		
Registered Address (including Postcode)	St Mary the Virgin, Church Green, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 4AW		
Website	http://www.witneyparish.org.uk	Telephone	01993779492
Facebook/Twitter	Witney Benefice	Email	office@witneyparish.org.uk
Contact Name	Dianne Augustine		
Position in Organisation	Chaplain (i.e. Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary)		
Registered Charity	YES	Registration Number	1129784
<p>What are the activities and/or aims of the organisation?</p> <p>The main objective of the charity are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Promoting the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is responsible for operating within the ministry team to meet this objective;</li> <li>2 Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our parish community. The PCC maintains and overview of activities throughout the parish and make suggestions on how we can involve the many groups that live within our Parish; and</li> <li>3 Putting faith into practice in our services and worship through prayer and scriptures, music and</li> </ol> <p>When planning the year's activities, such as the Beer Festival, Food and Drink Festival, and the Art and Flowers event, we considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.</p>			
<b>Membership</b>			

How many members do you have?	20
Approximately how many of your members live in Witney?	19 members
Is membership restricted in any way?	No
What is your annual subscription, if any?	No
Are you affiliated to Oxfordshire Youth or other similar umbrella organisation? If so, which one?	No
Do you have safeguarding procedures in place?	Yes
Local venue/meeting place (if applicable)	St Mary's Church, Church on the Green, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX28 4AW

### Grant-Funding

Purpose for which the grant is required:

The Enrichment Summer Camp Initiative is a collaborative effort between Witney Parish and Witney College designed to support young people, including those from the LGBTQ+ community and Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups, during their post-16 transition year. The initiative aims to develop participants' skills and knowledge, facilitating their progression into higher education, training, or employment.

This enrichment programme includes a personal development component that encourages young individuals to set personal goals and engage with their communities in an informal setting. It provides a safe environment for young people to discuss, enjoy self-directed group activities, and participate in organized discretionary programs. This involvement helps them enhance their effectiveness and prepares them to succeed in education, training, and the workplace.

Workshop sessions are:

- Career and Your Future in Education, Training or Work.
- Making Financial Choices
- Employability Skills
- Work and setting up a business.
- Living independently.
- Personal Well Being.

- Sexual health.
- Healthy living.
- Alcohol, tobacco, vaping and drugs awareness.
- Recognising effects of Social Media.
- Personal Safety.
- Healthy relationships.

## **Workshops**

Each workshop employs diverse, creative resources to effectively deliver topics and achieve optimal outcomes for young people. The tools utilized are designed to enhance personal development, social skills, and overall skill proficiency among the young people that engage with this programme.

These workshops will have a morning session starting at 11:30 am till 12:30 pm. Lunch 12:30 pm to 13:00 pm. Afternoon session starts at 13:00 pm to 14:30 pm.

Each participant will receive lunch and a food package at the conclusion of the programme.

## **The Enrichment Summer Camp includes local Speakers from:**

- Local Housing: West Oxfordshire housing and Private housing.
- Local bank.
- Local Business owner.
- Oxford sexual health.
- Domestic Violence.
- Local Police.
- Motivational Speakers.

## **Funding Breakdown**

Food £250

Venue hire £275

2 Facilitators @ £14.50 per hour each x 4 hours per day = £58 per day x 6 = £348 x 2 Facilitators =£696

Speakers @ £150 per session x 8 speakers = £1200

Art canvas paint £150

Games: £150

Paper, pen, cards, £75

## **Training**

For LGBTQ+ workshop Facilitators £500 x 2 =£1000

Asdan training for 2 Facilitators @ £265 x 2 = 530		
Amount of grant applied for		£4326
Has your organisation previously applied to the Town Council for a grant?		NO
If YES, please give details		
Have you applied for a grant to any other body or organisation?		NO
If YES, please give details		
<b>Financial</b>		
Please enclose a copy of your latest audited accounts, a financial projection for the period following the balance sheet or a Business Plan if a new organisation.		
<b>Fundraising</b>		
<p>What fundraising events or activities will your organisation be holding this year?</p> <p>Witney Parish hosts several annual fundraising events each May, including the Beer Festival, Food and Drink Festival, Art and Flowers Festival, and Oktoberfest in September. While these are the primary fundraising activities, there are additional smaller-scale events throughout the year.</p>		
<b>General</b>		
<p>Please provide or attach any additional information which may assist the Council in reaching its decision.</p> <p>In our community today, the lack of dedicated resources for youth has created a void that impacts not only the personal growth of young people but also the vitality of the community as a whole. Teenagers aged 15-18 often face challenges such as isolation,</p>		

academic pressure, and the absence of structured opportunities for engagement. A youth club tailored to this demographic can serve as a transformative space—providing them with support, fostering inclusivity, and equipping them with the tools they need to thrive.

This proposal outlines a vision for a provision that will not only address the needs of diverse teenagers but also serve as a catalyst for positive change in our community. With the financial help of the Town Council, we can create a hub and a yearly programme for empowerment, creativity, and collaboration that will inspire and uplift the next generation.

All activities will be conducted in accordance with the Witney Parish safeguarding policy. Facilitators are vetted in compliance with the safer recruitment procedures of Witney Parish.

I certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I am authorised to make this application for Grant-aid.

Signed: Miss Dianne Augustine

Date:14th June 2025

*If posting, please return your completed application form to the address overleaf, for the attention of the TOWN CLERK*

For office use only:			
Acknowledged		Previously Applied	
Grant Aid Awarded/Amount	Y / N	Chq No.	

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## Youth Services Grant 2025/26

### Application Form

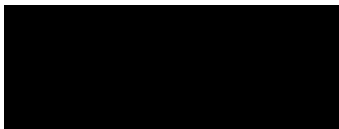
(PLEASE COMPLETE ELECTRONICALLY)

<b>Organisation</b>			
Name of Organisation	Bright Futures Oxfordshire		
Registered Address (including Post Code)	[REDACTED]		
Website	www.thestation.life	Telephone	[REDACTED]
Facebook/Twitter		Email	paulm@rootsanddrivers.uk
Contact Name	Paul Meathrel		
Position in Organisation	Trustee  (i.e. Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary)		
Registered Charity	YES/NO	Registration Number	1143123
<p>What are the activities and/or aims of the organisation?</p> <p>Our mission is to give people across Oxfordshire a bright future. We do this through the provision of community projects which seek to relieve poverty and hardship, promote education and social cohesion and inclusion.</p> <p>Most recently this has been through setting up the Station, a detached youth work programme in Witney, funded by Witney Town Council. Youth workers connect with young people on a weekly basis, going to where they congregate around the town as well as serving hot chocolate at Henry Box and Wood Green Schools. We also run two very successful school holiday football programmes, Break (half term) and Kick (summer holidays), which have been really well attended.</p> <p>In 2024/25 our team of employed youth workers along with 32 volunteers connected with 780 young people for a total 3,024 hours of connection!</p>			



<b>Membership</b>		
How many members do you have?	No members as such.	
Approximately how many of your members live in Witney?	Almost all the young people we work with live in Witney itself.	
Is membership restricted in any way?	No	
What is your annual subscription, if any?	N/A	
Are you affiliated to Oxfordshire Youth or other similar umbrella organisation? If so, which one?	No formal affiliation but we do work with Oxfordshire Youth and we are part of the Witney Forum and the WODC Witney Youth Partnership.	
Do you have safeguarding procedures in place?	Yes	
Local venue/meeting place (if applicable)	N/A	
<b>Grant-Funding</b>		
<p>Purpose for which the grant is required:</p> <p>We want to further enhance the detached youth work we are already doing in Witney, by offering parenting courses to families across the town who are struggling to parent teenagers and would greatly value support in this area.</p> <p>Funding would enable us to offer six parenting courses for up to 15 people at a time. We aim to run three courses for parents of older primary children (years 5 and 6) who are about to transition into secondary education and teenage years, and three courses for parents of teenagers. These would be run out of schools (two secondary and two primary) as well as in the community.</p> <p>The grant would cover employment of a course leader for four hours per week, as well as sundries such as printing costs and refreshments.</p>		
Amount of grant applied for	£7,296	
Has your organisation previously applied to the Town Council for a grant?	YES/ <del>NO</del>	

If YES, please give details	We have received funding for the past two years to run the Station.	
Have you applied for a grant to any other body or organisation?		YES/NO
If YES, please give details		
<b>Financial</b>		
Please enclose a copy of your latest audited accounts, a financial projection for the period following the balance sheet or a Business Plan if a new organisation.		
<b>Fundraising</b>		
<p>What fundraising events or activities will your organisation be holding this year?</p> <p>We are currently running a crowdfunding project via the West Oxfordshire District Council's WestHive platform, raising money to purchase and adapt a milk float so that we can take our hot chocolate on the road to streets and estates around Witney to reach some of the harder-to-reach young people, as well as to events in the town.</p>		
<b>General</b>		
<p>Please provide or attach any additional information which may assist the Council in reaching its decision.</p> <p>We are passionate about working with young people, showing them they are valued, listening to them and supporting them, and will continue to do this. However, as we see the challenges they face, we recognise that earlier intervention is of paramount importance, as is partnership with their parents.</p> <p>Early intervention can help children and young people to develop the skills they need to live happy, healthy and successful lives. By helping improve the quality of children's home lives and family relationships, we aim to increase educational attainment and support good mental health.</p> <p>Parenting courses can help parents learn more about what to expect in the coming years and prepare for each developmental stage. Since confident, decisive parents tend to raise confident,</p>		

<p>secure children, parenting courses can give a much-needed skill set and help decrease feelings of anxiety.</p> <p>One session of the parenting courses will explore the impact of the digital world on teenagers and younger children, giving practical advice on screen time, social media and consumer culture. We will tackle some of the more serious issues such as online bullying, grooming and pornography.</p> <p>From conversations within the Witney Forum we have established that there is a gap in the town for this type of support. There are currently no parenting courses being offered in Witney for parents of teenagers or of older primary children about to make the transition into secondary education and teenage years. Parents we have spoken to at Wood Green School have expressed their struggles and the Deputy Head at the school has also said that such support would be invaluable, but whereas the school used to offer this, they no longer have the capacity nor the expertise to do so.</p>	
<p>I certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I am authorised to make this application for Grant-aid.</p>	
<p>Signed: </p> <p>Ruth Biddulph, volunteer fundraiser</p> <p>(Completing this application on behalf of the Trustees)</p>	<p>Date: 27/06/2025</p>

*If posting, please return your completed application form to the address overleaf, for the attention of the TOWN CLERK*

For office use only:			
Acknowledged		Previously Applied	
Grant Aid Awarded/Amount	Y / N	Chq No.	

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## Youth Services Grant 2025/26

### Application Form

(PLEASE COMPLETE ELECTRONICALLY)

<b>Organisation</b>			
Name of Organisation	Tower Hill Football Club		
Registered Address (including Post Code)	West Witney Sports and Social Club, Burford Road, Oxfordshire, OX29 0NB		
Website	<a href="https://towerhillfc.co.uk/">https://towerhillfc.co.uk/</a>	Telephone	
Facebook/Twitter	<a href="#">Tower Hill Football Club   Witney</a>	Email	<a href="mailto:secretary@towerhillfc.co.uk">secretary@towerhillfc.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:Treasurer@towerhillfc.co.uk">Treasurer@towerhillfc.co.uk</a>
Contact Name	Philip Luke		
Position in Organisation	Club Treasurer (i.e. Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary)		
Registered Charity	NO	Registration Number	N/A
<p>What are the activities and/or aims of the organisation?</p> <p>Formed in 1971, with over 30 teams, Tower Hill is proud to provide access to football through recreation, education, training and competition for age groups 6 years and above within West Oxfordshire irrespective of ability, gender, ethnicity or religion.</p> <p>We are affiliated to the Oxfordshire Football Association (Men/Boys Aff No Y-OXF1860, Ladies/Girls Aff No. Y-OXF1859).</p> <p>We are an England football accredited club with youth teams from Under 6 to Under 18, Women's and Men's teams and an Inclusive team.</p> <p>Tower Hill's mission is to provide players who are members of the club with the opportunity to play competitive football in the local area, in a safe and controlled environment, under the supervision of FA Qualified Coaches.</p>			

<p>Every team Manager/Coach is at least FA Level 1 qualified and has undertaken Safeguarding Children and Emergency Aid courses.</p> <p>Every official of the club, both administration and coaching, have completed full DBS checks.</p>	
<b>Membership</b>	
How many members do you have?	400
Approximately how many of your members live in Witney?	Majority live in Witney or the Witney and district area.
Is membership restricted in any way?	Membership is not restricted as such. We try and limit team sizes depending on the number of coaches available as we need to ensure that the correct Adult-Child ratio is adhered too.
What is your annual subscription, if any?	£152.00 for players, £115.00 for training only
Are you affiliated to Oxfordshire Youth or other similar umbrella organisation? If so, which one?	Inclusive – Helping make West Oxfordshire disabled friendly
Do you have safeguarding procedures in place?	Yes
Local venue/meeting place (if applicable)	West Witney Sports and Social Club
<b>Grant-Funding</b>	
<p>Purpose for which the grant is required:</p> <p>To go towards the continued purchase of consumable equipment across the age groups ensuring they are completely supported in everything they do.</p>	

Amount of grant applied for	£1,000
Has your organisation previously applied to the Town Council for a grant?	YES
If YES, please give details	I believe so that there has been an application raised in the past. As we are a new committee, we are unsure if this was approved or when it was submitted so we have no details I am afraid.
Have you applied for a grant to any other body or organisation?	YES
If YES, please give details	As above.
<b>Financial</b>	
Please enclose a copy of your latest audited accounts, a financial projection for the period following the balance sheet or a Business Plan if a new organisation.	
<b>Fundraising</b>	

What fundraising events or activities will your organisation be holding this year?

We hope to be able to hold several fundraising occasions throughout the financial year, through various means such as social functions and hopefully some small, sided tournaments. If we can make these things take off we can increase them in size potentially increasing fundraising ability.

### **General**

Please provide or attach any additional information which may assist the Council in reaching its decision.

Due to being new to the role of Treasurer I am still awaiting the correct permissions to enable me to access our accounting software and banking apps. Due to our previous treasurer not fulfilling the role correctly we are currently playing catch up, so we are behind in having the latest set of audited accounts to provide to you. I have provided last season that we currently have

Tower Hill also provides the community with currently 23-26 youth teams (Awaiting on team registrations to confirm actual numbers). Providing youths with an outlet for them to develop and learn as well as providing them with valuable opportunity to exercise and form lasting friendships.



<p>I certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I am authorised to make this application for Grant-aid.</p>	
<p>Signed: PHILIP LUKE (ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED)</p>	<p>Date: 17/06/2025</p>

*If posting, please return your completed application form to the address overleaf, for the attention of the TOWN CLERK*

For office use only:			
Acknowledged		Previously Applied	
Grant Aid Awarded/Amount	Y / N	Chq No.	

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## Youth Services Grant 2025/26

### Application Form

(PLEASE COMPLETE ELECTRONICALLY)

<b>Organisation</b>			
Name of Organisation	West Oxfordshire Levellers RL		
Registered Address (including Post Code)	[REDACTED]		
Website	westoxfordshirelevellers.co.uk	Telephone	[REDACTED]
Facebook/Twitter	Facebook: West Oxfordshire Levellers RL Twitter (X): WestOxLevellers	Email	lan.ferry@westoxfordshirelevellers.co.uk
Contact Name	Ian Ferry		
Position in Organisation	Club Secretary (i.e. Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary)		
Registered Charity	YES/NO	Registration Number	n/a
<p>What are the activities and/or aims of the organisation?</p> <p>We are a community focussed not for profit Rugby League club providing different forms of the sport to Primary and Secondary aged children, along with Adult opportunities.</p> <p>Core Values &amp; Vision: Inclusion • Support • Growth • Respect • Resilience • Togetherness • Fun</p> <p>We promote staying healthy by having fun. We use sport as a tool to develop players, and young people especially. We teach the skills needed to work as a successful team. We support player confidence to use individual inspiration when opportunities arise, within and outside the club. We aim to work with partners to facilitate young player opportunities to gain insights into the business world as they prepare for life after school. Work with partners to get adult workers into sport and improve fitness whilst making new friends.</p> <p>The health and wellbeing of players are the highest priority. We have at least one first aider for every coaching session or match. All senior coaches are fully qualified with valid DBS checks. We align with national standards and seek new approaches to meet Physical and Mental Health needs. We don't alienate. We encourage players with additional needs to join us. For those who wish to play in matches, we assist players and their families in RFL registration.</p> <p>We are dedicated in facilitating Primary and Secondary children in trying something different, making new friends, keeping active, building confidence and having fun. As the club grows, we aim to enhance support of female players; and those from ethnic, cultural or religious minorities to ensure we thrive as an all-inclusive club.</p>			

Membership	
How many members do you have?	60 (including 52 players, 7 coaches and 1 volunteer).
Approximately how many of your members live in Witney?	50 (including 1 in Freeland and 4 in Eynsham).
Is membership restricted in any way?	No, we are all-inclusive (all genders, all ages, all abilities).
What is your annual subscription, if any?	We ask players to pay £4 subs pr training session. This year we planned 22 of these, so some paid up front for £88.
Are you affiliated to Oxfordshire Youth or other similar umbrella organisation? If so, which one	No
Do you have safeguarding procedures in place?	Yes. Safeguarding training, first aid and DBS checks.
Local venue/meeting place (if applicable)	Wood Green School, Woodstock Road, Witney
Grant-Funding	
<p>Purpose for which the grant is required:</p> <p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>Female team sport is growing like never before. However, taking that first step by joining a club can be much harder for females, especially if they don't know anyone at a club. Some teams are afraid of asking the question or afraid of the hearing the answer:</p> <p>"How can we make our club more attractive and accessible for women and girls?"</p> <p>The Levellers fully embrace movements such as "This Girl Can" and "I Will if You Will", by encouraging any interested female player to come to a free taster session with a friend (who doesn't necessarily have to join in themselves). Our coaches include 1 woman and 1 girl who focus on primary development. 3 of our 6 sponsors are female owned companies; and providing opportunities for women and girls is high on their agendas.</p> <p>As a club, we want to be led by our players and parents. Through engagement with our existing female members and interested parties, we will provide answers to these questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do female athletes want from a team?</li> <li>• How do they want it to work?</li> <li>• What barriers need breaking?</li> <li>• What facilities do they need?</li> <li>• What don't they need or don't want to hear?</li> <li>• What does their sense of achievement look like?</li> <li>• What will make them look forward to their next session or match?</li> <li>• How much do they want to get involved with the club?</li> <li>• Have they been disappointed by a club before? (any type of club)</li> <li>• Are they worried what people at school will think? (friends and teachers)</li> <li>• Are they concerned about not fitting-in or not knowing anything about the sport?</li> </ul>	

**Purpose of the grant request:**

Building on the successful enrolment of girls to our Madley Brook Primary School after-school sessions, West Oxfordshire Levellers RL aim to hold a Girls Rugby League Activity Day for school years 2 to 11. The information and activities will be specifically designed for girls; and be appropriate for those currently partaking in sports and those who do not.

Each activity will be themed around Rugby League to include skill development, problem solving, team-working/building and learning leadership qualities. The club will follow the Rugby Football League's principles of Respect. The skills learned and advice provided can be adapted to other activities to help develop girls as the individuals they are. Success will not be measured by strength, stamina or ability to play; but on involvement and enjoyment.

We aim to provide instruction from experienced coaches, advice from strength and conditioning leads and nutritional support. Coaches will provide their assistance free of charge. However, we budget for up to £200 for other experts. All our coaches and experts are fully qualified and have passed enhanced DBS checks. All these costs have been funded by the individuals. There are no additional insurance costs as this is already included in our Rugby Football League insurance.

Part of the funding will be used prior to the event in booking facilities (up to £100 for 4 hours, including set-up for pitches, changing rooms and amenities), promotion and recruitment (up to £150). Promotion will take the form of posters, flyers and wayfinding on the day (signage and banners). Social media promotion and liaison with schools will be cost-free, and the club already has the majority of equipment required. We aim to provide refreshments up to £300. Each participant will receive a pack for their further development; and we budget up to £100 for design and production. We aim to provide spot-prizes during the day and budget for up to £150 for these (some items we have already so will not incur charges). If the costs of the event exceed that of an awarded grant, the difference will be covered by our budget reserve, without compromising the offer to our participants.

**Summary of budgets:**

Facility Hire	£100
Promotion	£150
Experts	£200
Refreshments	£300
Development Packs	£100
Prizes	£150

**Outcomes:**

Rugby League benefits from players of all shapes and sizes. By encouraging young players (especially girls) to be who they are and how they are; we can increase the number of female players enjoying more and more regular team activities.

The Girls Rugby League Activity Day will also serve as a recruitment event for the club. However, the club acknowledges some participants may not wish to join the team; and will therefore ensure all are treated with equal respect and provided with the same support, regardless of their choices.

Amount of grant applied for	£1000	
Has your organisation previously applied to the Town Council for a grant?	YES/NO	

If YES, please give details	We were fortunate to be awarded £50 in celebration of the Town Council's 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary.																
Have you applied for a grant to any other body or organisation?		YES/NO															
If YES, please give details	<p>In the past 12 months we have applied for and successfully awarded the following grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £500 from Thames Valley Police for our anti-knife crime/drugs balls initiative,</li> <li>• £500 from Valda Energy to recruit and tailor our sessions for young people with additional needs which sometimes prevent them joining other clubs (for example those with ADHD and/or Autism).</li> </ul>																
<b>Financial</b>																	
<p>Please find attached the club's 3 recent bank statements. When parents pay subs etc, we ask that they use their child's name as reference. These details have been redacted from the versions shared to comply with our club GDPR policy. Please note the invoices have the home address of our Club Chair John Connaughton as the account was set-up by the latter. Our 2025 season will be closing shortly so our projection will be for our 2026 season, commencing in February.</p> <p>Our costs for next year are for facilities hire only as we already have all our equipment and playing kits. We do set-aside a small budget to replace an vital damaged assets. Our Primary and Secondary sessions take place at the same time (different areas of the grounds) which reduces the cost to £25 per hour. We plan to hold 22 sessions which totals £550 in hire charges. We plan at least 2 home fixtures which will total £100. Most games are played away from home.</p> <p>Our subs for each session are currently £4 per hour per player* and we aim to have a bare minimum of 30 players at each session, this will total £2520. If we deduct the pitch fees this will leave a remainder of £1870. We naturally aim for attendance to be higher and therefore increase the amount of subs paid, but have to be realistic about our players balancing other commitments, including their schoolwork.</p> <p>Our coaches and first aiders are volunteers so incur no charges. Mandatory training requirements that are chargeable are paid for by those volunteers and not the club. We also provide training wear for players and each order gains a surplus of approximately £5 to cover postage etc.</p> <p><b>Summary of income and expenditure for 2026:</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Item</th> <th>Income</th> <th>Expenditure</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Subs from players (current rate £4 each per session)</td> <td>£2520</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hire of facilities for weekly training sessions (22)</td> <td></td> <td>£550</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hire of facilities for matches</td> <td></td> <td>£100</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total estimated surplus for 2026</b></td> <td><b>£1870</b></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*The figure of £4 per session has been in place since 2024 and will be reviewed by the committee prior to our AGM in the Autumn.</p>			Item	Income	Expenditure	Subs from players (current rate £4 each per session)	£2520		Hire of facilities for weekly training sessions (22)		£550	Hire of facilities for matches		£100	<b>Total estimated surplus for 2026</b>	<b>£1870</b>	
Item	Income	Expenditure															
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<b>Total estimated surplus for 2026</b>	<b>£1870</b>																

<b>Fundraising</b>	
<p>What fundraising events or activities will your organisation be holding this year?</p> <p>Each year we take part in fund raising events for our chosen charity, MNDA Oxfordshire Branch. This has included the Blenheim Park “walk2dfeetmnd”, volunteering as marshals at the Witney Park Run (raising awareness only) and a rather successful cake sale/raffle. All proceeds from these activities went to MNDA Oxfordshire Branch and not the club.</p> <p>Our players have recently asked about the possibility of buying bespoke Levellers/MNDA balls with some of the money being made going to both bodies. However, this would require guarantees of purchase prior to ordering such expensive items.</p>	
<b>General</b>	
<p>As a Rugby League club serving a population outside of the traditional heartlands (Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cheshire and Cumbria) we do receive a small amount of support from our governing body, the Rugby Football League. However, funding, personnel and time are extremely limited. Thus, the vast majority of the endeavour in managing the club is made by volunteers, players and their parents.</p> <p>Funding and support from local organisations such as councils, schools and our amazing sponsors; are vital in underpinning our aims and values. Recognition of our efforts is invaluable for a club made-up of volunteers.</p>	
<p>I certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I am authorised to make this application for Grant-aid.</p>	
Signed:	<div style="background-color: black; width: 280px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 25px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 25px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px; text-align: center;">Date: 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025</div>

*If posting, please return your completed application form to the address overleaf, for the attention of the TOWN CLERK*

For office use only:			
Acknowledged		Previously Applied	
Grant Aid Awarded/Amount	Y / N	Chq No.	



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# Youth Services Grant 2025/26

## Application Form

(PLEASE COMPLETE ELECTRONICALLY)

<b>Organisation</b>			
Name of Organisation	Witney Food Revolution		
Registered Address (including Post Code)	Wesley Centre, Witney, Oxon, OX28 6HG		
Website	witneyfoodrevolution.com	Telephone	
Facebook/Twitter	www.facebook.com/ WitneyFoodRevolution	Email	info@witneyfoodrevolution.co m
Contact Name	Liliane Ariss		
Position in Organisation	Chair  (i.e. Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary)		
Registered Charity	<del>YES</del> /NO	Registration Number	
<p>What are the activities and/or aims of the organisation?</p> <p>Witney Food Revolution is a grassroots community initiative tackling food waste and food insecurity in Witney, Oxfordshire. We began in 2019 with just one self-serve fridge tucked into a small doorway and have over the years grown into a thriving, award-winning operation and a vital local lifeline.</p> <p>Thanks to our 70+ dedicated volunteers, WFR now collects and redistributes 130 tonnes of surplus food to over 28,000 visits per year.</p> <p>We have become the leading food resource in Witney and surrounding villages, offering not only environmental impact but also dignity, connection, and community support.</p> <p>However, our role extends beyond food: we are often the first point of contact for individuals experiencing greater hardship, who may not feel comfortable accessing formal support services but feel welcome at WFR due to our open-door, stigma-free approach.</p> <p>Over time, through recurring visits and relationship-building, we gain insight into wider community needs. From social isolation to food insecurity, from unemployment to a lack of basic life skills, we identify gaps in existing provision, especially for young people and families.</p>			

<b>Membership</b>	
How many members do you have?	Approximately 2,500 visitors per month
Approximately how many of your members live in Witney?	Estimated 1,000
Is membership restricted in any way?	No restrictions
What is your annual subscription, if any?	Nil
Are you affiliated to Oxfordshire Youth or other similar umbrella organisation? If so, which one?	No
Do you have safeguarding procedures in place?	Yes
Local venue/meeting place (if applicable)	Wesley Centre, High Street Methodist Church
<b>Grant-Funding</b>	
<p>Purpose for which the grant is required:</p> <p>The time has come for us to evolve from passive redistribution to proactive engagement. This pilot project will place food at the heart of our next chapter; not just as sustenance, but as a conduit for confidence, creativity, and community.</p> <p>We have observed that many young people and families we support lack basic cooking knowledge; not due to disinterest, but because the intergenerational transfer of skills such as scratch cooking, batch prepping, and meal planning has been gradually lost. The result is that while grateful for the ingredients we provide, many simply do not know how to use them effectively or affordably.</p> <p>We propose to start holding workshops and activities starting with a teen-focused food skills programme: a practical, welcoming, and community-rooted initiative that teaches the joys of home cooking, the value of resourcefulness, and the basics of preparing tasty, nutritious meals with whatever is available.</p> <p>Project Goals and Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Offer a safe and inclusive meeting place for young people to socialise, find support, and learn</li> <li>- Empower young people with basic cooking skills and food confidence, using food as a conduit</li> <li>- Reduce reliance on ultra-processed food via hands-on workshops; improve long-term wellbeing and independence</li> <li>- Create intergenerational connections through mentoring; provide pathways into volunteering and first employment, further training; nurture a culture of sustainability and community action</li> </ul> <p>Our existing relationships with Duke of Edinburgh programme participants, as well as with schools, local youth services, and family support groups, will allow us to engage participants meaningfully. Young people will not only learn how to cook, but also how to serve others, interact with different generations, and feel a sense of contribution and pride.</p> <p>We have seen this work in action. Through the DofE, our teen volunteers have shown remarkable transformation in confidence, communication, and aspiration. Many have continued with us long after their official requirements were met. Simultaneously, our elderly visitors have expressed delight in the presence and energy of young people—creating quiet community moments that benefit both groups.</p>	

Amount of grant applied for		£ 4,650
Has your organisation previously applied to the Town Council for a grant?		YES/ <del>NO</del>
If YES, please give details	We have received support in the past for the development of our Community Fridge	
Have you applied for a grant to any other body or organisation?		YES/ <del>NO</del>
If YES, please give details	We strive to ambitiously apply to all funds for which we may qualify.	
<b>Financial</b>		
Please enclose a copy of your latest audited accounts, a financial projection for the period following the balance sheet or a Business Plan if a new organisation.		
<b>Fundraising</b>		
<p>What fundraising events or activities will your organisation be <b>holding</b> this year?</p> <p>We have an ambitious plan to raise funds through various methods:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Grant Funding</li> <li>2. Community Fundraising &amp; Events We will expand our community fundraising programme through engaging, inclusive events that also raise WFR's visibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual Silent Auction &amp; Party: Our flagship fundraising event with music, auction items, and community celebration.</li> <li>- Themed Quiz Nights: Quarterly at local venues with small entry fees.</li> <li>- Community Café &amp; Socials: Donation-based coffee mornings run by volunteers, to raise both funds and social connection.</li> <li>- Pop-up events and challenges</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Corporate Support</li> <li>4. Public Giving Campaigns</li> <li>5. Crowdfunding &amp; Matched Giving</li> </ol>		

<b>General</b>																					
<p>Please provide or attach any additional information which may assist the Council in reaching its decision.</p> <p>Witney Food Revolution respectfully submits this application for £4,650 to support the launch of a transformative pilot project designed to nurture cooking skills, confidence, and community engagement among local teens.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Room hire for 50 weeks</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£2,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Construction of workbench (demonstration/teaching)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Printed materials &amp; certificates for participants</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social media outreach &amp; enrolment campaign</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Student aprons (reusable)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kitchen essentials (measuring jugs, spatulas, etc.)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reusable food storage (containers, bags)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Signage &amp; community-facing promotional materials</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Starter pantry ingredients (oil, spices, stock)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£100</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£4,650</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>WFR is a volunteer-led organisation made up of educators, mentors, health and social care professionals, and community organisers. We operate under a clear safeguarding policy, and the project has its own appointed safeguarding officer, who sits on the delivery committee.</p>		Room hire for 50 weeks	£2,500	Construction of workbench (demonstration/teaching)	£500	Printed materials & certificates for participants	£500	Social media outreach & enrolment campaign	£250	Student aprons (reusable)	£200	Kitchen essentials (measuring jugs, spatulas, etc.)	£200	Reusable food storage (containers, bags)	£200	Signage & community-facing promotional materials	£200	Starter pantry ingredients (oil, spices, stock)	£100	<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,650</b>
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<p>I certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I am authorised to make this application for Grant-aid.</p>																					
<p><b>Signed:</b>     Liliane Ariss</p>	<p><b>Date:</b>     26 June 2025</p>																				

*If posting, please return your completed application form to the address overleaf, for the attention of the TOWN CLERK*

For office use only:			
Acknowledged		Previously Applied	
Grant Aid Awarded/Amount	Y / N	Chq No.	

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# Youth Services Grant 2025/26

## Application Form

(PLEASE COMPLETE ELECTRONICALLY)

<b>Organisation</b>			
Name of Organisation	Witney Town Band – Training Band		
Registered Address (including Post Code)	[REDACTED]		
Website	<a href="https://www.witneytownband.org.uk">https://www.witneytownband.org.uk</a>	Telephone	[REDACTED]
Facebook/Twitter		Email	[REDACTED]
Contact Name	Eric Byers		
Position in Organisation	Treasurer (i.e. Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary)		
Registered Charity	NO	Registration Number	
<p>What are the activities and/or aims of the organisation?</p> <p>The Training Band of Witney Town Band plays a vital role in nurturing beginner and young musicians, and in many cases, it serves as an entry point into the main Witney Town Band. Designed for players at the early stages of learning a brass instrument, the Training Band offers a supportive and encouraging environment under the leadership of Ms Ali Howes. Players can develop their skills, build confidence, and gain experience playing as part of a group. With regular weekly rehearsals, the band helps players progress musically while fostering a strong sense of teamwork and community. As players improve, they are given the opportunity to move up to the Main Band, ensuring a smooth and natural transition. This progression path not only strengthens the Main Band but also ensures a sustainable future by continuously developing new talent from within our local community.</p>			



<b>Membership</b>	
How many members do you have?	18 regular players.
Approximately how many of your members live in Witney?	All are from our local community.
Is membership restricted in any way?	No. It is a community band, open to all.
What is your annual subscription, if any?	£40 per term, £120 pa.
Are you affiliated to Oxfordshire Youth or other similar umbrella organisation? If so, which one?	We pay membership to the Oxfordshire District Brass Band Association (ODDBA)
Do you have safeguarding procedures in place?	Yes, via Brass Band England (BBE)
Local venue/meeting place (if applicable)	High St Methodist Church, Witney.
<b>Grant-Funding</b>	
<p>Purpose for which the grant is required:</p> <p>Witney Town Training Band is seeking funding to purchase a new tuba, a vital instrument for any brass band. The tuba provides the essential bass foundation that underpins the sound of the entire ensemble, helping to create musical balance and depth. Without a strong bass section, the band cannot achieve the full, rich sound that defines traditional brass band music. Unfortunately, tubas are among the most expensive brass instruments and are often out of reach for young learners and their families.</p> <p>Our training Band plays a key role in developing young musicians and preparing them for progression into the main Witney Town Band. We have a strong track record of nurturing talented young tuba players, two of who have gone on to become core members of the senior band. To preserve this legacy and continue offering opportunities to aspiring players, we urgently need an additional tuba available for use. It will ensure that no interested learner is held back due to lack of access, and it will strengthen the band's overall musical quality.</p> <p>Support for this grant would directly benefit local youth, promote musical education, and help sustain the future of our community brass band.</p>	

Amount of grant applied for		£1,500.00
Has your organisation previously applied to the Town Council for a grant?		YES
If YES, please give details	The Training Band was supported with a £500 grant from Town Council in 2024, and £300 in 2022.	
Have you applied for a grant to any other body or organisation?		No
If YES, please give details		
<b>Financial</b>		
Please enclose a copy of your latest audited accounts, a financial projection for the period following the balance sheet or a Business Plan if a new organisation.		
<b>Fundraising</b>		
<p>What fundraising events or activities will your organisation be holding this year?</p> <p>The Training Band does not undertake its own fundraising activity, but we hope that the band will join the Main Band for a concert in the Corn Exchange later this year. Money raised will be shared equitably between the band accounts.</p>		

<b>General</b>	
<p>Please provide or attach any additional information which may assist the Council in reaching its decision.</p> <p>We have given careful thought as to which tuba to buy for Training Band use. In our experience, the cheaper “student” tubas (new price sub £1000) fail to provide the robustness required and are easily damaged, but “professional” models are far too expensive (often £5-8,000 per instrument). We believe the best purchase will be a good quality used instrument.</p> <p>We have identified a Boosey &amp; Hawkes Imperial model for sale by Rosehill instruments (The Old House, 64 London End, Beaconsfield, HP9 2JD). This is a professional Eb tuba, silver finish, 15-inch bell, serial no.585960, that would meet our specification. Cost £1500.</p> <p>See: <a href="https://www.rosehillinstruments.co.uk/c/461/pre-owned-tubas">https://www.rosehillinstruments.co.uk/c/461/pre-owned-tubas</a></p>	
<p>I certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I am authorised to make this application for Grant-aid.</p>	
<p>Signed:</p> <div style="background-color: black; width: 200px; height: 80px; margin-left: 50px;"></div>	<p>Date: 10/06/2025</p>

*If posting, please return your completed application form to the address overleaf, for the attention of the TOWN CLERK*

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Acknowledged		Previously Applied	
Grant Aid Awarded/Amount	Y / N	Chq No.	

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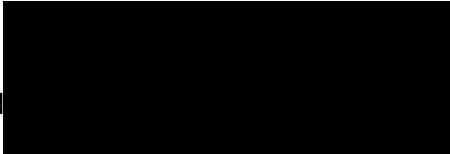


(PLEASE COMPLETE ELECTRONICALLY)

<b>Organisation</b>			
Name of Organisation	Yellow Submarine		
Registered Address (including Post Code)	12 Park End Street, Oxford OX1 1HH		
Website	<a href="http://www.yellowsubmarine.org.uk">www.yellowsubmarine.org.uk</a>	Telephone	01865236119
Facebook/Twitter	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ysubcharity">https://www.facebook.com/ysubcharity</a>	Email	<a href="mailto:Alice.margey@yellowsubmarine.org.uk">Alice.margey@yellowsubmarine.org.uk</a>
Contact Name	Alice Margey		
Position in Organisation	Grants & Trusts Fundraiser (i.e. Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary)		
Registered Charity	YES/NO	Registration Number	1136735
<p>What are the activities and/or aims of the organisation?</p> <p>Yellow Submarine is an award winning Oxfordshire charity that believes people with learning disabilities and autism deserve to live life to the full!</p> <p>We offer a variety of services to 11-18s and to adults with mild to moderate needs including social clubs, activity days, residential holidays and a traineeship. These projects increase confidence and independence in our members as well as provide respite for families and carers.</p> <p>We are well known in Witney, especially through our popular social enterprise cafe in the Windrush Leisure Centre.</p>			
<b>Membership</b>			
How many members do you have?		730 across Oxfordshire, young people and adult	

Approximately how many of your members live in Witney?	74 adults and young people, of which 19 are aged 11-18. Our Witney youth club attracts young people from surrounding villages too; in total 60 11-18s are on our Witney membership list.	
Is membership restricted in any way?	To individuals with mild to moderate learning disabilities and/or autism, aged 11 or above.	
What is your annual subscription, if any?	None	
Are you affiliated to Oxfordshire Youth or other similar umbrella organisation? If so, which one?	Yes, to Oxfordshire Youth and OSCP	
Do you have safeguarding procedures in place?	Yes	
Local venue/meeting place (if applicable)	Various, the main being the Children & Family Centre, but also Burwell Hall, the Methodist Church, the Scout Hut, The Leys, Windrush leisure centre, Rush and the Corn Exchange.	
<b>Grant-Funding</b>		
<p>Purpose for which the grant is required:</p> <p>Our Witney Youth Club summer activities, which directly support families with learning disabled children aged 11-18 in Witney and West Oxfordshire by giving families respite, and provide stimulating, fun activities for their children out and about in the local community, building their confidence and friendships. We will be organising nearly £2000-worth of activities, for groups of 12-16 young people each time. These costs are only for the activities, and exclude staff, volunteer, transport and overheads costs, which are covered by other funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treasure/Scavenger Hunt around Witney £50</li> <li>• Wheels for All/Windrush Bike Project - £80</li> <li>• Group Pizza making at Pizza Express in Witney - £180</li> <li>• Gaming workshop £300 (£150 room hire of Carterton Family Centre, plus £150 for the session ran by APCAM)</li> <li>• Adventure Plus - £400</li> <li>• Fat Squirrel Outdoor Adventure Company - £570</li> <li>• Sports Coaching sessions (in foc swimming pool/sports halls) - £240</li> </ul> <p>While we have suggested a grant of £1000 if possible, any contribution towards these costs would be gratefully received.</p>		
Amount of grant applied for	£1000	
Has your organisation previously applied to the Town Council for a grant?	YES/NO	

If YES, please give details		
Have you applied for a grant to any other body or organisation?		YES/NO
If YES, please give details	We constantly fundraise towards our activities from local and national grant funders, and are very pleased to accept support from fundraising events and individuals.	
<b>Financial</b>		
Please enclose a copy of your latest audited accounts, a financial projection for the period following the balance sheet or a Business Plan if a new organisation.		
<b>Fundraising</b>		
<p>What fundraising events or activities will your organisation be holding this year?</p> <p>We attend Witney Carnival every year; our members love to vote for who or what they are to represent within the theme of the parade! Further afield we have runners in the Oxford Half, plus schools, businesses and individuals support us through their own fundraising events or initiatives, and we are active participants in schools' Make A Difference (MAD) week. We are also a part of the charity Food Tent at Truck Festival, serving up delicious cheese toasties!</p> <p>Also, one of our young Witney members, Simmy, is a keen fundraiser for Yellow Sub - he enjoys our Youth Club and Activity Days in the holidays. In his spare time Simmy has started his own business, Buttercorn Press, making greeting cards which spread smiles to all that receive them! He is always coming up with new ideas and decided to raise funds for Yellow Submarine by making and selling jam jar posies to spread some joy over the Easter Holidays!</p>		
<b>General</b>		
Please provide or attach any additional information which may assist the Council in reaching its decision.		
<p>I certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I am authorised to make this application for Grant-aid.</p>		

Signed 	Date: 12 May 2025
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