



# WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

## Grant-aid to Local Organisations APPLICATION FORM

(PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM IN BLOCK CAPITALS)

(1) Your Organisation			
Name of Organisation		Oxfordshire Play Association (OPA)	
Registered Address*		Suite 7-03, Unit 7-8, Area C, Radley Road Industrial Estate Radley Road Abingdon, Oxon	
Post Code	OX14 3RY	Tel No.	07436 270267
Contact Name		Martin Gillett	
Position in Organisation		OPA Manager / Project Manager <small>(i.e. Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary)</small>	
Registered Charity	YES	Registration No.	1160320
<p><i>What are the activities and/or aims of the organisation:</i></p> <p>Vision = To improve lives through Play</p> <p>Mission Statement = To champion and to support the rights of all Children and Young People to have access to high quality, inclusive Play opportunities to improve physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing</p> <p>Purpose, Values and Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create Playful communities for Children and their Families</li> <li>• Raise awareness amongst parents and carers of the importance of Play in their Children's lives</li> <li>• Promote the importance of Play to Statutory, Corporate and Voluntary organisations</li> <li>• Increase the number of qualified Playworkers delivering high quality Play as part of a qualified workforce</li> <li>• Provide services and support to settings and partnerships that promote and influence Play and Playwork</li> </ul>			
(2) Membership			
How many members do you have?		We no longer operate a membership Scheme due to the administration costs involved	
Approximately how many of your members live in Witney?		N/A	
Is membership restricted in any way?		All of our projects and services offer both FREE Entrance and FREE Activities to ensure an Inclusion for ALL	

What is your annual subscription, if any?	N/A
Are you affiliated to a national organisation? If so, which one?	Play England
Local venue/meeting place	Countywide / Across Oxfordshire

### **(3) Grants**

Purpose for which the grant is required: Witney Play & Activity Day 2023

The event will be delivered on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 at Oxlease, Waddards Meadow.

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

From 2012 to 2022 we have delivered almost 130 events across Oxfordshire and beyond which have been attended by over 145,000 'guests'  
(Our 2020 Events were postponed due to Coronavirus Lockdowns / Restrictions)

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

These events were already becoming increasingly important with the savage cuts previously imposed on Children and Families services in Oxfordshire (including the closure of local Children's Centres and Youth Services) in terms of providing activities and information on services available to local families. These needs were further exacerbated by the issues caused by Covid-19.

For more than a year, children and their families across the UK were forced to spend time indoors, inactive and isolated from friends due to Covid-19 restrictions. It is not surprising that we have seen unprecedented increases in children's mental health problems and loneliness, alongside reduced physical activity.

In response, child psychologists, paediatricians and educators have independently and urgently called for play to be central to children's recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, and many others agree.

In addition to Austerity and Covid, Families now face an unprecedented Cost of Living Crisis.

Play is vital to children's physical and mental health and development, and it happens when children and young people follow their own ideas and interests, in their own way, and for their own reasons. Play provides opportunities for social interaction and physical activity, it can reduce children's stress and promote wellbeing and is a dynamic facilitator of creativity. Importantly, social connection and play offer myriad learning opportunities and positively support children's academic attainment and learning.

All of our Playday events are very well received and our events in Witney are always very well attended.

These events were extremely popular before the Covid pandemic but are more needed now than ever as Families and Communities continue to recover from numerous Lockdowns and Restrictions which have had a detrimental effect on the Physical and Mental Wellbeing of everyone

We are the only organisation in Oxfordshire that delivers large scale Community events like these offering both FREE Entrance and FREE Activities so that we ensure an inclusion for ALL

Our project / event will have the following key, Aims and Objectives;

For Children & Young People

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

For Parents / Carers

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

For Communities

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

Amount of grant applied for	<b>£1,000</b>
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Has your organisation previously applied to the Town Council for a grant?	<b>YES</b>
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If YES please give details	2022 = Witney Play & Activity Day (Burwell Meadow) = £1,000 2021 = Witney Play & Activity Day (Oxlease) = £1,000 2019 = Witney Play & Activity Day (West Witney S&SC) = £1,000 2018 = Witney Play & Activity Day (The Leys) = £850 2017 = Witney Play & Activity Day (King George V Playing Field) = £500
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Have you applied for a grant to any other body or organisation?	<b>YES</b>
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If YES please give details	West Oxon DC (Community Activities Grant) = £500 Cottsway Community Fund = £1,000 Witney Town Hall Charity = £1,000 Grants & Trusts = £1,000
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**(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?

We do not hold public, fundraising events although we do offer a monthly donation scheme through 'Friends of OPA' and the Council Charitable Lotteries

We fundraise through Grants and Trusts and via Contacts

**(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: M Gillett (submitted electronically)

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023

*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.	