



WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Grant-aid to Local Organisations APPLICATION FORM

(PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM IN BLOCK CAPITALS)

(1) Your Organisation			
Name of Organisation		Witney Town Band (Training Band)	
Correspondence Address		[REDACTED]	
Post Code		Tel No.	
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	
Contact Name		Jon Warwick	
Position in Organisation		Treasurer (i.e. Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary)	
Registered Charity		NO	Registration No.
<p><i>What are the activities and/or aims of the organisation:</i></p> <p>Witney Town Band (WTB) is a community brass band with approx. 30 members and welcome all new players. However, players do need to have reasonable proficiency with their instrument and a key source of new players comes from the Training Band. This is a small band (currently approx. 10 players) under the expert guidance of Mrs A Howes, and as players develop and mature, they progress to the main band when suitable, and continue their musical journey. The training band is therefore a vital source of new players.</p> <p>The aim of Training Band is to teach relative newcomers to brass the essentials of their wind instruments and ensemble playing. The band rehearses for 1 hour per week, term time, in the main hall of the High Street Methodist Church. Unlike the main band, the Training band cannot generate funds through performance and so a nominal charge is made for band membership.</p>			
(2) Membership			
How many members do you have?		10	
Approximately how many of your members live in Witney?		Almost all members live in Witney or in the surrounding area	
Is membership restricted in any way?		No	
What is your annual subscription, if any?		£35 per pupil, per term.	

Are you affiliated to a national organisation? If so, which one?	We pay membership to the Oxfordshire District Brass Band Association (ODDBA)	
Local venue/meeting place	Witney Methodist Hall	
(3) Grants		
Purpose for which the grant is required:		
Specifically:		
(1) The band wish to purchase a new percussion instrument called a “Mark Tree”, which consists of a row of chimes that adds a colourful effect to musical pieces during performance. Cost £110.		
(2) The band needs additional “Witney Town Band” banners for music stands. The training band currently borrows “WTB” banners from the main band, and unfortunately, we are already short of main band banners with many players going without during performance. Stand banners provide an excellent visual impression and advertises that the band is from Witney and that we represent the community. Most suppliers charge £30-£40 per banner, and we require an additional 10-12 for the band.		
Plus, more generally:		
(3) To help finance the routine functioning of the band, and the grant will supplement the income received from membership fees. There are fixed costs relating to Methodist Hall rental, and expenses for the Musical Director. Variable costs relate to music purchase, competition entry, and instrument purchase & maintenance.		
(4) Many of the training band instruments need service & repair. There are certain instruments (for example, a student Eb bass) that require over-hall. The membership fees collected are not sufficient to allow this.		
Amount of grant applied for	£500	
Has your organisation previously applied to the Town Council for a grant?	Yes	
If YES please give details	£300 awarded in winter 2023	
Have you applied for a grant to any other body or organisation?	NO	
If YES please give details		
(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.

As a community band we do not have audited accounts. Neither do we intend to generate profit, or file tax returns. We are not a registered charity. We are not a business. We do produce a Treasurer's annual report that is made available to all members at our AGM (attached).

The **Training Band** is a separate entity to the Witney Town **Main Band**, with a separate bank account.

(5) Fundraising

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

Nil

(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.

WTB (**Main Band**) does not charge subscriptions to its members but relies on generating sufficient income through performance. A community band that is free to join, participate in and enjoy is an important part of its ethos. However, the **Training Band** is unable to do this, but is closely linked to the Main Band in some respects (it shares an insurance policy), and players will progress to main band as their skills develop. The financial constraints of the Covid era have required the Training Band to become more financially self-sufficient, since regular performance income for Main Band fell to zero for over 2 years. The Training Band now pays for its share of rehearsal venue hire and instrument service & maintenance. Whilst wishing to keep membership fees as affordable as possible, we seek external grant funding to help with the operation of this community band.

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: Jon Warwick

Date: 25/1/24

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.	