



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 8-05, Unit 8, Area C, Radley Road Industrial Estate, Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxon.	
Post Code	OX14 3RY	Tel No.	██████████
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>The Oxfordshire Play Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Registered Charity Number 1160320) and has been offering a Countywide Service across Oxfordshire since 1974.</p> <p>Our Vision is to 'Improve Lives Through Play'</p> <p>Our Mission Statement is to 'Champion and to support the rights of all Children and Young People to have access to high quality, inclusive, Play opportunities to improve their Physical, Mental and Spiritual wellbeing'</p> <p>Our Purpose, Values and Objectives are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create Playful communities for Children and their Families• Raise awareness amongst parents and carers of the importance of Play in their Children's lives• Promote the importance of Play to Statutory, Corporate and Voluntary organisations• Increase the number of qualified Playworkers delivering high quality Play as part of a qualified workforce• Provide services and support to settings and partnerships that promote and influence Play and Playwork <p>We deliver 3 main strands of work;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Play Projects (Playday, Street Play, Stay & Play, Saturdads, Play Rangers, Playful Woodlands, Therapeutic Playwork, Junior Youth Clubs etc)• Play Training• Support Services (Advice, Guidance, Outreach, Partnerships and Networking)			

(2) Membership

How many members do you have?	We no longer offer a membership service 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 are open and accessible to ALL and ALL of our projects and services are offered FREE of charge to service users
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	Various across Oxfordshire

(3) Grants

Purpose for which the grant is required: Witney Play & Activity Day 2025

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

From 2012 to 2024 inclusive we have delivered over 150 events across Oxfordshire which have been attended by over 160,000 '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.

As part of this project / these events we always deliver an event for Witney which is always very well received, in 2025 this is scheduled to take place on Thursday 7th August at Burwell Meadow

As in previous years we will work with a wide range of local organisations in both the planning and delivery of this project / event

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

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

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

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

Our project has the following key, aims and objectives;

For Children & Young People

- 1) Promote Positive Behaviours & Activities (reduce anti-social behaviour)
- 2) Promote Increased Levels of Physical Activity
- 3) Promote a Healthy Lifestyle (healthy choices)
- 4) Promote Healthy Weight Management (obesity reduction)

5) Provide information on services and activities to promote a sense of Wellbeing and Inclusion

For Parents / Carers

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

For Communities

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

Amount of grant applied for

£1,000 (from a total project budget of £4,500)

Has your organisation previously applied to the Town Council for a grant?

YES

If YES please give details

Witney Town Council have kindly supported our Annual Witney Playday for many years making it a fixture in the local events calendar

Have you applied for a grant to any other body or organisation?

YES

If YES please give details

WODC / WestHive / Crowdfunder
OCC Councillor Priority Fund
Cottsway Housing
Witney Town Hall Charity
Blenheim Bursary

(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?

Friends of OPA Donation Scheme, Council Charitable Lotteries, Tenders and Contracts and Grants and Trusts

(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 (signed electronically)

Date: 3rd January 2025

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.	