



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	
Correspondence Address			
Post Code		Tel No.	
Contact Name		Eric Byers	
Position in Organisation		Treasurer	
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 approximately 30 members and welcomes all new players. We are an enthusiastic group of local, amateur musicians who rehearse for two hours every Tuesday evening in the Witney Methodist Hall. We play a wide repertoire of music, from traditional Brass Band fare to the contemporary, and popular movie themes to pop pieces. The focus is always for enjoyment and to entertain an audience, although we also rehearse to master technical challenges including competition test pieces. While competition has an important role in improving playing ability, the main aim of the band is to provide entertainment, and we are proud to represent the local community.</p>			
(2) Membership			
How many members do you have?		30	
Approximately how many of your members live in Witney?		Almost all members live in Witney or in the surrounding areas.	
Is membership restricted in any way?		No	
What is your annual subscription, if any?		Nil	

Are you affiliated to a national organisation? If so, which one?	We pay membership to the Oxfordshire District Brass Band Association (ODDBA) & Brass Bands England	
Local venue/meeting place	Witney Methodist Hall	
(3) Grants		
Purpose for which the grant is requested:		
<p>In November of 2024 & 2025, the council graciously allowed the Witney Town Band and Witney Town Junior Band to play a joint concert in the Corn Exchange free of charge to the band. Our ticket and raffle sales netted the bands an additional £400, which was a great success. Funds the band receive go to covering general expenses including rehearsal space hire at High Street Methodist Church, Musical Director's fees, insurances, instrument repair & purchase and new music.</p> <p>We submit this grant application for the council's consideration for another subsidised date for use of The Corn Exchange for a fundraising concert – date tbc.</p>		
Amount of grant applied for	Free use of The Corn Exchange	
Has your organisation previously applied to the Town Council for a grant?	YES	
If YES please give details	2025 annual grant application for £660 was received, 2025 use of The Corn Exchange was approved & the Witney Town Junior Band received £1,500 for a new tuba.	
Have you applied for a grant to any other body or organisation?	NO	
If YES please give details		
(4) Financial		
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>As a community society we do not have audited accounts. We do not intend to generate profit, or file tax returns. We are not a business.</p> <p>We do produce a Treasurer's annual report that is made available to all members at our AGM (attached).</p>		
(5) Fundraising		

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

We maintain a schedule of paid performances for both public and private functions.

(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 does not charge subscriptions to its members (which is a rarity amongst brass bands), we rely solely on generating sufficient income through performance. A community band which is free to join, participate in and enjoy is an important part of its ethos. We are a band which loves to perform, be it local fetes, community events, dinner nights, or our own shows. The band is currently receiving fewer paid performance opportunities as compared to previous years, which we believe is largely due to present-day budgetary pressures. As the band's treasurer, I have some concern we need a more comfortable working excess to meet unexpected costs and the committee tries to do all it can to optimise the band's income. One obvious factor is to ensure we are adequately paid for any performances we undertake. £250 per local event is our commercial rate which we feel is fair and reasonable. The annual grant from WTC has an expectation we will perform at 3 WTC events during the year, so our annual grant application reflects this.

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: 21/02/2025

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.	