



WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Grant-aid to Local Organisations APPLICATION FORM

(PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM IN BLOCK CAPITALS)

(1) Your Organisation			
Name of Organisation		Sounds of Support	
Registered Address*		N/A	
Post Code	N/A	Tel No.	
Contact Name		David Ashbourne	
Position in Organisation		Event Organiser – Sounds of Support (i.e. Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary)	
Registered Charity	No. Sounds of Support is the local community fundraising event. Tough To Talk, the beneficiary charity, is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation, charity number 1202395.	Registration No.	Tough To Talk charity number 1202395.
<i>What are the activities and/or aims of the organisation:</i> Sounds of Support is an annual community live-music event in Witney which brings local people together while raising awareness of mental health and male suicide prevention and raising funds for Tough To Talk, registered charity 1202395. The event is organised voluntarily and is intended to become a long-standing fixture in the local community. Previous Sounds of Support events were held in 2024 and 2025 and raised approximately £2,100 for Tough To Talk on each occasion through admission tickets, raffle tickets, merchandise sales and donations. The 2026 event will take place on Saturday 21 November 2026. Alongside fundraising, the event gives local residents an accessible opportunity to come together, talk about mental health more openly, learn about available support and reduce stigma around seeking help.			
(2) Membership			
How many members do you have?		Sounds of Support is not a membership organisation. It is a volunteer-led annual community event.	
Approximately how many of your members live in Witney?		Not applicable as there is no formal membership.	
Is membership restricted in any way?		The event is intended for the local community and is not restricted to men.	
What is your annual subscription, if any?		None / Not applicable.	
Are you affiliated to a national organisation? If so, which one?		No. Sounds of Support is an independent local community fundraising event supporting Tough To	

	Talk, registered charity 1202395.
Local venue/meeting place	Studio Se7en, Ave Three, Station Ln, Witney OX28 4BQ

(3) Grants

Purpose for which the grant is required:

Sounds of Support had always relied upon volunteers: the goodwill of local people and businesses to make the event happen each year. To this day not a penny has been spent on the event to make it happen which is truly flabbergasting in regards to how popular it has been and how much work is involved to organise it. 100% of the money raised at SOS goes straight to the charity to help them continue their work. If we are successful in our grant application, the whole sum will go towards the total raised helping to potentially make 2026 the most successful one yet.

Amount of grant applied for

£200.00

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

NO

If YES please give details

N/A

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.

N/A

(5) Fundraising

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

Our principal fundraising activity in 2026 is Sounds of Support on Saturday 21 November in Witney. Funds will be raised through admission tickets, raffle tickets, merchandise sales, donations and support from local businesses. The event is organised voluntarily. Previous events in 2024 and 2025 each raised approximately £2,100 for Tough To Talk.

(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.

Sounds of Support is a locally organised community music event taking place in Witney on Saturday 21 November 2026. It has already been held successfully in 2024 and 2025, raising approximately £2,100 for Tough To Talk on each occasion. The event is designed to be more than a fundraising night: it brings local residents together through live music, creates a visible and approachable opportunity to talk about mental health, reduces stigma and helps people understand where support is available.

Local involvement is central to the event. At Studio 7, local residents will be able to attend, and the event will involve many volunteers including an organiser, door men/women, musicians, sound engineers and photographers. In 2024 the event attracted approximately 120 people and in 2025 approximately 160

people. For 2026 we expect approximately 240 attendees as we have secured a venue with a larger capacity.

There is a clear local need for accessible mental-health awareness and earlier support. Oxfordshire's refreshed suicide and self-harm prevention work identifies men aged 30-59, particularly those experiencing relationship difficulties, as a priority group. The Witney Central Community Insight Profile also identifies mental-health issues and loneliness as recurring local concerns and notes confusion around mental-health provision. West Oxfordshire District Council already lists Tough To Talk within its local mental-health support information as a signposting resource for men and boys.

Tough To Talk is a UK male suicide prevention charity working upstream of crisis. Its mission is to reduce male suicide by breaking the silence on the pain men carry before it becomes crisis. It is not a crisis service. It helps workplaces, charities and communities recognise distress earlier, reach in sooner and support men before crisis develops, while signposting people towards appropriate existing services.

We do not currently have a reliable figure for how many individual Witney residents have used Tough To Talk resources, and we do not want to overstate local reach. The strongest measurable local impact for this application is therefore the number of Witney residents attending and participating in Sounds of Support itself, together with the awareness, signposting and community engagement generated through the event.

The proposed grant would make a direct difference locally by helping fundraise for Tough To Talk who already have a foothold and presence in Witney through this event as well as their presence at the Witney Music Festival in 2025, a Wellness event at Langdale Hall and a free training session run by the charities founder. It would help Sounds of Support continue growing as a recurring Witney community event. The event supports the Town Council's aims of an engaged and supported community and an empowered community by bringing people together around a serious health issue in a positive, accessible setting.

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: D S Ashbourne

Date: 22/09/2026

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.	