



WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Grant-aid to Local Organisations APPLICATION FORM

(PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM IN BLOCK CAPITALS)

(1) Your Organisation

Name of Organisation	VOLUNTEER LINK UP (WEST OXFORDSHIRE)		
Registered Address*	10 WESLEY WALK, WITNEY, OXFORDSHIRE		
Post Code	OX28 6ZJ	Tel No.	OFFICE 01993 776277
Contact Name	ELIZABETH JONES		
Position in Organisation	FUNDING MANAGER <small>(i.e. Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary)</small>		
Registered Charity	YES	Registration No.	1133530

What are the activities and/or aims of the organisation:

VOLUNTEER LINK UP IS THE VOLUNTEER CENTRE FOR WEST OXFORDSHIRE. WE HAVE 3 PROJECTS:

1. WE RUN A GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME WHERE WE SUPPORT THE VULNERABLE AND ELDERLY TO LIVE AS INDEPENDENTLY AS POSSIBLE THROUGH OUR 3 PROGRAMMES A) TRANSPORTING PEOPLE TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS WITH OUR VOLUNTEER DRIVERS B) A BEFRIENDING SERVICE WHERE OUR VOLUNTEERS SPEND TIME WITH OUR CLIENTS AND RUN ERRANDS LIKE SHOPPING AND PICKING UP PRESCRIPTIONS C) A PRACTICAL TASKS SERVICE WHERE OUR VOLUNTEERS DO DIY AND GARDENING JOBS AROUND THE HOME.

DESPITE COVID-19 WE HAVE ADAPTED OUR SERVICES TO ENABLE THIS SUPPORT TO CONTINUE SAFELY. WE ARE ALSO PROVIDING ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO THE WITNEY FRIDGE AT THIS TIME, AS OUR VOLUNTEER DRIVERS ARE DELIVERING FOOD TO 25 VULNERABLE FAMILIES AROUND WITNEY.

2. WE WORK WITH AGE UK OXFORDSHIRE, AS PART OF THE COMMUNITY INFORMATION NETWORK, TO SUPPORT EXISTING GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEMES AND DEVELOP NEW GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEMES TO DEVELOP. WE ARE CURRENTLY SUPPORTING THE SCHEMES TO ADAPT TO NEWS WAYS OF OPERATING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC, AND WORKING WITH GROUPS THAT HAVE BEEN SET UP AS A RESULT OF COVID-19 TO HELP THEM WORK EFFECTIVELY WITH VOLUNTEERS.
3. WE SUPPORT WEST OXFORDSHIRE CHARITIES BY LINKING THEM WITH VOLUNTEERS AND PROVIDING BEST PRACTICE ADVICE.

(2) Membership

How many members do you have?	WE CURRENTLY OPERATE WITH 4 PART-TIME MEMBERS OF STAFF AND 212 VOLUNTEERS SERVING 950 CLIENTS
Approximately how many of your members live in Witney?	126 clients and 59 volunteers live in Witney
Is membership restricted in any way?	NO. ACCESS TO OUR SERVICES IS BASED ON NEED.
What is your annual subscription, if any?	THERE IS NO SUBSCRIPTION
Are you affiliated to a national organisation? If so, which one?	NO. WE WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SEVERAL ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL AND AGE UK OXFORDSHIRE
Local venue/meeting place	OUR OFFICES ARE BASED IN THE METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE IN WITNEY AND IN NORMAL (NON-COVID) CIRCUMSTANCES VOLUNTEERS AND CLIENTS ARE WELCOME TO VISIT OUR OFFICES.

(3) Grants

Purpose for which the grant is required:

THE GRANT WOULD BE PUT TOWARDS THE COSTS OF LINKING OUR VOLUNTEERS WITH THE CLIENTS WHO NEED THEIR HELP. OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE CLIENT'S NEEDS AND THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE VOLUNTEERS MEET THAT NEED IS DONE ON THE TELEPHONE. THIS COSTS AROUND £3000 ANNUALLY.

THIS YEAR WE HAVE HAD THE ADDED COSTS OF PROVIDING PPE FOR OUR VOLUNTEER DRIVERS.

REQUESTS FOR OUR SERVICES ROSE BY 20% IN 2020 COMPARED TO 2019.

Amount of grant applied for	£500
Has your organisation previously applied to the Town Council for a grant?	YES
If YES please give details	£500 DONATED IN 2019
Have you applied for a grant to any other body or organisation?	YES
If YES please give details	WE HAVE APPLIED TO THE DISTRICT COUNCIL, COUNTY COUNCILLORS, CHARITABLE TRUSTS AND THE NATIONAL LOTTERY TO ENABLE US TO CONTINUE OUR SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT, BUT WE VERY MUCH DEPEND ON THE SUPPORT OF TOWN AND DISTRICT PARISH COUNCILS TO ALLOW US TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE OUR MUCH-NEEDED SERVICE. FUNDRAISING, IN A MORE GENERAL WAY, HAS BEEN CURTAILED BY THE CORONAVIRUS. WE ARE CURRENTLY PUTTING IN PLACE MORE ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR WORK.

(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.

Attached

(5) Fundraising

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

AS A RESULT OF THE RESTRICTIONS RESULTING FROM COVID-19 WE ARE UNABLE TO HOLD OUR NORMAL FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES. WE ARE LOOKING AT HOW WE MAKE THE MOST OF WEB-BASED FUNDRAISING INCLUDING ADDING A DONATE FUNCTION TO OUR WEBSITE, INCREASING THE PUBLICITY AROUND OPPORTUNITIES SUCH AS EASY-FUNDRAISING, AND LOOKING AT INNOVATIVE YET T SENSITIVE WAYS TO PROVIDE FAMILIES WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE INVOLVED IN LEGACY FUNDRAISING.

(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: 

Date: 6th November 2020

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.	