

To: Nicky Cayley

Subject: Witney Town Band - grant application 2021

Dear Nicky

I hope all is well with you all at Town Council and that you are managing to weather the storm that this pandemic has thrown us? Please pass on our very best wishes from all in the band.

I have not contacted you concerning a 2021 £500 grant application - since the band had not been meeting in person and not performing since March last year, it didn't seem right. However, we have now recommenced rehearsal this month, and we have started paying our venue hire fees to the High Street Methodist Church once again. We are turning our attention towards paid performance and we are trying hard to get some dates in the diary.

Is a grant available for the band for 2021? It will help significantly with our cashflow if I am able to submit an application, and I would be most grateful if you could let me know if this would be considered favourably.

With all good wishes

Yours sincerely

Jon

Jon Warwick

Treasurer, Witney Town Band

From: Jon Warwick

To: Democracy

Subject: Re: Witney Town Band - Grant Application

Thank you so much Simon. Please can you forward this to Committee as a supporting statement for our £500 grant application 2021:

Sirs/Ma'ams:

As treasurer of Witney Town Band I am extremely grateful if the Finance Committee would consider a £500 grant for our band this current year (2021). We are acutely aware that the pandemic has produced exceptional financial times, many businesses are struggling or have stopped trading, and there has been significant personal hardship. As a community band we have also been affected, but we are extremely proud to have continued regular contact with each other virtually via conferencing platforms such as "Zoom", and also produced music together in ways that have been new to us all. Thankfully, all band members have stayed well, and we have not had a single band member drop out from the band in our almost 17 months of live-playing absence. This speaks for the commitment and dedication of the WTB musicians; banding, and its friendship, is part of our lives. And we are extremely proud to represent Witney.

In July, the band returned to rehearsal together in person, as regulations allowed. This immediately triggers a financial commitment that had been absent during the lockdown phases of the pandemic - if the band doesn't meet, it essentially doesn't exist, and requires minimal income. Now rehearsal has recommenced, we need to meet costs such as venue hire, musical director, new music, and other Covid-specific items... and this has a £250-300 per month cost. We have always prided ourselves that we are a community band, free-to-join for all, and provide the equipment and means for musicians to flourish. This cost is met through performance.

We currently have under £1500 in our band account. It is vital that we have paid-performance opportunity this Autumn and Winter, and we are now extremely reliant, more than ever, on a profitable Christmas season. But right now, we have minimal events in the diary for any future paid performance. We remain extremely hopeful that the band will be booked to perform, and we are rehearsing hard to be prepared for any opportunity that arises. But unless we perform, then Witney Town Band will be out of funds by early Spring next year.

We are optimistic that the band has a secure future and that we will soon turn the corner with bookings for paid performance. As treasurer, I am perhaps more anxious than others for this to happen!

I hope that I have managed to explain why a £500 grant to Witney Town Band will be immensely welcome this year, and we are very grateful to Committee for their support.

With kind regards

Jon Warwick
Treasurer, Witney Town Band