

Barrow upon Soar Parish Council's Policy on Grants under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972

This Policy sets out the Parish Council's position and procedure with regard to awarding s137 grants

Adopted 5th April 2022 Minute REF 140

'Power of local authorities to incur expenditure for certain purposes not otherwise authorised.'

'(1)A local authority may, subject to the provisions of this section (137), incur expenditure which in their opinion is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants'

Local Government Act 1972

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 section 137, Barrow upon Soar Parish Council has the power to set aside a sum of money each year which can be applied for by local organisations for projects which will be of benefit to residents within the parish of Barrow upon Soar. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) sets an appropriate sum per elector annually to determine the funding available. The limit for 2023– 24 is £9.93 per elector per annum.

This document sets out the Parish Council's policy and procedure for grants and donations under Section 137 of the above Act with its aim of ensuring that all of its award-making activity is open, transparent, fair and supports local organisations.

The Parish Council's awards are open to voluntary and community groups.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

To be eligible for the award of a grant under Section 137 an organisation must:

1. be established for charitable, benevolent, social, cultural, recreational or philanthropic purposes
2. have a constitution, or set of rules, which define its aims, objectives and operational procedures
3. be able to provide a copy of its latest annual accounts and be able to demonstrate that the accounts are checked and signed by a person independent of the group.

WHAT CAN BE FUNDED?

1. the project should be something which makes the local community a better place in which to live, work or visit
2. it should benefit people who live in the parish
3. there must be clear evidence that local people support the project and/or are involved in carrying it out
4. each group may only make one application per financial year.

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT ELIGIBLE

1. Individuals or projects which improve or benefit privately owned land or property
2. Organisations which support or oppose any political party
3. Organisations that discriminate on the grounds of sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion and belief, age.
4. Organisations or establishments for whom Central Government, Health Authorities, County or District Councils are the appropriate statutory funder.
5. projects which have already been completed or will have been completed by the time the grant is made.

CONDITIONS OF SUPPORT

The Parish Council may make the award of any grant subject to all or some of the following conditions.

1. In order to fully understand your project or activity, Parish Councillors may wish to visit your project or activity, prior to it commencing. They may also wish to conduct a site visit once your funded project is underway.
2. As a minimum, you will write to confirm receipt of the cheque for audit purposes.
3. Funding must only be used for the purpose agreed with the Parish Council and if the monies are not spent on the items agreed, they must be returned.
4. Funding must be spent within the financial year awarded and cannot be added wholly or partly to your reserves.
5. If your project costs are more than you anticipated on your application, any shortfall must be met by you.
6. The Parish Council would ask that you acknowledge its support in your publications, publicity and annual reports.

WHEN TO APPLY

Applications are discussed at Full Council Parish Council meetings held on the first Tuesday of each month Applications will need to be received 7 days prior to the meeting. All applications should be sent to the Clerk either via email or post, please see the contact details above. You are welcome to join the meeting to present/discuss your application. All groups will be treated equally. If an organisation has had a grant previously, they are not guaranteed to receive financial support again, but are not excluded from applying again in a different financial year. A new application will be required each time.

HOW WILL DECISIONS BE MADE?

Decisions will be made by Barrow upon Soar Parish Council with its decision being final. Due to S137 rules and regulations the Parish Council may not be able to fund all projects. Due account will be taken of the extent to which funding has been sought or secured from other sources or the applicant's own fund-raising activities.

HOW TO APPLY

Application forms are available from the Parish Council office or to download from our website or you can apply to the Clerk for an application form by writing to clerk@barrowpc.org.uk or calling 01509 416016.