

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL
CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

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Financial Grants Policy

Revised and adopted by Council: 10th February 2020

Town Mayor – Councillor K Jones JP

Signed:

Guidance for Members:

The Council is empowered to distribute grants under:

- s137 of the Local Government Act 1972.¹
- Power of Well Being, s2 Local Government Act 2000 and s126 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.²
- Other powers including the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.³
- It is unlawful to award grants to individuals under s137 but may be given under the Power of Well Being. All applications for funding must conform to legislation.
- The Welsh Assembly reserved powers to impose limitations on the Power of Well Being and this is effectively the amount that can be spent under this power which is limited to the same criteria used to calculate the amount that can be spent under s137.⁴

Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council makes grant funding available to all local associations in Nantyglo and Blaina and sets aside annually agreed amounts as part of its annual budget. As grants are made out of money provided by the council tax payers of Nantyglo and Blaina, the Council has a responsibility to satisfy itself that grants will provide benefit to the local community.

Guidelines for the consideration of grant applications:

¹ A local authority may incur expenditure which in the members' opinion will "be in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, some or all of the inhabitants." It cannot therefore be given to an individual.

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Schedule 2 amended this power to state that the benefit obtained must be commensurate with the expenditure incurred. The Council must therefore consider whether the expenditure is reasonable in relation to the benefit derived therefrom.

s137 also enables the Council to give grants to National Charities and contribute to public appeals made by Mayors and Chairs of Principal Authorities.

² The Power of Well Being enables councils to do anything that is aimed at promoting and improving the environmental, economic or social well-being of its area.

³ s19 of this Act enables a Council to spend money to promote and provide recreational facilities and give grants to organisations providing such facilities.

⁴ The amount for 2018-2019 is £7.86 x the number of electors in a council area.

- Members will have to declare a personal interest in any organisation in which he/she is involved.
- Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council will only make grants to bona fide volunteering associations and organisation and / or individuals.
- Grants will only be made to associations based in Nantyglo and Blaina or to those which make a provision or are of benefit to Nantyglo and Blaina.
- Applications from organisations based outside of Nantyglo & Blaina but with membership consisting of persons from Nantyglo & Blaina will be considered but evidence may be required (e.g. names and addresses).
- All grant applications must be submitted in a written format, this includes e-mail applications. In all cases, only requests made via a completed Town Council application form will be considered.
- Each association must specify the reason for the grant application and supply additional information as applicable either to Finance and General Purposes Committee or the Ordinary meeting of the Town Council.
- All projects must acknowledge Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council's financial contribution. If the association's application is successful they must agree to indicate the sponsorship from Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council on their literature, i.e. Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council's logo included on the association's headed paper or in a match programme/poster, website banner.
- The Town Council will request in the letter to successful grant applicants that their support is recognised by participation in Town Council Events
- Only one grant will be given to an association in each financial year.
- Grants will not be awarded to individuals or to regional or national charities unless it is for a specific project in the Nantyglo & Blaina area where there are obvious benefits to the Council's area.
- The organisation or group should supply information that the Town Council requests regarding the impact of the project on the Town Council's area.
- Organisations which apply for grants must demonstrate that the awarded money is going towards a specific project and not just for capital gain.

- No grant will be awarded to or for any commercial venture or private gain or business activity.
- The application pack will consist of an application form and a Guidance for Applicants.

As of May 2018, the proposed authorised grant amounts are: £25, £50, £75 & £100. The amount of the grant award will be at the discretion of the Town Council. In order to provide a more accountable and fair system, it is proposed that the following criteria be considered:

To be considered for **£100**:

- A charity or voluntary organisation that is of significant benefit to our community (Nantyglo and Blaina).

To be considered for **£75**:

- A charity or voluntary organisation that benefits our community (Nantyglo and Blaina).

To be considered for **£50**:

- A group of individuals doing well in Nantyglo and / or Blaina (including the promotion of Nantyglo & Blaina in a wider area). This is subject to proof provided of the benefit for Nantyglo & Blaina.

To be considered for **£25**:

- Can be a national charity or voluntary organisation that is of general benefit to our community (Nantyglo and Blaina).

Please note that an application will not automatically qualify for the above amounts but will be considered on an individual basis at the discretion of the Town Council. The above criteria are for guidelines only.

Guidance for Applicants:

Please read this carefully before completing your application.

To be successful, the applicant must:

- Be a charity or voluntary organisation or individual acting for the wider benefit of the local community in Nantyglo & Blaina.

A project must:

- Address a community issue or support a local community initiative and/or personal initiative which provide benefits to the local community.

Successful applications:

1. Applications are welcomed from groups including: local community, self-help or voluntary groups and charities (including local branches of national charities) or individuals acting for the benefit of the local community, whose primary focus falls easily into one of the following categories:

- a) Children/ Education, e.g. school groups
- b) Health and wellbeing
- c) Arts and Culture, e.g. community music festivals
- d) Environment, e.g. promoting a healthy/clean environment
- e) Elderly
- f) Active lifestyles, e.g. encouraging sport/fitness/exercise

2. An independent reference may be required for applications. We strongly advise that you obtain permission from your chosen referee before providing their details.

Exclusions:

1. Groups other than community, self-help and voluntary groups.
2. Groups which use their surplus for the benefit of an individual.
3. Overseas charities.

Excluded activities:

1. Non-community projects
2. Overseas activities

3. Religious Activities (unless evidence can be provided that other community activities are provided e.g. playgroups or lunch clubs etc.)
4. Core activities of statutory services – Statutory services seeking grants for core activities such as a school library or essential hospital equipment are excluded. However applications relating to special projects for the benefit of local communities will be considered.
5. Party political activity – Applications to support fundraising, campaigning or any other activity associated with any political party will not be accepted.
6. Requests to assist with accommodation are excluded.
7. Multiple applications – Only one for the same event or one application per person/organisation may be supported in a calendar year.
8. Ongoing running costs – The Town Council will not be liable for any additional running costs incurred as a result of purchases funded by any grant awarded.

Grants Terms and Conditions:

- Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council may ask you for extra information to support your application.
- The amount we provide is final and we will not increase it if you overspend or have worked out your costs incorrectly.
- If you do not spend the full grant provided, you must return any unspent money to us within six months of receipt of the grant.
- Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council will not be responsible for any expenditure (on assets, equipment, or your project) you have incurred before you receive our letter confirming details of the grant provided.
- From time to time, Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council may use relevant details in any publicity about the grant. We may also choose to advertise the award of community grants on our website or in the press, please advise if you are unwilling to agree to this.
- Subject to our approval you may have the opportunity to promote the grant in all publicity relating to your project.
- If requested, successful applicants may be asked to provide a report on how their community grant was used and the benefits experienced by the local community as a result.

- Projects being carried out with help from Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council may be required to be verified.
- You must agree to co-operate with us on any follow-up visits if requested by the Town Council.
- Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council can ask you to return the grant in full if we find that you have used it for a purpose other than that set out in your application.
- Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council's decision on your application is final and they may choose not to answer any of your questions about the decision.
- Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council may withhold all or part of the grant, or recover all or part of any payment from you, if we discover that:
 - you have broken any part of this agreement
 - any information in the application form or a supporting document was incorrect or misleading.
 - your group or the project ends for any reason.

Guidelines for a successful application:

Please read the following carefully before completing and submitting your application.

1. Applications must be made at least 4 weeks prior to when the grant is required. This time scale allows your application to be submitted to the committee and for their decision to be actioned if a grant is to be awarded.
2. If you require any guidance or assistance in completing this form, please contact the Town Council Offices.
3. Please feel free to supply any additional information which you feel is relevant to and will support your application.
4. If your application is unsuccessful, if appropriate you should consider re-applying at a different time.

Application packs are available from Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council.

Please contact the Town Clerk if you require any assistance in completing the application form (contact details on the front cover).