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LLANFYLLIN
TOWN COUNCIL

137 GRANT POLICY

LLANFYLLIN TOWN COUNCIL

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1 Policy Overview

This policy sets out how Llanfyllin Town Council will consider applications for financial assistance made under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Section 137 gives the Council the power to spend a limited amount of money each year for purposes that, in its opinion, are in the interests of and bring direct benefit to its area or its inhabitants, where no other specific statutory power exists.

2 Section 137 Grants – Legal Basis and Financial Limits

Section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 allows each Community or Town Council to incur expenditure for purposes for which it does not possess other specific powers. This is permitted provided that the Council determines the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area, or to any part of it, or to all or some of its inhabitants. Furthermore, the benefit gained must be proportional to the amount of expenditure incurred.

The maximum amount the Council can spend under Section 137 is set by the Government. This figure is calculated by multiplying a fixed amount by the total number of individuals on the electoral roll as of 1 April each year. The fixed amount is reviewed annually and adjusted in accordance with changes to the Retail Price Index.

3 Who can apply?

Applications will be considered from:

- Local voluntary and community groups, clubs, and associations.
- Charitable organisations working for the benefit of residents.
- Schools, PTAs, and churches, where the project provides a wider community benefit.

Applications will not normally be considered from:

- Commercial or profit-making businesses.
- Political or lobbying organisations.
- Projects that should be funded by another statutory body.

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

- Be established for charitable, benevolent, social, cultural, recreational, or philanthropic purposes.
- Have a constitution, or set of rules, which define its aims, objectives, and operational procedures.
- 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 or if the organisation does not prepare annual accounts, copies of the bank statements covering the previous six months must be enclosed.
- Have a bank account in the name of the organisation.

4 Eligible Purposes

Grants may be awarded to support activities or projects that:

- Provide a direct benefit to the community or a significant section of it.
- Help improve local facilities, services, or the environment in Llanfyllin.
- Promote community spirit, inclusion, or wellbeing.

- Support local events, festivals, or cultural activities.

Examples include:

- Community events or celebrations.
- Start-up support for local voluntary groups.
- Improvements to community buildings, play areas, or amenities.
- Contributions to charitable work that benefits residents.

5 Ineligible Purposes

Grants cannot be awarded:

- Where another specific legal power is available to the Council.
- For activities promoting party-political views.
- Projects which are the prime statutory responsibility of other government bodies.
- For private benefit to individuals or members of an organisation.
- To cover ongoing running costs or wages.

6 Conditions of Grant

The Town Council may make the award of any grant subject to all or some of the following conditions. Required conditions will be at the discretion of the Town Council and consider an organisation's individual circumstances.

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

7 When to apply

The Policy & Finance Committee is responsible for reviewing grant applications as they are received throughout the year. The Committee's primary role is to ensure that each application adheres to the requirements set out in this policy. Once the Committee has validated that an application meets all necessary criteria, it will be referred to Full Council for a final decision regarding funding. This will be considered at the next available meeting.

Awards will not exceed the agreed annual budget unless the Town Council agrees to make an award under exceptional circumstances.

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 fresh application will be required each time.

8 How will decisions be made?

All applications will be judged on a case-by-case basis.

Llanfyllin Town Council's decisions are final. Limited funds mean not all projects can be supported, but every application will be reviewed thoroughly. Consideration will be given to efforts to secure funding from other sources or through applicants' own fundraising.

Successful applications will be recorded in the Council meeting minutes.

9 How to apply

Applications can be made via the website or in writing on the Section 137 Grant Application Form which should be emailed to townclerk@llanyllin-tc.gov.wales.