

Grants Review

Christmas Lighting Grants

Recommendations:

1. Pool the Christmas Lighting Grant budget lines into one budget line, totalling £10,500.
2. Inform all previous annual Christmas Lighting Grant recipients that the grants policy has changed and they are no longer guaranteed funding, but send the application form and encourage them to apply.

Annual Grants

Recommendations:

1. Abolish annual grants entirely.
2. Move the annual grant budget lines to the Council Grant budget line, for a total of £28,540 (this excludes the £10,000 for Ffrindiau Tyleri, which may be spent on events).
3. Inform all previous annual grant recipients that the grants policy has changed and they are no longer guaranteed funding, but send a Council Grant form and encourage them to apply.

Direct Funding

This is funding which could be considered 'grants' but could not be opened to allow applications. The Council must receive a valid invoice detailing what the payments are for (in the case of events, we should pay the invoices for the services required).

- Ffrindiau Tyleri
- Off The Streets
- BG Detached
- Brynithel Rugby Club event
- Summer Fete (Off The Streets)
- Bridges Car Scheme



Grants Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A grant is any payment made by the Council to be used by an organisation for a specific purpose for the benefit of the community, and which is not directly controlled or administered by the Council.
- 1.2 Grants are awarded for the purpose of improving the wellbeing of our residents. There must be a clear social, economic or environmental wellbeing benefit to the project, aligning with the seven wellbeing goals outlined in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

2. Eligibility

- 2.1 Grant recipients must be based in, or operate substantially in, the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area. The majority of members it serves should live in the area.
- 2.2 Applications will not normally be considered from national organisations or local groups with access to funds from national 'umbrella' or 'parent' organisations, unless funds are not available from their national bodies, or the funds available are inadequate for a specified project.
- 2.3 Grants will not be awarded:
 - a. To groups without their own bank account;
 - b. To profit organisations/businesses;
 - c. To informal groups;
 - d. To individuals (except in the case of Town in Bloom Community Tub payments);
 - e. To religious organisations, unless the grant benefits the wider community without regards to religion;
 - f. To schools, unless the grant is for extra-curriculars (i.e. not covered by the school's budget) and is paid direct to supplier by the Council;
 - g. Retrospectively, for costs already incurred (except in the case of Town in Bloom Community Tub payments);
 - h. Towards running costs, unless in exceptional circumstances;
 - i. On an ongoing basis (e.g. annually) ;
 - j. To any cause which the Council considers inappropriate or in opposition to its aims.

Commented [AD5]: We currently offer this for some things and not others, which is a bit confusing. The model policy from SLCC recommends not awarding grants retrospectively, but it would be difficult to moderate this for Town in Bloom.

3. Conditions

- 3.1 The maximum grant amount is £3,000, unless in exceptional circumstances.
- 3.2 Grant applications must be submitted on our application form. Grant applications in a different format will not be considered.
- 3.3 The council will not reclaim VAT on any grants awarded.
- 3.4 Grant applications will be reviewed in the first instance by Council's officers, to ensure the form is completed correctly and the applicant is eligible. Applications which do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered by Council or the relevant committee.
- 3.5 Grant recipients should acknowledge the support given by ALCC in any advertising, programmes or other publicity for an event.

- 3.6 Grant recipients should mention ALCC in any social media posts relating to the grant funding.
- 3.7 ALCC will send grant recipients relevant assets such as logos and social media links upon confirmation of the grant allocation.
- 3.8 Grants are awarded at the discretion of ALCC and we must have the legal power to incur the spending.
- 3.9 In the event of any activity or service funded by a grant from the Council not proceeding, ALCC is entitled to require repayment of some or all of the grant.
- 3.10 In the event that a grant recipient wishes to use the funding for a different purpose than it was awarded for, they must not spend the funding and should submit a new grant application to re-allocate it for the new purpose.
- 3.11 In the event of grant funding being used for purposes other than which the grant was awarded for, ALCC is entitled to require repayment of some or all of the grant.
- 3.12 If requested, grant recipients must provide a completed Feedback Form or written report detailing how the funding was spent. Council will not consider further grant applications from the organisation if this report is not received, unless in exceptional circumstances.

4. Grants

4.1 Council Grants

- a. For 2026-2027, the Council Grant budget is £20800. This is 4.1% of our overall budget of £503400.
- b. Council Grant requests will be considered at the next scheduled meeting of Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council.

4.2 Loneliness Project Grants

- a. Loneliness Project Grants are awarded specifically to organisations working to combat loneliness and isolation in our communities.
- b. For 2026-2027, the Loneliness Project Grant budget is £7000. This is 1.4% of our overall budget of £503400.
- c. Loneliness Project Grant requests will be considered at the next meeting of the Leisure & Tourism Committee, which meets as needed a minimum of four times per financial year.

4.3 Christmas Lighting Grants

- a. Christmas Lighting Grants are awarded specifically for the provision of festive lighting displays in our ward areas not covered by our Central Contract; Llanhilleth, Aberbeeg and Cwmtillery. (Local Government Act 1972, s.144).
- b. Christmas Lighting Grants will be paid directly to the supplier upon receipt of a valid invoice.
- c. It is the responsibility of the grant recipient to ensure invoices are submitted to ALCC in a timely manner.
- d. For 2026-2027, the Christmas Lighting Grants budget is £10500. This is 2% of our overall budget of £503400.
- e. Christmas Lighting Grant requests will be considered at the next meeting of the Leisure & Tourism Committee, which meets as needed a minimum of four times per financial year.

4.4 Solar Farm Grants

- a. Each year, Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council receives funding from the management company of Hafod-y-Dafal Solar Farm to award as grants for the community.
- b. For 2026-2027, the Solar Farm Grant budget is £35000. This is 7% of our overall budget of £503400.
- c. Solar Farm Grant requests will be considered once per year, subject to the confirmation of the

community grant funding from Hafod-y-Dafal Solar Farm. Requests shall be considered during an extraordinary meeting of the Council.

d. Solar Farm Grants will be awarded to projects with a focus on sustainability and community.

4.5 School Transport Grants

a. School Transport Grants will be awarded to fund transport costs on extra-curricular school trips for children qualifying for free school meals (Local Government Act 1972, s.137).

b. School Transport Grants will only be awarded to schools and will be paid directly to the supplier upon receipt of a valid invoice.

c. For 2026-2027, the School Transport Grants budget is £10000. This is 2% of our overall budget of £503400.

d. School Transport Grant requests will be considered at the next scheduled meeting of Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council.

4.6 Town in Bloom Community Tubs

a. ALCC contracts Tillery Action For You to maintain a number of floral displays in its wards. ALCC encourages community involvement in this Town in Bloom initiative, which aims to beautify the area and encourage visitors (Well-Being of Future Generations Act, s.40).

b. Local organisations and individuals can apply for Town in Bloom Community Tub funding, which is paid retrospectively on return of valid receipts.

c. The maximum amount of funding is £75 per tub.

d. For 2026-2027, the Town in Bloom Community Tubs budget is £3000. This is 0.6% of our overall budget of £503400.

e. Town in Bloom Community Tub requests will be considered at the next meeting of the Planning, Commerce & Environment (PlaCE) Committee, which meets as needed a minimum of four times per financial year.

Commented [AD6]: There is no power for this so it can only be s137. This means we have allocated it to the wrong budget line.

Commented [AD7]: This has already presented an issue:

- A school has £21.50 per child with FSM
- They send an invoice of £60 for a coach, but there are 5 children with FSM on the trip
- Therefore we should be allocating £107.50, but can only pay £60

- Alternatively, a school invoices us for £400 and has 2 children with FSM on the trip
- We should be allocating £43, but have to pay the invoice directly so are paying £400

It is incredibly difficult to allocate the funding appropriately when paying the invoices directly, and no guarantee that it is the children with FSM that are actually benefiting from the funding.

Commented [AD8]: Do we want to set an application window & deadline or leave it open?

Commented [AD9]: Will need to see what the PlaCE Committee prefer: could have a deadline for this so we can communicate to TAFY prior to the start of a new year, so they can adjust the contract accordingly.



Grants - Criteria and Conditions

Please ensure that you have read the eligibility criteria and feel that your project is suitable for this grant before completing your application.

Eligibility Criteria:

- This grant is for non-profit organisations **only**. We do not award grants to profit organisations.
- **We cannot provide funding retrospectively, such as reimbursements for costs already incurred.**
- We cannot provide funding to individuals.
- We will not provide funding to informal groups.
- We cannot provide funding directly to schools – funding for extra-curricular activities can be awarded but ALCC will pay the invoices directly to the supplier, not the school.
- We will consider applications from religious organisations, given they provide a benefit to the wider community without regards to religion.
- The maximum grant amount **is £3,000**, unless in exceptional circumstances.
- **The Council will not award grants towards running costs (e.g. rent, utilities, insurance), unless in exceptional circumstances.**
- We will only award grants to groups based in, or working substantially in, our area. Regional charities must make clear how the grant will benefit residents of ALCC.
- **Organisations can apply for multiple grants in one financial year, but ALCC will prioritise supporting a variety of organisations throughout its wards.**

Conditions:

- Grant recipients should acknowledge the support given by ALCC in any advertising, programmes or other publicity for an event.
- Grant recipients should tag ALCC in any social media posts relating to the grant funding (logos, assets and social media information will be sent by email when your grant is confirmed).
- If requested, grant recipients must provide a written report to the Council detailing how the grant was used.
- Grant requests must be submitted on our application form.
- Grants are awarded at the discretion of ALCC and we must have the legal power to incur the spending.
- In the event of any activity or service funded by a grant from the Council not proceeding, ALCC is entitled to require repayment of some or all of the grant.

Commented [AD1]: We currently do this for some, have offered to do this for extra-curricular transport for schools and have needed to do this for Christmas Lighting where some purchases were not made via an invoice and we reimbursed the group. A decision needs to be made on whether we do or do not offer this and it needs to be applied across all grants.

Commented [AD2]: Need to decide a maximum which is suitable for all types of grant.

Commented [AD3]: We currently allow this in the Loneliness Project and Christmas Lighting (electricity costs) grant. Ideally the rules should be the same for all grants i.e. we allow running costs for Council Grants or disallow running costs for all grants. Alternatively, we would specify that 'Council Grants will not be awarded towards running costs (e.g. rent, utilities, insurance), unless in exceptional circumstances. Other grants can be awarded for running costs.'

Commented [AD4]: Many Councils do not award grants to the same organisation in a financial year (or award a maximum amount for the year). Need to decide how to go about this.

How does your project benefit the Abertillery and Llanhilleth area and its residents?

--

How many residents of our wards do you believe will benefit from this project?

--

What is the total cost of your project?

£

Please detail any project costs which will be met by your group

Please include details of other grant funding bids you have applied for or received for this project

--

Exceptional Circumstances

If the amount requested is greater than £3,000, or if the grant request is for running costs, please explain what the exceptional circumstances are:

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This section will be removed prior to circulation to members and on our website.

Your Details

You can request for this information to be deleted from our files at any time by emailing us at clerk@abertilleryandllanhilleth-wcc.gov.uk

Name of applicant	
Role in organisation	
Signed	
Date	

Payee Information

This is optional, but will help us make the payment quicker if your grant request is approved.

Account Name	
Account Type <i>Business or Personal</i>	
Account Number	
Sort Code	

Please include the following supporting documents with your application:

- Quotations for the works the grant will fund (if applicable)
- A bank statement reflecting the organisation's current financial position
- *Optional:* letters of support, plans for works involved or any other relevant documentation you feel is necessary for Council to make an informed decision.

To submit your application:

Email: clerk@abertilleryandllanhilleth-wcc.gov.uk

Post:

The Clerk,
Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council,
Mitre Street,
Abertillery,
NP13 1AE

**ABERTILLERY &
LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**GYNGOR CYMUNED
ABERTYLERI A
LLANHILLETH**



**Town in Bloom – Community Tubs
Application Form**

Please specify which tubs you would like to look after:

Tub Numbers	
If the numbers are missing/unknown, please specify the locations <i>If possible, provide the what3words</i>	
If you would like new tubs to be installed, please specify how many and the proposed locations <i>If possible, provide the what3words</i>	

Name of Applicant	
Organisation Type <i>Please leave blank if you are an individual applicant</i>	

The maximum amount of funding is £75 per tub, per year. Applicants must re-apply each year if they wish to continue maintaining their tubs. Valid receipts must be submitted to claim this funding.

Signed	
Date	

To submit your application:

Email: clerk@abertilleryandllanhilleth-wcc.gov.uk

Post:

The Clerk,
Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council, Mitre Street,

**ABERTILLERY &
LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**GYNGOR CYMUNED
ABERTYLERI A
LLANHILLETH**



Grants Feedback Form

Please complete and return to clerk@abertilleryandllanhilleth-wcc.gov.uk or;
Council Offices,
Mitre Street
Abertillery
NP13 1AE

Please specify the grant funding received:

Council Grant	£
Loneliness Project Grant	£
Christmas Lighting Grant	£
Solar Farm Grant	£
Extra-Curricular School Transport Grant	£

Awarded:

Organisation Name	
Organisation Type <i>Provide your registered charity number, if applicable</i>	
Organisation Address <i>If your organisation is not based in one premises, please state which areas you cover</i>	

What was this funding spent on? <i>Please be as specific as possible and send copies of invoices where applicable</i>

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How has your project benefited the Abertillery and Llanhilleth area and its residents?

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Do you have any other feedback for us?

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We love seeing and sharing photographs showing what our grants have helped to achieve. Please attach these with your feedback form, and specify which uses you consent to here:

Sharing to Councillors	
Inclusion in Council Newsletters and Reports	
Sharing on our website	
Sharing to our social media (Facebook & Instagram)	

Should you wish to withdraw this consent at any time, please inform us in writing at clerk@abertilleryandllanhilleth-wcc.gov.uk