



Grants – Application Form

Please specify which grant you are applying for:

Council Grant	X
Loneliness Project Grant	
Christmas Lighting Grant	
School Transport Grant	

Organisation Name	Abertillery Learning Community
Organisation Type <i>Provide your registered charity number, if applicable</i>	School (extra-curricular opportunity not covered by school's budget)
Organisation Address <i>If your organisation is not based in one premises, please state which areas you cover</i>	Abertillery Learning Community Alma Street NP13 1YL
Grant Amount Request	I understand that £3,000 is the maximum grant normally awarded. The full cost of the set has been detailed within this application to demonstrate the scale of the financial commitment required. Should the Council consider a higher contribution appropriate under exceptional circumstances, any additional support would be extremely gratefully received and would significantly reduce the remaining amount we need to raise through our own fundraising efforts.

What would this funding be used for?

Please be as precise as possible

Abertillery Learning Community is seeking £3,000 towards the cost of the set for our upcoming school production, 'Grease', which will be performed in March 2027.

We have received a quotation of £6,895 for the set alone. The requested Council grant would therefore meet only part of this cost, with Abertillery Learning Community actively fundraising to meet the remaining £3,895, alongside the other substantial costs associated with staging the

production, including licensing, costumes and technical provision.

'Grease' is an entirely extra-curricular project, involving pupils in acting, singing, dance, music and technical theatre over a sustained rehearsal period. The set is fundamental to creating a safe, engaging and high-quality performance environment in which pupils can experience taking part in an ambitious full-scale musical production.

A grant of £3,000 would make a significant contribution towards making this possible while allowing us to continue providing the opportunity without placing the financial burden on participating pupils and their families.

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

Our school productions provide young people from Abertillery, Llanhilleth and surrounding communities with access to high-quality performing arts opportunities within their own locality.

Through months of rehearsals, pupils develop confidence, resilience, teamwork and creativity, while building a strong sense of belonging. Importantly, participation is accessible to all pupils regardless of financial circumstances.

The impact extends beyond those taking part. Our productions bring together families, staff and local residents to celebrate the talent and achievements of young people in our area. Previous productions have received excellent support from local audiences, creating a genuine sense of community pride.

'Grease' will build on this success, providing an ambitious opportunity for our pupils and an exciting event that the wider community can support, attend and enjoy.

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

Across three performances, 'Grease' has the potential to welcome up to **660** audience members, with each performance accommodating approximately 220 people.

However, the wider impact extends beyond those attending. Pupils involved will benefit from months of rehearsals, developing confidence, friendships and a strong sense of belonging within school. Their families and the wider school community also share in the experience, creating pride in our young people and strengthening connections between the school and the community it serves.

We therefore anticipate that the project will positively impact well over 660 local residents, both directly and indirectly.

What is the total cost of your project?

£11,745 (approx.)

including set (£6,895), licence (£1,650), costumes (approx. £1,000), technical costs (approx. £1,700) and props (approx. £500).

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

Abertillery Learning Community is making a significant contribution towards the cost of 'Grease' through an ongoing programme of school and community fundraising.

During the Summer Term, pupils and staff organised and performed a fundraising concert which raised just under £2,500. This has enabled us to meet the cost of the production licence, with the remaining funds being allocated towards essential costume, set, and technical costs.

We have now received a quotation of £6,895 (see appendix) for the production set. As the maximum Council grant available is £3,000, even if our application is successful, we will need to raise a further £3,895 towards the set alone.

We are therefore continuing an active programme of fundraising throughout the academic year. Planned events include musical theatre bingo, community quiz nights and a pupil-friendly Bingo Lingo event, with proceeds being directed towards the outstanding set cost and other essential production expenses.

We recognise that staging a production of this scale requires substantial financial commitment and are not seeking to rely upon grant funding alone. Pupils, staff and the wider school community are working hard to generate a significant proportion of the required funding ourselves. Council support would work alongside these efforts, enabling every pound raised through our own events to go further.

Importantly, our approach allows us to maintain an inclusive production in which pupils can participate regardless of their families' financial circumstances.

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:

Our formal request is for the maximum standard grant of £3,000. However, the scale of the project presents a significant financial challenge, with an estimated total production cost of £11,745 and the set alone costing £6,895.

ALC is actively working to meet the remaining costs through its own fundraising, including a Summer Term concert which raised just under £2,500, alongside further planned community and pupil fundraising events.

Should the Council consider these circumstances sufficient to support an award above the standard £3,000 limit, any additional contribution would be extremely gratefully received and would be used directly towards the outstanding cost of the production set.

Appendix

Quote for set from Scenic Projects:

Hi Chelsea

Thank you for your enquiry, and welcome to Scenic Projects—widely recognised as one of the UK's leading suppliers of high-quality musical theatre sets.

When you choose us, you're investing in exceptional craftsmanship, reliable service, and scenic designs that truly help elevate and compliment your production.

We believe in delivering value through quality, and while our sets may not be the cheapest, they consistently prove to be worth every penny. Our sets are designed not only to impress but to complement and enhance your overall production, helping you achieve a polished and professional result.

We have two sets for this show and here is the information you've requested: -

- **Set:** [Grease_SP2 Set Information](#)
- **Hire Price:** £6895
- **Set:** [Grease_SP1 Set Information](#)
- **Hire Price:** £5500
- **Transport Price:** - Estimated included above
- **VAT:** All prices are subject to VAT at the prevailing rate.
-

Both set you are interested in is currently available, but if you are seriously considering booking with us, we strongly recommend securing your booking as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Please note that enquiries do not guarantee availability, and bookings are only confirmed once we receive formal confirmation from you.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss options or availability, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Nick

Nicholas Garrod
Managing Director



Grants – Application Form

Please specify which grant you are applying for:

Council Grant	X
Loneliness Project Grant	
Christmas Lighting Grant	
School Transport Grant	

Organisation Name	Friends of St Illtyd
Organisation Type <i>Provide your registered charity number, if applicable</i>	Community group
Organisation Address <i>If your organisation is not based in one premises, please state which areas you cover</i>	Friends of St Illtyd, [REDACTED] St Illtyd, Aberbeeg, NP13 [REDACTED]
Grant Amount Request	£128.80

What would this funding be used for?

Please be as precise as possible

We are planning to enhance the biodiversity present in the church yard at St Illtyds church. There is a very strong presence of grass which is going rank. It is swamping the ant hills, reducing the fungi range and restricting the development of the biodiversity of the area. We intend seeding the area with yellow rattle to try and reduce the vigour in the grass to give diversity a chance in the area. We also have a problem with ground ivy over some areas and appropriate tools are needed to enable the removal and weakening of the plants. We do an annual cut and rake session on the grounds, for which small, robust rake heads are needed but the depth of grass thatch from previous years of growth has resulted in the destruction of three rakes in two days. At present the group has no tools other than those provided by the individuals. This grant will help provide a very basic tool kit for future work.

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How does your project benefit the Abertillery and Llanhilleth area and its residents?
The project will help advance the considerable work that has already been put into improving the church yard as a place where people can relax and enjoy a peaceful, tranquil area where nature is encouraged to produce its best work amongst the graves of the departed. Those with even a casual interest in nature will hopefully see a range of plants getting established in the grounds with a strong assortment of insect life busy making their homes amongst the foliage. Too many churchyards, when no longer in active use, are allowed to fall into disrepair and become of limited value ecologically or to people as a place of peace. We are determined this will not happen at St Illtyds.
How many residents of our wards do you believe will benefit from this project?
This will benefit all residents that ever visit or pass through the churchyard. Since a walking route passes through the grounds this will amount to hundreds over a year.

What is the total cost of your project?	£
Yellow Rattle seed (1200 seeds)	8.80
3-pronged rakes (2)	26
Stout garden rakes (2)	32
Handles (2)	36
Secateurs (2)	26
	Total requested £128.8
Please detail any project costs which will be met by your group	
<i>Please include details of other grant funding bids you have applied for or received for this project</i>	
The group has no source of income beyond grants for specific purposes.	



Grants – Application Form

Please specify which grant you are applying for:

Council Grant	X
Loneliness Project Grant	
Christmas Lighting Grant	
School Transport Grant	

Organisation Name	Six Bells Bowls Club Ltd
Organisation Type <i>Provide your registered charity number, if applicable</i>	Private Company Limited By Guarantee Without Share Capital
Organisation Address <i>If your organisation is not based in one premises, please state which areas you cover</i>	Llwyn-on Rd, Six Bells, Abertillery, NP13 2QA
Grant Amount Request	£ 800.00

What would this funding be used for?

Please be as precise as possible

Acquisition of water pump & hoses to water bowling green and flower beds in club grounds. There is currently one metered tap on the edge of the green and another outside clubhouse. It is costly, time consuming exercise to keep the areas watered and perhaps more importantly not very eco friendly.

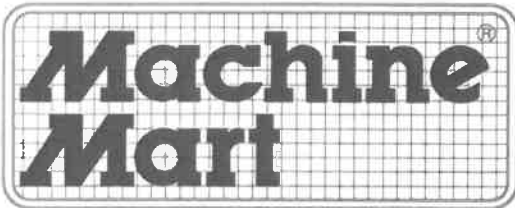
We plan to collect the rainfall from the clubhouse roof gutters in tanks installed behind the clubhouse and on the bowling green. A pump is needed in order to transfer the water from the clubhouse to the green, gravity alone will not be sufficient to push the water the required distance.

The purchase cost of the tanks will be covered by Six Bells Bowls Club with the support of other sources.

How does your project benefit the Abertillery and Llanhilleth area and its residents?
The club & its facilities are used & enjoyed by many on-playing local residents, and while the additional water storage will help keep the playing surface in the required condition, it will help keep the flower beds lush and to a high standard for all to enjoy. Maintaining a vibrant open space that all the community enjoys and ensuring it does not deteriorate during the extended dry weather spells we may have to become accustomed to.
How many residents of our wards do you believe will benefit from this project?
150 plus

What is the total cost of your project?	£ 3000.00
Please detail any project costs which will be met by your group	
<i>Please include details of other grant funding bids you have applied for or received for this project</i>	
We will look to provide balance of costs from our own funds but are in the process of applying for other grants, such as National Lottery & Community Fund Wales to support the funding.	

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:



INVOICE

Machine Mart Limited, Machine Mart House,
211 Lower Parliament Street, Nottingham NG1 1GN.
Telephone: 0871 410 1250 Fax: 0871 410 1255

VAT Reg. No GB 306 5741 67 E-Mail: sales@machinemark.co.uk
www.machinemark.co.uk

INVOICE TO:

DEREK FLAY
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
CWMTILLERY
ABERTILLERY
[REDACTED]

DEREK FLAY

CWMTILLERY
ABERTILLERY
[REDACTED]

DELIVER TO:

DEREK FLAY
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
CWMTILLERY
ABERTILLERY
[REDACTED]

CUSTOMER NO.	ORDER No.	ORDER DATE	DESPATCH DATE	INVOICE NO.	DELIVERED BY	DOCUMENT TYPE
014563943	00042792	25/08/26	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXX	Scott Bainbrid MAIL ORDER	QUOTATION

CATALOGUE CODE	QUANTITY		DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	VAT CODE	AMOUNT
	Ordered	Despatched				
051014444	1	0	OB PUMP TEF-25HA PETR 2.1HP WA J17A	669.00	2	669.00
			TER HP TS-TEF25HA			
990210000	1	0	CARRIAGE CHARGE	0.00	2	0.00

VAT % RATE	GOODS + P&P NETT OF VAT	VAT CONTENT	CODE	PAID/CHARGED	THIS DESPATCH
20.00	557.50	111.50			

GOODS INC. VAT	669.00
P&P	0.00
TOTAL INC. VAT	669.00

PROFORMA INVOCIE QUOTE AS REQUESTED IN UK STERLING ONLY
APYMENT TO BE MADE BY EIHER CARD OR BY BANK TRANSFER.
ONCE PAYMENT HAS BEEN MADE, ETA ON DELIVERY IS APPROX 3-5 DAYS
YOUR REF;

T-mex Express Ltd

Address: Moat Farm, Green Lane, Maidstone, ME17 3ES

Email: sales@t-mex.co.uk

Telephone: 01622 470049



Quote For:

Name: Derek Flay

Email: derek.flay@t-mex.co.uk

Date: 25/08/2026

All prices shown are incl. 20% VAT

Quote Items:

Product	Quantity	Total Price
Suction Hose 30m - 1"	2	£130.92

Total Amount: £130.92 incl. 20% VAT

***Please note that the delivery charge is not included in this quote and will be calculated at checkout once you enter your address! Refer to our Shipping Policy for more information at <https://t-mex.co.uk/pages/shipping-policy> ***

issue date: 31 July 2026

Write to us at: PO Box 1000, Andover, BX1 1LT
Call us on: 0345 072 5555 (from UK)
+44 1733 347338 (from Overseas)

Visit us online: www.loydsbank.com

Your branch: LLOYDS BANK



QUESTIONS: FDC# A33-20242001-203208-001196

ABERTULLERY
GWENT
NP13 1NN

33900 8

COMMUNITY ACCOUNT
SIX BELLS BOWLS CLUB LIMITED

Our records indicate that your business is eligible for FDIC deposit protection.
Further details can be found on the Useful Information page

Account summary

Balance On 01 Jul 2026

Total Paid In

Total Paid Out

Balance On 30 Jul 2025

Account activity

Date	Payment Type	Details	Paid In (£)	Paid Out (£)	Balance (£)
01 Jul 26		STATEMENT OPENING BALANCE			5,535.36
02 Jul 26	DEB	DIV CENTRE CD 4719		11.99	5,523.36
02 Jul 26	DEB	TESCO STORES 2006 CD 4719		498.40	5,024.96
06 Jul 26	DEB	SCREWFIX DIRECT CD 9725 04JUL26		24.99	4,999.97
07 Jul 26	DEP	P.O. 10 SOMERSET S	910.00		5,909.97
08 Jul 26	DEB	TESCO STORES 2006 CD 4719		110.60	5,799.37
09 Jul 26	DD	OCTOPUS ENERGY A-PO221C88-001		20.16	5,779.21
09 Jul 26	FPO	WEST MON BOWLING A 500000001798418356 SIXBELLS BOWLING 309950 10 09JUL26 17:07		32.00	5,747.21
09 Jul 26	DEB	Dennis UK CD 4719		40.67	5,706.54
10 Jul 26	DEB	TESCO PFS 3761 CD 4719		26.56	5,679.98
13 Jul 26	FPO	M HAILLE 600000001799670345 SIXBELLS BOWLS 090128 10 12JUL26 12:32		73.00	5,606.98
14 Jul 26	DEB	TESCO STORES 2006 CD 9725		44.12	5,562.86
15 Jul 26	DD	TOTAL ENERGIES G & 1219480		31.44	5,531.42
17 Jul 26	DD	DWR CYMRU WELSH WA 5156647601		130.73	5,400.69
20 Jul 26	PAY	SERVICE CHARGES REF: 489279607		17.27	5,383.42
22 Jul 26	FPO	BLAENAU GWENT BORO 600000001804780077 BG-CLUB-0044 205664 10 22JUL26 09:32		70.00	5,313.42
22 Jul 26	DEB	TESCO STORES 2006 CD 9725		71.00	5,242.42
23 Jul 26	DEB	TESCO STORES 2006 CD 9725		420.60	4,821.82
27 Jul 26	FPO	M HAILLE 200000001801834311 SIXBELLS BOWLS 090128 10 25JUL26 11:55		118.15	4,703.67
27 Jul 26	DEB	SP RAYTECH.UK.COM CD 4719 25JUL26		31.00	4,672.67
27 Jul 26	DEB	Net World Sports L CD 4719 25JUL26		108.69	4,563.98
27 Jul 26	DEP	P.O. 10 SOMERSET S	1,455.00		6,018.98
28 Jul 26	DEB	SCREWFIX DIRECT CD 9725		26.58	5,992.40
30 Jul 26	DEB	SCREWFIX DIR LTD CD 4719		9.99	5,982.41
30 Jul 26		STATEMENT CLOSING BALANCE	2,365.00	1,917.94	5,982.41



Grants – Application Form

Please specify which grant you are applying for:

Council Grant	x
Loneliness Project Grant	
Christmas Lighting Grant	
School Transport Grant	

Organisation Name	Six bells regeneration
Organisation Type <i>Provide your registered charity number, if applicable</i>	Community Group
Organisation Address <i>If your organisation is not based in one premises, please state which areas you cover</i>	Ty Ebbw Fach Church road six bells Abertillery Np132nd
Grant Amount Request	£3000

What would this funding be used for?

Please be as precise as possible

We have been privileged to receive a grant from GAVO to renovate our outdoor area. This space will be a community space where we are hoping to hold Pilate classes mother and baby groups and other activities to bring the community together
We still need outdoor seating soft play equipment and Pilate mats which if successful we would use this grant towards paying for this

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

**This project will benefit a wide range of people within our community by helping people who feel isolated meet and build friendships with others This project will improve health and wellbeing by launching regular Pilates classes to improve physical/ mental health
Early years support establishing mother and toddler groups to reduce isolation for new parents and support early childhood socialisation**

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

**Its hard to put a number on it but we will be targeting all age groups
Our warm space already sees 20 plus visitors a week**

What is the total cost of your project?

£25000

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

**Gavo have granted £20000
Additional £2000 will be fundraised if needed**

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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Grants – Application Form

Please specify which grant you are applying for:

Council Grant	☒
Loneliness Project Grant	☐
Christmas Lighting Grant	☐

Organisation Name	Six Bells Over 50's Club.
Organisation Type <i>Provide your registered charity number, if applicable</i>	N/A
Organisation Address <i>If your organisation is not based in one premises, please state which areas you cover</i>	Six Bells Community Centre, Six Bells, 6 Bridge Street, NP13 2LL
Grant Amount Request	£500.00

What would this funding be used for?

Please be as precise as possible

To fund our monthly trips in the spring and summer months (April to September).

These trips are an integral part of our club calendar and allow our members to socialise and visit places that they normally wouldn't have the opportunity to do. For Each trip there is a significant outlay on coach hire (average cost of £400)

We would greatly appreciate a grant/donation from the Council as it would allow us to subsidise the cost of our trip to our members.

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:



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:

- 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.
- 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.
- Grants will not be awarded:
 - To groups without their own bank account;
 - To profit organisations/businesses (Community Interest Companies are eligible);
 - To informal groups;
 - To individuals (except in the case of Town in Bloom Community Tub payments);
 - To religious organisations, unless the grant benefits the wider community without regards to religion;
 - 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;
- Retrospectively, for costs already incurred (except in the case of Town in Bloom Community Tub payments);
- Towards running costs, unless in exceptional circumstances;
- On an ongoing basis (e.g. annually) ;
- To any cause which the Council considers inappropriate or in opposition to its aims.

Conditions:

- The maximum grant amount is £3,000, unless in exceptional circumstances or as part of a Solar Farm Grant.
- Grant applications must be submitted on our application form. Grant applications in a different format will not be considered.
- The council will not reclaim VAT on any grants awarded.
- 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.
- Grant recipients should acknowledge the support given by ALCC in any advertising, programmes or other publicity for an event.
- Grant recipients should mention ALCC in any social media posts relating to the grant funding.
- ALCC will send grant recipients relevant assets such as logos and social media links upon confirmation of the grant allocation.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- In the event that a grant recipient is successful in securing funding from a different source for the same project, ALCC may request repayment of some or all of the grant.
- If requested, grant recipients must provide a completed Grants Completion and Feedback 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.

The Application Form begins on the next page.



Grants – Application Form

Please specify which grant you are applying for:

Council Grant	Yes
Loneliness Project Grant	
Christmas Lighting Grant	
School Transport Grant	

Organisation Name	Abertillery Learning Community
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>	Alma St, Abertillery NP13 1YL
Grant Amount Request	£ 1000

What would this funding be used for?

Please be as precise as possible

Abertillery Learning Community is committed to increasing the profile of the Welsh language across the school whilst fostering a stronger sense of belonging among our pupils. To support this vision, we are seeking funding to work with local artist Rhiannon on a collaborative art project that will allow learners to create a large-scale piece of artwork celebrating everything that Abertillery stands for. Pupils will be actively involved in designing and producing the artwork, ensuring that it reflects the town's heritage, community spirit, values, and Welsh identity. Through this project, learners will have the opportunity to explore and celebrate their connection to their local area and culture while engaging meaningfully with the Welsh language. The completed artwork will be displayed prominently within the school as a lasting legacy, promoting pride in both our community and the Welsh language. We believe this project will enhance pupils' sense of belonging, strengthen their cultural identity, improve wellbeing through creative expression, and encourage a greater appreciation and love of the Welsh language for years to come.

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How does your project benefit the Abertillery and Llanhilleth area and its residents?
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This project will benefit the Abertillery and Llanhilleth area by strengthening the connection between young people, their community, and the Welsh language. Through working with a local artist, pupils will create a piece of artwork that celebrates the heritage, culture, values, and identity of the area, helping them to develop a greater sense of pride and belonging in their community. The project will provide opportunities for learners to explore what makes Abertillery and Llanhilleth unique, while promoting the use and visibility of the Welsh language in a meaningful and engaging way. To ensure the wider community can share in the project's success, we will also host a parents' evening and community exhibition where families and local residents will be invited to view the finished artwork and celebrate the pupils' achievements. This event will strengthen relationships between the school, families, and the wider community, creating a lasting legacy that reflects local pride, encourages community cohesion, and promotes a positive appreciation of Welsh language and culture.

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

We anticipate that this project will directly benefit approximately 700 pupils and their families across the Abertillery and Llanhilleth area. By involving pupils in the creation of a community-focused artwork that celebrates local heritage, Welsh culture, and the Welsh language, the project will have a positive impact on learners' sense of belonging, wellbeing, and pride in their local area. The benefits will extend beyond the pupils themselves through engagement with parents, carers, and family members, who will be invited to attend a community exhibition and parents' evening showcasing the completed artwork. As a result, we estimate that well over 1,500 local residents could benefit from the project through increased community engagement, stronger connections between school and home, and greater awareness and appreciation of the Welsh language and the rich cultural identity of Abertillery and Llanhilleth.

What is the total cost of your project?
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£1000

Please detail any project costs which will be met by your group
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<i>Please include details of other grant funding bids you have applied for or received for this project</i>

We have not applied for any other grants.

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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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