



VAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL POLICY ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE/GRANTS

Date approved	Minute	Review Due
16/9/2020		
20/10/2022	9	2025
16/03/2023 amended	10	2025

The Van Community Council Grant Scheme is made available through Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. Section 137 states that any financial assistance awarded must bring direct benefit to a local authority's area or any part of it or some of its inhabitants.

Subject to funding being available, Van Community Council is committed to aiding local community groups which are set up to promote community life for Van residents. Van Community Council's financial support is provided by way of grants which are decided against criteria set and which can be amended from time to time by the Community Council.

Van Community Council is committed to following best practice in grant giving in order to provide sustainable funding and support to voluntary groups and the community whilst providing value for money for local taxpayers and ensuring that public money is spent in a responsible manner.

In general, the following principles apply:

- Assistance will be given based on need, merit and contribution to the local community
- Applicants must clearly demonstrate how the assistance given will benefit the people living in the Van community
- Grants can be made to existing or newly formed organisations
- Organizations must be properly constituted and non-profit making
- Wales and UK wide charities must be able to demonstrate that beneficiaries are within the Van Community Council area
- Organisations should not make a presumption that funding will continue on a year-to-year basis

Aims of Van Community Council's grant making policy

Van Community Council provides grant funding to support the following aims:

- To enable local people to participate in voluntary groups and activities
- To help the Community Council's voluntary groups to improve their effectiveness
- To assist the provision of services needed by the residents within the Community Council's area
- To support organisations which meet the needs of people experiencing social and economic difficulties
- To ensure that there is equality of access and opportunity for all Van residents to the services it provides and funds
- To improve or enhance the local environment
- To achieve value for money

Van Community Council will NOT fund the following:

- Organisations that do not provide a service to the community in Van
- Projects where the work has already been completed will not be considered
- Repayment of loans or cost of services, equipment, or provisions in anticipation of a grant
- Equipment or other costs that have already been purchased or incurred prior to the application being considered
- Projects that may take place before an application can be decided
- Statutory organisations or the direct replacement of statutory funding
- Political groups or activities promoting political beliefs
- Religious groups where funding is to be used to promote religious beliefs

- Arts and sports projects with no community or charitable element
- Medical research, equipment or treatment
- Animal welfare
- Organisations with a bank balance of more than £10,000 will not usually be considered for a grant/financial assistance

How to apply

The correct application form relevant to the financial year must be completed in full and signed to state the approval of the organisation. Application forms are available from the website www.vancc.co.uk or the Clerk to the Council, contact; 07387 885132 or clerk@vancc.co.uk

Assistance can be provided to any group having difficulties completing the application form. The application must be submitted to the Clerk and accompanied with relevant documentation, such as bank statements, accounts, and quotes for items to be purchased from the grant.

Grant applications will only be considered if all sections of the form are completed, and appropriate supporting information/evidence is supplied where requested.

Applications can be made at any time throughout the year. If an application is received 10 days prior to a scheduled meeting, it will usually be included on the agenda for the next Full Council meeting for decision.

Payment

Grants are based on merit up to a maximum of £500. Applications are usually considered by the Council on a monthly basis, except August. The grant is usually paid in the month following the Council meeting when it was agreed. In order to receive payment, an organisation/group must have a bank account into which grants can be paid; payments will not be made to private individuals. Payment will be made by cheque/ or BACS transfer, and acknowledgement of receipt is required

To note

The Community Council has a limited annual budget each financial year for grants and financial assistance and awards will be made on a first come first served basis.

Van Community Council will normally follow the criteria as set out above but has the discretion to vary in exceptional circumstances.

Van Community Council request you to complete a short evaluation form to enable us to assess the impact the grant has had on your project and the local community.

Van Community Council reserves the right to withdraw or seek to reclaim an award for financial assistance/grant if it is not used as specified in the application or fail to meet the terms of the award.



