

**CYNGOR CYMUNED
LLANFIHANGEL-AR-ARTH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
POLICY**

*Adolygwyd a Mabwysiadwyd/
Reviewed and Adopted:*

15.07.2024

LLANFIHANGEL-AR-ARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY

Llanfihangel-ar-arth Community Council is committed to supporting organisations operating within the area of the Council and activities which benefit the residents of the area. Each year the Council decides upon a defined amount in its budget that it will allocate to donations and grants. This is part of the precept, and so comes directly from the people of the Parish of Llanfihangel-ar-Arth via their Council Tax. The Council will consider applications from voluntary groups and charitable organisations operating within the Llanfihangel-ar-arth Community Council area who can demonstrate that the funding will directly benefit residents or the Community.

The Council regularly receives requests for donations from a variety of organisations and groups and the aim of this policy is to encourage and support a wide range of activities and projects which will benefit all areas within the parish of Llanfihangel-ar-Arth.

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 places restrictions on Town and Community Councils when it comes to making donations or grants. One of those restrictions requires that such expenditure *'...is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants...'*

The normal use to which this power is applied by local Councils is to provide funding to local organisations and groups, but clearly one of the restrictions is that a grant or donation cannot be made to an individual for their own use, no matter what use or how good a cause that may be.

The donation must also provide a 'direct benefit' to the group or organisation, or to the community. This means that the Council cannot provide any funding for a business because there is no guarantee that any profit will go back to the community.

Policy Detail

1. Any Charity, Voluntary Group or Community Organisation operating within or providing a service to the residents of the Llanfihangel-ar-arth Community Council Area may make an application for financial assistance to the Council.
2. Applications must be made by requesting and completing the Council's Application Form available from the Clerk. Additional information may be requested before the application can be considered.
3. Applications will be considered by the Council at its meetings in April, July, October and January.
4. Financial assistance will not be provided to individuals.
5. Financial assistance will only be made to national organisations if they provide services that benefit the residents or the Llanfihangel-ar-arth Community Council Area.
6. An acknowledgement of receipt of the monies provided will be required from the recipient.
7. Only one application will be considered from each group or organisation, in any one financial year (1st April to 31st March).
8. The maximum donation is currently £250.00.
9. Any financial assistance provided must be used for the purpose stated.
10. Llanfihangel-ar-arth Community Council may request evidence of the expenditure made and, if not satisfied, reserves the right to request a refund of the sum donated.
11. Activities considered to be a statutory authority responsibility will not be funded.
12. Llanfihangel-ar-arth Community Council may request a copy of the organisation's previous financial accounts prior to making a decision to support the application.
13. Donations cannot be made to fund political activities.

14. The Council aims to help as many groups and organisations as possible. However, funding is very limited and so they cannot commit to funding any group or organisation on a regular basis, even annually.
 15. The Council may receive requests for more funding than they can provide. Therefore, no assumption should be made that funding will be provided, and the level of that funding, whether or not a group or organisation has been successful, or unsuccessful, in the past.
 16. Lobbying, pressurising or attempting in any way to influence the Council's decision-making regarding any donation or grant application will result in that application being removed from consideration and may affect the consideration of any future application.
 17. The Council will not provide a donation for any event that has already started, nor will it fund retrospectively.
 18. Successful applicants will be requested to provide bank details for payment to be made and must acknowledge receipt of the payment in writing.
 19. The Council will assess applications with particular reference to the number of residents (within the area covered by the Llanfihangel-ar-Arth Community Council) likely to benefit, and whether any particular category of residents would receive specific benefit (e.g. children, the elderly, persons with any form of disability, etc.).
 20. The Council's decision on any application is final and there is no right of appeal.
 21. The Council reserves the right to decline any application without giving reasons for its decision.
 22. The Council's Policy for Financial Assistance will be reviewed periodically to ensure continuing effectiveness.
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