

EAST WITTERING AND BRACKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Charitable Donations Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1** In common with all parish councils, East Wittering and Bracklesham Parish Council (EWBPC) receives requests from third parties for donations. The power for EWBPC to donate is contained in the Local Government Act 1972, s 137, which allows a local authority to spend a limited amount on activities for which it has no specific power, but which the authority considers 'will bring direct benefit to the area, or any part of it or all of some of its inhabitants'. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 added the requirement that the benefit obtained should be commensurate with the expenditure incurred.
- 1.2** The Council receives donation requests the total sum of which far exceeds the sum of money the Council earmarks for this purpose when setting a prudent budget for the year. It is necessary, therefore, to implement policy guidelines to follow when deciding upon making a grant. This document sets out the policy adopted by EWBPC.

2. Policy Statement

It is the policy of EWBPC that where charitable organisations, supported by local people, can provide facilities and services for the community, they are supported financially in so doing. The Council will earmark a sum within each annual budget to be used at the sole discretion of the Council in furtherance of this policy.

3. Conditions of donations:

- 3.1** All requests must promote the wellbeing of East Wittering and Bracklesham residents or the fabric of the parish.
- 3.2 Applications must state the:**
- a.** amount required
 - b.** purpose to which it will be put
 - c.** number of East Wittering and Bracklesham residents who have benefited from any activity or an explanation of the direct benefit to East Wittering and Bracklesham as a Parish of any activity of the body within the last 12 months
 - d.** proportion of the overall activity of the applicant body work within/for East Wittering and Bracklesham represents in percentage terms.
- 3.3** Requests will not be considered from individuals, non-charitable bodies outside of East Wittering and Bracklesham Parish or for work unrelated to the parish.
- 3.4** Requests will not be considered from bodies from other areas of the UK unless the service they provide significantly benefits the parish or its residents.
- 3.5** Requests should be for the following financial year and are for single donations. The Parish does not commit to continuing support and no donation or series of donations is to be taken as an indicator of future funding.
- 3.6** The sum of money requested should be commensurate to the benefit obtained by of East Wittering and Bracklesham when compared to the overall activity of any organisation requesting such a donation. This is to mean that an organisation for which activity in of East Wittering and Bracklesham represents a very small proportion of its overall activity (eg a national charity) will not be eligible for as large a donation as a body for which the majority of its activity is promoting the wellbeing of or East Wittering and Bracklesham residents (eg a local of East Wittering and Bracklesham charity).

3.7 The decision of the Council is final.

4 Procedure

4.1 The closing date for all donation requests is 31st October each year. Requests received after that date will not be considered

4.2 All donation requests will be considered at the November Council meeting. No donations will be made at other times except at the sole discretion of the Council.

4.3 At that meeting the Council will first consider the financial position of the Parish and agree the total sum to be made available for donations.

4.4 The Council will decide which requests are to be refused. It is not the policy of the Council to provide notice of this decision unless a stamped addressed envelope is provided for the purpose.

4.5 Of those donation requests considered favourably, the Council will decide the level of support it is able to make in each case. The amount required notified by the applicant will be used as a guide only.

4.6 Applicants who are able to demonstrate the greatest benefit within/for of East Wittering and Bracklesham as a proportion of their activity will be considered more favourably than those for whom such activity is marginal.

4.7 Payment will be made by cheque before 31st March.

This Policy was adopted by East Wittering and Bracklesham Parish Council on 12 February 2015