



## Annual Grant Aid Application 2024-25

<b>Name of Organisation</b> Ashington Veterans and Elders Institute	<b>Contact Name</b> [REDACTED]
	<b>Position</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Address for correspondence:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Preferred contact for Grant Aid correspondence</b> Letter ( ) Telephone ( ) Email <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Te</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Bank Details:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Email:</b> [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Please tick to show you have read and understood the **Data Protection Statement** in the attached guidelines

**What is the status of your organisation?** (Please tick)

Registered Charity       Voluntary Organisation ( )      Company ( )  
Community Group ( )      Tenants' Association ( )      Other, please specify

Please give a brief description of your group/organisation, and your priorities for the current year:

We are a registered charity providing leisure facilities for the community of Ashington, in particular facilities and activities for elderly people.

We have over 100 members who take part in activities such as snooker, billiards, darts, indoor table games. They can also occupy themselves in our community garden by either taking part in maintenance duties or just relaxing.

We have a games/meeting/tv room, and extended kitchen/eating area.

We arrange monthly coffee mornings, frequent Music/Bingo/Quiz Nights, exhibition matches and excursions.

We run regular internal competitions and have five snooker/billiards teams taking part in local leagues.

We have separate groups who look after painting activities and gardening activities.

We have established strong links with the community, and with other similar groups within the area.

Our priorities for this coming year are firstly to complete our extension. This will give us a much bigger room in which to hold events for larger audiences. The extra space will also allow us to increase our range of activities. All of this extra activity will also increase our membership and our visitor numbers.

We are also reconfiguring the inside of the building to create a larger seating area.

At the moment, it is anticipated that this extension project will all be funded with grants we have received, although we aren't sure what obstacles lie ahead of us. Work has only just started (March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024) but already we have had issues with foundations having to go deeper than expected, and with the removal of the outer skin of the existing building...old windows had been boarded over and proved to be more difficult to remove and strengthen to reposition the front door.

We see this extension as the last project in what has been a very busy and successful last five years for us.

**Please include the following with your application:**

- ✓ Your constitution or governing document.
- ✓ Up-to-date financial information, including latest accounts and bank statement.
- ✓ A set a basic core policies:
  - ✓ Health & Safety
  - ✓ Equality and Diversity
  - ✓ Safeguarding
  - ✓ Data Protection and GDPR
  - ✓ Risk Management
  - ✓ Complaints Procedure

**Does your organisation work in partnership with any other organisations? Yes/No (please circle)**

If yes, please give details below:

Brightside Adult Services Ashington, Buzz Learning, Reiverdale Scouts, Earth Balance, GUST Independent School, Ashington YMCA, James Knott Primary School.

**Please provide details of membership/users:**

Number of Members/Users? 112	Do members/users pay a subscription fee? Yes/No (please circle)	Subscription Fee? £15 or £10 per annum, depending on age.
Number of paid employees (if any)? None	Number of volunteers? 25	
What percentage of members/users live in the Ashington? 95%		

If the above is difficult to quantify, please use this space to tell us how your organisation serves the residents of Ashington or contributes towards the wellbeing of the town and residents.

The community has been fantastic in supporting all of our events, which are always sold out. They attend our coffee mornings and other events in large numbers and support our activities that raise money for local good causes through buying our garden products.

Amount of Grant Aid requested **£500**

Grant Aid can be awarded for specific projects, 'start-up' costs or maintenance/running costs (see Grant Aid Guidelines). **Please give full details of the purpose of your Grant Aid application (continue on a separate sheet if necessary):**

Our three snooker tables are in constant use and they are in constant need of maintenance.

Equipment around the tables has not been replaced for a number of years, so we intend to upgrade many items this coming year.

We would like to replace three sets of snooker balls, two sets of billiards balls, three cue extensions and three table covers.

This list would cost well over £1,000 so a grant of £500 from The Town Council would be put towards that.

Funding must be spent in the financial year for which it is allocated (unless it is for a long-term project).

Please use the space below to show money you have available, and any expected fundraising or grants, even if this has not been confirmed or received. The Council would like to see examples of seeking funding from sources outside of the Town Council.

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE REQUIRED INFORMATION BELOW:**

Funding currently in hand:		Planned fundraising in 2023-24 with estimate of income:		Anticipated Income/Expenditure in 2023/24
Cash at bank	£128,079	Annual subs	£2,180	Income
	£	Table usage	£5,650	£24,495
	£	Coffee Mornings	£4,500	Expenditure
	£	All other income	£12,165	£15,435

Grants are paid after the meeting at which they are agreed, and will, if over £5,000, be paid in instalments. Grants can also be off-set against purchases and as a result save any VAT as the Council can reclaim VAT if we directly purchase the vatable item and the cost is within the award agreed. If you think this would be applicable, please speak to us directly.

**Please attach a copy of your latest financial statement together with a copy of your most recent bank statement for each bank account your organisation maintains.**

## UNRESTRICTED BALANCES MAY BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN AGREEING AWARDS

At the moment we are looking very healthy from a financial point of view, as the enclosed accounts show. We like to think that is because of our shrewd financial control and sound ongoing financial model.

We'd like the council to consider the following, please. In our current set of accounts:

- £8,000 is ring-fenced from grants received for energy costs
- £2,100 is ring-fenced from grants received for garden club purchases
- £60,000 is ring-fenced from grants received for the extension
- £10,000 is ring-fenced from our reserves to deal with unexpected costs during the extension project.



We fully-understand if the council feels we have enough of our own cash, and cannot support us with our application. However, we respectfully point out that we've already encountered around £5,000 of unexpected costs as we start the extension.

We very much hope we don't encounter any more unforeseen problems, but we really won't know what state our reserves will be in after the job is completed.

Therefore, we have applied for this grant during what is an exciting, but uncertain few months for us.

### DECLARATION

- ✓ I confirm that to the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information in this application is true and correct.
- ✓ I agree to any disclosure or exchange of information about this application which Ashington Town Council deem appropriate for the administration, evaluation, monitoring, and publicising of Grant Aid.
- ✓ I understand that acceptance of this application by Ashington Town Council does not in any way signify that the organisation is eligible to, or will receive Grant Aid, or that if successful Grant Aid will be automatically renewed each year.
- ✓ I have included the documents and policies required.
- ✓ I understand the requirement to deliver a presentation for applications over £3,000.
- ✓ I understand that awards over £5,000 will be paid in instalments, and I will be expected to provide reports throughout the year.
- ✓ I have included an up-to-date Financial Statement and copies of bank statements.
- ✓ I understand that the Council will *freeze* or *withdraw* funding or *reject* future applications if Grant Aid conditions are not met and/or there is evidence of unlawful activity, malpractice, or other behaviour that the Council deems improper.
- ✓ I agree to verify that Grant Aid has been spent for the intended purpose, in advance of the Grant Aid cycle for 2024/25 (beginning April 2024).
- ✓ I agree to inform the council of any significant changes to the membership or running of the organisation.

Signature 	Print name 	Date 31.03.2024
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### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date application received	Application successful? Yes/No	Proposed Award £
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Any additional information requested: