



## **Christmas Festive Fund 2020**

### **Guidance Notes**

Deadline for Submission of Application
<b>12.00 noon on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020</b>

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## 1.0 Introduction

These guidance notes provide an overview of financial support available through the Christmas Festive Fund for 2020. Council are keen to support applications from local communities who are providing new and innovative ways to keep communities connected during the current Coronavirus Restrictions. Applicant organisations from the same villages or hamlets are encouraged to work together to ensure that any planned activity involves the entire community in that locality.

All applications must be adjustable to changing social distancing regulations. Council Officials are here to support you with event queries in relation to your application, particularly in respect of Covid-19 and the associated Risk Assessment. A Risk Assessment must only be completed if your event involves the physical gathering of 15 or more persons. You may find it helpful to discuss your event proposal with one of the following officers within the Tourism Events Team before submission:

Tracey Freeman 07712235746 [tracey.freeman@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.freeman@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk)  
Cherri Sutherland 07925890809 [cherri.sutherland@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk](mailto:cherri.sutherland@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk)

Or if you require assistance in the completion of the application form you may find it helpful to speak to a member of the Funding Unit:

Chris Dunne 07709116838 [chris.dunne@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk](mailto:chris.dunne@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk)

## 1.1 Purpose of Grant Programme

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has developed the Christmas Festive Fund to support Community Associations from the smaller towns, villages and hamlets to help celebrate Christmas while complying with government restrictions on events. Due to a limited funding pot only **ONE** community group per settlement will be successful.

**Projects/events must take place between 23<sup>rd</sup> November and 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020.** Activities must be cross community and open for all residents offering an opportunity for all within the locality to participate.

### **Covid19:**

Please note responsibility remains with you, the applicant, to ensure that all event activities are permitted and comply with current and any future changes in Northern Ireland regulations, as set out in the Government's Coronavirus guidance specific to events and mass gatherings at the time of event planning/delivery.

Council reserves the right not to award funding or to withdraw funding if it is deemed that either during the course of planning and/or at the point of the event delivery date

the event is contravening the latest Northern Ireland Covid-19 guidance on events and mass gatherings.

## 1.2 Government Guidance

At the time of the publication of this Festive Fund Guidance, the relevant NI legislation which applies:

**Guidance as of 19 October 2020: Update on The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020**

Full up-to-date Government Guidelines are available at: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-protection-coronavirus-restrictions-northern-ireland-regulations-2020>.

Please note this guidance is subject to change at any time. Both Council and event organisers must react accordingly to ensure compliance with any associated changes.

## 1.3 Levels of Grant Award

Christmas Festive Fund	Maximum Grant Amount
1. Applications for a range of costs relating to festive entertainment can be supported. Priority will be given to projects that promote wide community involvement for events celebrating this festive period which are safe and within the current Covid19 restrictions and Government Guidance.	Up to £250

Project planning is an essential aspect of any successful event – Council requires evidence of appropriate project planning, consultation, permissions, licensing, risk assessment etc. Please note that for events where 15 or more persons are gathering the risk assessment needs to be completed and submitted along with the application, however, may need updated and re-submitted closer to the event date, in line with any changes to the Covid-19 Government Guidance at that time.

Post event the applicant will be required to complete the Council's monitoring and evaluation form, and to provide information detailed, in order to demonstrate how the organisation met the criteria detailed in their application form. The following information will be required:

- Number of attendees,

- A minimum of 2 photographs taken during the event/activity that we are able to use in the Council's publicity.
- Publicity material used to advertise your event
- Evidence of social media exposure
- Evidence that event organisers complied with relevant Covid-19 guidance throughout the planning and implantation of the event

Please Note: Groups will have to provide all evidence requested once the project expenditure is complete. This will include receipts, invoices, bank statements, or any other documentation deemed necessary. If requested documentation is not supplied then payment cannot be made. Please do not apply for funding if you cannot supply these items.

#### **1.4 General Principles**

In line with Council's Grant Funding Policy the overarching principle for all Council grant funding is that of meeting local needs which have been identified and prioritised by Council or by others but acknowledged by Council. Any activity that cannot be shown to meet the following basic requirements will not be provided with funding:

- Have a clearly identified need.
- Can deliver outcomes which meet this need.
- Deliver cost effective and quality service provision, fitting with the purpose and remit of the funding
- Be delivered by a credible organisation with the capacity to deliver the project as stated.
- Reflect the statutory remit of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, aligning with Council's Corporate Plan, the relevant Service plan and that they can meet the specific criteria of the fund, in this instance the Community Festivals Fund criteria.
- Applicants must demonstrate their commitment to promoting Good Relations and Equality of Opportunity.
- In the interests of transparency, equality and accountability all applicants will have a right of appeal should their application be rejected.

#### **1.5 Who can apply?**

Organisations must be from within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. Towns, villages, settlements with a population of over 100 residents may apply or towns, villages, settlements who have been allocated a Christmas tree from Causeway Coast and Glens borough Council may apply.

To be eligible for grant-aid, you will have to show that your organisation is a bona fide organisation that is well run and that it:

- Has a properly adopted “Governing Document” such as a constitution or memorandum and articles of association which clearly show that it is non-profit making and taking. Evidence that a constitution has been formally adopted must be supplied.

Only one grant per settlement will be awarded. Should Council receive more than one application per settlement the application which is the most inclusive and has the most far reaching community involvement will be selected. Council may also request that applicants work together to produce one all-inclusive event.

### **Only groups which meet these criteria can apply to the Christmas Festive Fund**

If an organisation is satisfied that it is an eligible formally constituted organisation as outlined, it **MUST** be in a position to meet the following criteria:

Be based in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area or have their main activities based in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area.

Be committed to Equal Opportunities in terms of organisational policies and the delivery of services to those being served or represented.

- Be non-party political and open to the full range of local opinion.
- Have a constitution / governing document that has been adopted at a public meeting showing clearly defined purposes that are for the public benefit in line with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.
- Be able to demonstrate a fair and equitable ethos through established aims and objectives in accordance with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1998).
- Be able without prejudice to the obligations of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1998), to demonstrate regard to the desirability of promoting Good Relations between persons of different religious belief, political belief, political opinion or racial group.
- Be accountable to local people through an established constitution, open membership, committee elections, accounting procedures and Annual General Meetings. The Office Bearing positions of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer should be held as a minimum.
- Have appropriate and adequate insurance cover for all activities and all actions proceeding such as costs, claims, demands and liabilities whatsoever, arising from all or any of the group activities. To also ensure that any individuals or organisations worked with are properly insured.

- Ensure that all group activities abide by the law and that the necessary permissions are obtained for activities from the appropriate body/authority.
- Ensure that Child Protection Policy / Vulnerable Adults Policy and Procedures are in place and adhered to as and where appropriate.
- Have a bank/building society account and keep a proper record of group accounts.
- Be able to produce an annual statement of independently audited or certified accounts, or be able to present a bank statement in the case of newly established groups.
- Have arrangements in place for dispersing the group's funds if they dissolve/ end.
- Agree to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's promotion, monitoring, evaluation, and training procedures as required.
- Be prepared to take part in any peer supported workshops that the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council deems necessary

### **1.6 What can be funded?**

Applications may be made for financial assistance towards events which may include:

- Community led events open to all residents raising awareness of what is going on in the local community.
- Appropriate events that celebrate the community in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area.
- Costs associated directly with staging and promoting the event – e.g. entertainment, venue hire and promotional literature. Other options below.
  - Performing Arts
  - Visual Arts
  - Cultural, recreational and sporting activities
  - Workshops
  - Displays
  - Exhibitions
  - Lectures
  - Performances

#### **Eligible costs may include:**

- Event insurance
- Venue hire
- Performance fees
- Transport

- Equipment hire
- Signage
- Advertising, marketing and media costs
- Printing
- Administration (stationery, postage etc.)

**Please note:**

Council reserves the right to withdraw funding if it is deemed that either during the course of event planning/and or at the date of event delivery date the event is contravening the latest Northern Ireland Covid-19 guidance on events and mass gatherings. At that point only eligible costs accrued up to and including the event cancellation date will be paid as per your grant awarded.

### 1.7 What cannot be funded?

In general the following will not normally be eligible for funding through the Community Festivals Fund:-

- Proposals that do not directly benefit Causeway Coast & Glens Council residents.
- Applications for funding which are considered to be the responsibility of another statutory organisation or Council fund.
- Retrospective expenditure where projects have started or services/items have already been obtained and paid.
- Applications where the applicant will have a personal financial benefit.
- Costs that are not auditable e.g. Cash payments unsupported by an approved petty cash system.
- Core running costs including overheads such as electricity, rent, rates, membership fees and annual premises and organisational insurance. Electricity costs may be eligible where the supply is specifically for the festival on site.
- Staff salaries - however, where staff are specifically festival-related, Council may consider allowing a proportion of basic salary costs. This must be discussed with Council staff before submission of an application. Staff costs may amount to no more than 10% of total costs and may be capped at the discretion of the assessment panel.
- Festival management / organising fees: professional and consultancy fees.
- Purchase of equipment;
- Costs towards banking charges and / or repayment of debt.
- Costs that can be claimed back from elsewhere e.g. VAT.
- Alcohol costs
- Gratuities and prizes.
- Provision for depreciation of assets used in the festival; corporation taxation; capital expenditure e.g. equipment such as computers, digital cameras etc.
- Charitable donations;
- Any costs not approved by the assessment panel.

## **1.8 Exclusions**

In general the following will not normally be eligible for funding from the Community Festival Fund:-

- Individuals
- Groups operating outside the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area
- Organisations with charitable fundraising as their main focus
- Organisations who have substantial, demonstrable reserves
- Political Organisations

## **2.0 How to answer the questions**

Applications for financial assistance from Causeway Coast and Glens for 2020 should be submitted online at [www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk](http://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk)

Guidance on completing the application online is provided on the web-site link.

Hard copies can be made available. Please contact the Central Funding Unit on email [grants@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk](mailto:grants@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk)

## **3.0 How we assess and score your application**

Every application that is received requesting a Christmas Festival Fund Grant will be assessed for the following:

- To ensure that the organisation is eligible to apply to this particular Grant Programme
- For reassurance of each organisation's capability to deliver the proposal, and
- How well the activity involves wider community involvement, proposal meets community needs and contributes to Council's Strategic Priorities and Department for Communities objectives for Community Festival Fund.

An acknowledgement receipt will be electronically issued to you once your submission has been received. The Funding Unit will assess your application for eligibility. If your application is eligible to apply for grant aid, it will be forwarded to the relevant section for a full assessment and scoring against the stated criteria.

## **3.1 Eligibility assessment**

The assessments in respect of Part 1 of the application are awarded a pass or fail eligibility rating.

As a result of the Covid 19 pandemic Council will assess whether or not the planned activity contravenes PHA and Government Guidelines, if the guidelines or legislation is contravened your application will be marked ineligible.

If the organisation, based on the information supplied is able to satisfy the Council of their eligibility to draw down the grant, they will progress to the next part of the process.

### 3.2 What if an application is not eligible?

If your application is not eligible, you will be notified immediately and the reasons will be outlined to you, if your application is deemed ineligible, it will not proceed to assessment and scoring.

### 3.3 Assessment and Scoring

Each application will be assessed and scored against the criteria listed below. All questions will be scored out of 5 and weighting will be applied as detailed below:

Criterion	Score (0-5)	Weighting	Overall Score
1. Clear and concise evidence of a developed project which adheres to Government Guidance & restrictions in relation to coronavirus ;with a date within the scope of the advertised fund (activity to take place between 23rd November to 24th December)		X 2	<i>Max available 10 points</i>
2. Suitable planning and for events with 15 or more persons a sufficiently completed Risk Assessment including preventative Covid-19 measures		X2	<i>Max available 10 points</i>
3. Clear and realistic objectives set for the project		X 2	<i>Max available 10 points</i>
4. Ability, skills and experience of the group which enables them to deliver the project		X 2	<i>Max available 10 points</i>
5. Detailed explanation of planned promotion and advertising of the project		X2	<i>Max available 10 points</i>

**Applications must score 65% in order to avail of funding.**

### 3.4 How decisions are made

When the assessment scores are finalised the applications will be presented to the Leisure and Development Committee for consideration and recommendation to full Council for approval.

-It will be at this point, that the successful/unsuccessful applicants will be notified

### **3.5 What happens if an application is successful?**

If an application is successful, Council will issue a letter of offer which is a legal agreement with the organisation to deliver on the proposals outlined in their application form.

-Signed Letters of Offer will need to be returned before any funding is released

Council funding is paid retrospectively. If required this grant can be released in two instalments – 50% of the grant will be awarded upfront if the organisations does not have sufficient reserves followed by remaining 50% once the claim is verified.

### **3.6 What happens if an application is unsuccessful?**

If an application is not successful officers from the Council will be available to meet with the organisation to go through their application, develop a working relationship and provide practical developmental support to address areas of concern.

An Appeals Process / Review Procedure is also available if an application is unsuccessful. The purpose of this is to ensure that the decisions taken and procedures followed by Committees for individual applications are applied fairly and consistently. The Review will provide an independent process through which an applicant will have the opportunity to demonstrate to the Review Panel that either:

- the outcome was unreasonable or
- that the proper procedures were not followed

Appeals on any other grounds will not be considered.

### **3.7 Government Funding Database**

Please be aware we are required to check the Government Funding Database (GFD) prior to making awards in order to avoid duplication of funding.

If registered on GFD we ask you to state your organisation's Unique Reference Number (URN) to help with this process. Details of grants awarded will be uploaded to the GFD, it is the responsibility of the applicant group to ensure that the organisation details held on GFD are up to date.

### **3.8 Late applications**

Applications received after the closing time/date will not be considered for funding. No exceptions will be made and there is no recourse to appeal.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Data Protection Act**

-We will use the information you give us on the application form during assessment and for the life of any grant we award you to administer and analyse grants and for our own research.

-We may give copies of this information to individuals and organisations we consult when assessing applications, when monitoring grants and evaluating the way our funding programmes work and the effect they have. These organisations may include accountants, external evaluators and other organisations or groups involved in delivering the project.

-We may also share information with other government departments, organisations providing match funding and other organisations and individuals with a legitimate interest in applications and grants, or for the prevention or detection of fraud.

-We might use the data you provide for our own research. We recognise the need to maintain the confidentiality of vulnerable groups and their details will not be made public in any way, except as required by law.

### **Freedom of Information Act**

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives members of the public the right to request any information that we hold, subject to certain exemption that may apply. This includes information received from third parties, such as, although not limited to, grant applicants, grant holders and contractors. If information is requested under the Freedom of Information Act we will release it, subject to exemptions; although we may consult with you first. If you think that information you are providing may be exempt from release if requested, you should let us know when you apply. For further information please visit the Information Commissioner's Office at [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

### **Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998**

All applications will be in accordance with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998; without prejudice, promoting good relations between persons of different religious beliefs, different political beliefs/opinion, different sexual orientation and different racial groups.

## Appendix 2

A risk assessment is a suitable and sufficient assessment, by an organiser, of risks to the health and safety of their employees and of any persons arising out of or in connection with the conduct of them by an event, for the purpose of identifying the preventative and protective measures they may reasonably take to limit the risks.

Preventative and protective measures are to be based on these principles:

- Avoiding risks
- Evaluating risks which cannot be avoided
- Combating risks at source
- Adapting to technical progress
- Replacing the dangerous by the non-dangerous or the less dangerous
- Giving collective, protective measures priority over individual protective measures
- Giving appropriate instructions

### Risk Assessment Template for Community Event

Event		Location / Premises / Site		
Date	Review Date	Assessed by	Approved by	
Who might be harmed?	Employees <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contractors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>General Controls:</b> All Event Organisers must <b>maintain good housekeeping</b> ; Avoid trip hazards e.g. Maintain a rolling risk assessment of each site. Always carry out a <b>visual inspection of all equipment</b> looking for defects – <b>DO NOT USE FAULTY EQUIPMENT</b> ; Always use equipment as per manufactures/hirers instructions and according to its purpose; The event areas must be for the event and suitable controls implemented as per HSE conditions; All <b>relevant risk assessments will be complied with.</b>				

COVID 19				
Hazards / Risk	Existing Controls (Change to suit your event or write N/A if required).	Initial Risk		
		High	Med	Low
1. <b>Inside or Outside Event.</b>	(An inside Event could possibly hold a greater risk)			
2. <b>Programming</b>	Singing, dancing, etc. in line with current Northern Ireland Covid-19 Government Guidelines.			

3. <b>Number of spectators or guests.</b>	Is the number of expected spectators in line with local government guidance? Be prepared to cancel at short notice.			
4. <b>Social Distancing.</b>	Will spectators and staff be able to follow social distancing rules?			
5. <b>Toilets / Cleaners</b>	(Cleaning of toilets may involve cleaning staff wearing PPE equipment depending on numbers).			
6. <b>Stewards</b>	(Depending on numbers it may be advisable for stewards to wear face masks)			

**LOCATION**

Hazards / Risk	Existing Controls	Initial Risk		
		High	Med	Low
7. <b>Location</b>	Brief description of site required and any dangers. Eg. Near a road.			
8. <b>Time/ Duration of Event</b>				

The Venue or Event Space

Hazards / Risk	Existing Controls	Initial Risk		
		High	Med	Low
9. <b>Crowd capacity and movement</b>				
10. <b>Site location/design</b>				
11. <b>Access/egress including emergency access/egress</b>				

<b>12. Evacuation of site</b>	In an emergency explain how you will evacuate the site.			
<b>13. Parking</b>				
Other Considerations				
Hazards / Risk	Existing Controls	Initial Risk		
		High	Med	Low
<b>14. Noise control (both people on site and resultant noise pollution)</b>				
<b>15. Communications</b>				
<b>17. First aid/welfare; and</b>	Depending on numbers First Aiders may be required.			
<b>18. Signage</b>				
<b>19. Trip hazards</b>				
<b>20. Damage to hearing</b>				
<b>21. Electrical risk</b>				
<b>22. Fire</b>				

23. Litter/refuse				
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### **Site Construction**

Attention should be made to any temporary structures used in connection with an event that in the event of failure is likely to harm directly or indirectly members of the public. A competent company must be contracted to supply and erect any temporary structure e.g. marquee or stage. The company must provide the event organiser with a signing off certificate placing the safety of the construction and erection of the structure with the competent contractor and not the event organiser.

### **Electrical Installations**

On the completion of installation of any temporary power supplies they are to be examined, tested and a certificate issued and signed by a competent and suitably qualified person.