

## REPORT TO THE FINANCE, EMPLOYMENT & SERVICES COMMITTEE



<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Gina Langley Town Clerk &amp; Responsible Financial Officer</b>
<b>Tel No</b>	<b>01282 861888</b>
<b>Email</b>	<b>g.langley@colnetowncouncil.org.uk</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026</b>
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Small Grant Applications</b>

### PURPOSE:

1. To provide details of two Small Grant Applications that has been received for the Committees consideration.

### BACKGROUND:

2. Colne Town Council has a commitment to encourage, support and promote local community, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations in Colne for the benefit of the Town.
3. The Town Council currently operates three different grant schemes as follows:
  - Small Grant Scheme
  - Climate Change Grant Scheme
  - Nature Reserve Grant Scheme
4. Colne Town Council has adopted a Small Grants Policy that is reviewed regularly.
5. The agreed budget for the financial year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 includes a total of £6,375 collectively for Climate Change and Community Projects, and a top up to £15,000 for the Nature Reserve Grant.
6. The grants awarded are normally restricted to £1,000 for Small Grants, £1,500 for Climate Change Grants and £5,000 for Nature Reserve Grants, however these limits may be lifted at the Committees discretion.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

7. Please find information relating to the Grant Applications already awarded for 2025/26 below:
  - Colne Dramatic Society – The Colne Dramatic Society were awarded a grant for £1,000 to help fund the repair works required to the roof of the Little Theatre.
  - The Waterside Millennium Green Trust – The Trust were awarded a sum of £1,000 to help with funding a free family friendly event on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2025 from 11am – 8pm in the central space of the Millenium Green to include: A big top music tent for DJs,

Gazebos for children's crafts and community stalls, circus equipment and games.

8. The Alkincoates Woodland Nature Reserve (AWNRR) – The group were awarded £5,000 towards an application for Nature Reserve Status for an enlarged reserve plus landscaping, a tree surgeon and signage.
9. Colne Citadel – Colne Citadel were awarded a sum of £500 to part fund window blinds on the left side of the building, two Counselling rooms and the café area.
10. Gib Hill Guardians – The group were awarded a sum of £5,000 towards ongoing work to improve the Local Nature Reserve at Gib Hill.
11. The awarded funding leaves a balance of £3,875 for climate change and community projects, and a value of £5,000 for nature reserve grants.

## GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

12. A new application has been received from the Colne Junior Council as follows:

**Project Title** – Cans for Cash – Reducing, Reusing and Recycling.

**Brief details of the Project** – Colne Junior Council have requested an amount of £600, to fund the transport for the CJC visit to the 'Eco Town', which is an Environmental Education Centre at Leyland. The visit is scheduled to take place on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

The visit directly supports the Headteacher Challenge, which focuses on collecting crushed aluminium cans and exchanging them for cash. The long-term ambition is to collect one tonne of aluminium cans, reinforcing real-world learning about recycling, resource value and environmental impact.

**Main Outcome to be achieved** – By the end of the visit, pupils will:

- Have a greater understanding of environmental sustainability.
- Feel empowered to take action within their schools and local community.
- Be motivated to actively contribute to the aluminium can recycling project.
- Strengthen collaboration between schools through shared learning experiences.

13. A new application has been received from Trawden Forest Primary School who as you know are one of the schools that are represented in the Colne Junior Council.

**Project Title** – 'Seeds for Tomorrow' – a school gardens project for sustainable learning.

**Brief details of the Project** - The project will support the development of the school growing area through the installation of a 14ft x 30ft polytunnel and a fruit cage. These facilities will provide protected growing space to enable year-round planting and cultivation, support curriculum-linked outdoor learning, and allow pupils to take part in a wider range of growing activities.

By growing fruit and vegetables on site, the project will promote sustainable food practices, reduce reliance on transported produce, and help pupils understand where food comes from and how it is grown responsibly. The growing area will encourage care for the environment, highlight the importance of biodiversity, and support hands-on learning about climate, conservation, and healthy living.

The additional infrastructure will significantly enhance the sustainability and long-term educational value of the school's outdoor learning provision, helping pupils develop skills, knowledge, and attitudes that support a greener future.

**Main Outcomes to be achieved** - The project will improve access to high-quality, curriculum-linked outdoor learning through the use of the new polytunnel and fruit cage, supporting teaching in science, food education, sustainability, and wellbeing. The protected growing spaces will enable year-round planting and cultivation, allowing pupils to observe plant lifecycles, grow seasonal produce, and understand how food is produced in a sustainable way.

Children will develop practical skills and knowledge in sustainable growing, including composting, caring for crops, reducing waste, and supporting biodiversity. They will gain a stronger understanding of environmental responsibility and the importance of making sustainable choices.

The additional infrastructure will make the school growing area accessible in all seasons, increasing participation across the school day and through the after-school Gardening Club. More pupils will be able to take part in hands-on activities such as planting, harvesting, and caring for crops.

Finally, the enhanced growing area will act as a shared learning resource for the school and wider community, encouraging collaboration, healthy lifestyles, and a long-term commitment to sustainability.

Total Project Cost: £2,500 – Amount Requested £1,000.

#### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

14. The requested funding is within budget and would leave £2,275 for Climate Change and Community Grants for the remainder of the year.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

15. That Members approve the applications received and authorise the Town Clerk/RFO to make arrangements for the payments to be made.

#### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

16. Town Council Members have shown a commitment to encourage, support and promote local community, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations in Colne for the benefit of the Town.

#### **SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS:**

17. Two Climate Change Grant Applications have been received for the 2025-26 financial year, and the FES Committee has delegated authority to make the decision of which projects to support.

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

18. None

#### **DETAILS OF CONSULTATION:**

19. None

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Gina Langley