

REPORT TO THE FINANCE, EMPLOYMENT & SERVICES COMMITTEE



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Date	7th July 2026
Subject	Small Grant Applications

PURPOSE:

1. To provide details of one Small Grant Application and one Nature Reserve Grant Application that have 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. (Please refer to appendix 1 of this report for details.)
5. The agreed budget for the financial year commencing 1st April 2026 includes a total of £8,100 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 2026/27 below:
 - Waterside Millenium Green Trust – The Trust were awarded a sum of £1,000 to help with funding for security at a free family friendly event on Saturday, 27th June 2026 from 11am – 8pm in the central space of the Millenium Green.

- Elisha House – Elisha House was awarded a sum of £1,000 to help fund an early intervention programme for young people in Colne and the wider Pendle area who are NEET or at risk of substance misuse and anti-social behaviour.
8. The awarded funding leaves a balance of £9,375 for climate change and community projects, and a value of £15,000 for nature reserve grants.

GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

9. A new application has been received from the Colne Dramatic Society as follows:

Project Title – Stage surround improvements and installation of visual aids.

Brief details of the Project – The removal of existing fibreboard that surrounds the front of the stage, this has been installed since the mid 1940's, and installation of new materials and a new projection screen and curtains. The previous screen's mechanism is broken and unsafe to use.

Main Outcome to be achieved – This project will help to enhance the visual aspect of the stage and improve the safety of all the visitors to the theatre.

Total Project Costs £2,500 – **Amount Requested £1,000.**

10. A new application has been received from the Alkincoates Woodland Nature Reserve as follows:

Project Title – Multiple Projects & Purchases

Brief details of the Project:

- Ongoing Expenditure – Tree Felling @ £500 per day, Dry Stone Wall Repairs @ £70 per metre, Stock Fencing @ £15 per metre, Wildflower Seeds @ £160 per kg, Hedge Row Saplings £66 for 30 trees (Woodland Trust).
- Purchases – Wall Mounted External Notice Board £277, Wildlife Camera Trap (Spypoint Flex) £160, Camera Drone (N11 Pro) £102, Prints for 6 new Interpretation Boards @ 6 x £45, Sthil Brush Cutter £500.
- Plus, ongoing management, maintenance & development of the reserve.

Main Outcomes to be achieved: To continue improving and developing the reserve. Tree felling is required primarily due to ash dieback. The Wildlife Camera Trap will enable us to monitor our progress in increasing wildlife. The Drone Camera will be used to monitor the tree canopy, check the wetland and photograph wildlife. The Brush Cutter will enable us to completely clear overgrown brambles etc to create more spaces and encourage biodiversity.

Total Project Costs £10,000 - **Amount Requested £5,000.**

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

11. The requested funding is within budget and would leave a total of £8,375 for Climate Change and Community Grants, and a total of £10,000 for Nature Reserve Grants for the remainder of the year.

RECOMMENDATION:

12. That Members consider the applications that have been received and make a decision on whether the Town Councillors would want to support these projects.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

13. 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:

14. Two grant applications have been received for the 2026-27 financial year, (1 x Community Grant and 1 x Nature Reserve Grant) and the FES Committee has delegated authority to make the decision of which projects to support.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

15. None

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION:

16. None

SUPPORTING PAPERS:

- **Appendix 1 – CTC Small Grants Policy**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Gina Langley