

Appendix

Applications

The following grant applications have been received for consideration in 2024/25:

		<u>Grant Award 2023/24 £</u>	<u>Grant Request 2024/25 £</u>
Dig-In Community Allotment	1	-	4,529
Toton Coronation Hall Community Association	2	7,000	7,000*
		Total	<u>11,529</u>

* The application from Toton Coronation Hall Community Association is covered by an existing provision for rent awards and therefore has no direct impact on current budgetary provision.

1. DIG-IN COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT

The Dig-In Community Allotment scheme ('Dig-In') was established in 2004 and is based at the Albany Allotments on Pasture Road, Stapleford. Dig-In provides a facility for local groups and residents to grow fruit and vegetables and explore biodiversity and horticulture through running a sustainable community allotment, organising workshops, volunteer gardening sessions, organic food growing, environmental and food education and local community outreach and involvement.

The group aims to improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the local community. The group also acts as a community hub for outdoor events and workshops which are intended to bring the local community together with a shared purpose of combating social isolation and developing people's skills, knowledge and self-confidence. Training is offered on an informal and occasional basis and is "on the job" during normal gardening sessions.

Dig-In is free and open to all (the project asks for donations at its events). Community groups and families use the site as a resource. The group welcomes people of all abilities and has several volunteers who have learning, physical disabilities or mental health issues. Dig-In also facilitates an important local resource, event and workshop venue in an otherwise deprived and disadvantaged part of the Borough.

Dig-In believes itself to be part of a network which has helped some of its volunteers gain employment by helping to develop transferable skills: social confidence, verbal communication, team work, resilience and patience.

Financial Information

For the year ended 28 February 2024, income totalling £14,379 (2023: £12,861) was derived from grants and donations. Expenditure of £12,033 (2023: £10,092) related to wages (£9,150), activities and events, materials and other operating costs. Stapleford Town Council supports the project by donating three allotment plots for community use and as such no rental is charged. Cash and bank balances at 28 February 2024 amounted to £15,709 (2023: £13,363). The group states that as at 30 September 2024, the bank balance for the group was £6,919.

The Council have supported the Dig-In Community Allotment for several years with grant aid towards its running costs. The grants awarded in the past four years were as follows:

2023/24	No application
2022/23	£913
2021/22	£655
2020/21	£700

Grant Request

For 2024/25 the Dig-In Community Allotment has requested an increased grant of £4,529.

Of this, £1,190 is requested as support for day-to-day running costs such as insurance, utilities, software licences and replacement ICT equipment. This is in line with similar grants awarded in previous financial years (see table above).

A further £3,339 has also been requested to allow Dig-In to continue to engage the services of a specialist Sessional Worker over the autumn and winter of 2024/25 to allow the group to continue to run without disruption and without the need to cancel sessions. Such is especially important to volunteers with mental health conditions and to help prevent social isolation and to avoid a negative impact on the main growing season in 2025. Dig-In is planning on applying to The National Lottery Community Fund with a new project idea but does not expect to have this funding in place until March 2025.

Such an award would be in line with the Council's Grant Aid policy for the following key reasons:

- The services provided by the Dig-In Community Allotment benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- The activities of Dig-In Community Allotment target the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of the community, in particular helping to combat loneliness and social exclusion within the Borough.

- Conservation and Environmental groups such as the Dig-In Community Allotment are a specific category of organisation welcomed to apply for Grant Aid.

2. TOTON CORONATION HALL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Toton Coronation Hall Community Association ('TCHCA') is responsible for the management and operation of the Coronation Hall on Portland Road in Toton which opened in 1953 and is owned by this Council.

TCHCA tries to offer the Hall to as many different people and activities as possible, whilst also being mindful of the people who live in close proximity to the Hall (for instance, the group has turned down enquiries from people who wanted to have unsuitable events / events finishing late in the night).

The Hall offers 'Zumba', 'Fitsteps', karate, sequence dancing, ballroom and Latin American dancing and tuition. TCHCA also welcomes children's parties, presentation evenings, family gatherings and similar.

Financial Information

TCHCA has provided its annual accounts for the year ended 31 July 2024 for scrutiny. Annual income amounted to £18,943 (2023: £16,622), comprising almost entirely of rental income for the hall and Grant Aid (£7,000) from this Council. Expenditure of £24,638 (2023: £12,958) included rent (£7,000), utilities (£12,933), heating repairs (£1,898) and insurance (£831). Cash and bank balances as at 27 September 2024 were £10,861. TCHCA has indicated that reserves are earmarked towards upkeep and general repairs.

Grant Aid Request

For 2024/25, Toton Coronation Hall Community Association has requested a grant of £7,000 to cover the market rental of the Coronation Hall. This grant award would be for a period of one year, with the potential award being matched by allowances within the premises income budget. Such an award would be in line with the Council's Grant Aid policy for the following key reasons:

- The services provided by TCHCA benefit Broxtowe residents and are complementary to the services provided by the Council.
- TCHCA and the groups which operate from Coronation Hall target the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of the community, in particular helping to combat loneliness and social exclusion within the Borough.
- Community Associations such as TCHCA are a specific category of organisation welcomed to apply for Grant Aid.

The Council has previously supported TCHCA with grant aid towards its premises rental with the grants awarded in the past four years being as follows:

2023/24	£7,000
2022/23	£7,000
2021/22	£7,000
2020/21	£7,000