



FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Report Community & Wellbeing

January 2026

Community Grants 2026-27

Farnham Town Council Grants Programme for 26/27

1. Summary

1.1 For 2026/2027, Council has increased the grants budget by £30,000 and allocated a total of £71,500 for Community Grants and £72,000 Service Level Agreement Grants. In addition there is £110,000 for supporting Younger People (outreach and school holiday activities); £2,500 for the Blackwater Valley Countryside Management Partnership; an increased grant of up to £25,000 towards Farnham Museum's running costs; and £3,500 for the Farnham and Hale Carnivals which are funded from service budgets.

1.2 This report summarises applications received for Community Grants in 2026/27 and for the Community & Wellbeing Working Group to recommend to Council to approve. Applications for general community grants of £37,121 have been proposed from a budget which in 2025/26 was £25,000.

Councillors agreed that an additional £30,000 be added to the grants budget to support community groups providing important services for local residents who were facing reductions in grants from principal authorities and to meet the increasing needs of community organisations.

	2025/26	2026/27 Budget	2026/27 Allocated to date	Balance Remaining
Service level agreements SLA:	£79,500	£72,000	£72,000	£0
Youth Projects:	£90,000	£90,000	£76,950	13,050
Summer Holiday Activity Grants:	£20,000	£20,000	0	£20,000
In Year Community Grants:	£25,000	£71,500	£37,121	£34,379
Town Clerk Small Grants: (in year allocation up to £250)	£2,000	£2,500	£0	£2,500
Grants funded from other budgets	£16,000	£31,000	£31,000	0
TOTAL	£232,500	£287,000	£217,071	£69,929

2. Background

2.1 The stated aims of the Community Grant Scheme are to enable local people to participate in voluntary groups and activities; help the Town's voluntary groups to improve effectiveness; ensure the provision of services, needed by the Town's residents, via the voluntary sector; support organisations which meet the needs of people experiencing social and economic difficulties; ensure that there is equality of access and opportunity for all Farnham Town residents to the services it provides and funds.

2.2 Funding is given based on need, merit of the project and overall benefit to the local community. Applicants must clearly show how any assistance given will benefit the people living in Farnham or the environment of Farnham and meet the criteria of the Council's aims and objectives as stated:

- 1 To enable local people to participate in the voluntary groups and their activities
- 2 To help the Town's voluntary groups to improve effectiveness
- 3 To ensure the provision of services needed by the Town's residents, via the voluntary sector.
- 4 To support organisations which meet the needs of people experiencing social and economic difficulties
- 5 To ensure that there is equality of access and opportunity for all Farnham Town residents to the services it provides and funds

Funding will normally only be awarded up to a maximum value of £2,500 and as matched funding. All funding given will be subject to monitoring and evaluation of the outcome of the grant.

2.3 Grants are not intended to provide ongoing general funding for projects. Grants are awarded for specific costs. Organisations are required to provide a report on how previous monies awarded by the Town Council have been spent before they receive a further grant. Organisations should be not-for-profit and must have clearly stated aims and objectives. The activities of the organisation and in particular the project being considered for funding must be readily available to the community of Farnham in general. No award will be made where spending has taken place prior to approval. Normally at least 50% matched funding will be required for any level of grant funding.

Costs for general routine maintenance of buildings and equipment are not eligible unless agreed as part of a SLA agreement. Grants will not be awarded for organisations to pass on money to others. Grants will not be awarded to organisations who already hold surplus funds which are not being used for the general operation of the organisation or delivery of the project and are not earmarked reserves. If a project is not completed, the funding must be returned and is generally done so or a further report for reallocation of any grant awarded is made.

Grants are available to complete a one-off project or project that will require funding for up to a maximum of three years where normally a tapering grant contribution will be considered.

2.4 A list of the proposed community grants is attached at Annex 2

3. Service Level Agreements

Budget Centre	Organisation	SLA allocations 2025/2026	SLA (Provisional allocations) 2026/27
4801	Farnham Maltings	£12,500	£12,500
4802	Citizens Advice (CASWS)	£25,000	£20,000
4803	40 degreez	£5,000 <i>(for general running costs only)</i>	£5,000 <i>(for general running costs only)</i>
4806	Hale Community Centre	£5,000 <i>(for general running costs only)</i>	£5,000 <i>(for general running costs only)</i>

4808	Hoppa Community Transport	£10,000 <i>(an additional £5000 to support the Frimley Park Hospital Hopper Pilot was paid)</i>	£15,000 <i>(includes ringfenced £5,000 to support the Frimley Park Hospital Hopper)</i>
4809	Brightwells Gostrey Centre	£10,000 <i>(for general running costs only)</i>	£10,000 <i>(for general running costs only)</i>
4812	Space2grow	£2,000	£2,000
4813	New Ashgate Gallery	£2,500	£2,500
	TOTAL	£59,000	£72,000

Youth Initiatives & Outreach

Budget Centre	Organisation	SLA allocations 2025/2026	SLA (Provisional allocations) 2026/27
4800	40 Degreez (SLA)	£30,000	£37,000
4800	Hale Community Centre (SLA)	£15,000	£15,000
4800	Jubilee Hub (SLA)	£15,000	£15,000
4800	Pilot School & Holiday Music Project	£0	£9950
	TOTAL	£60,000	£76,950

Farnham Town Council operates a 'light touch' service level agreement where organisations provide important social or community services that fit with the objectives of the Council.

Organisations that receive SLA contributions (usually £2,500 or above) can use their funding for general purposes as agreed and are groups that may receive funding over a longer period whilst their objectives and activities meet the outcomes desired by the Council.

Councillors met with all organisations in receipt of SLAs during January 2026. Collectively, all organisations were facing increased costs as a result of a number of factors such as the Government's increases on employers' national insurance contributions and other economic challenges.

All organisations were commended on their work and varying activities and members felt it was appropriate to make some adjustments given the current economic pressures and needs of specific parts of the community, with increases proposed for 40 Degreez to further develop their youth provision including supporting Project Bracken which seeks to encourage and support young people to develop essential life skills in readiness for the world of work e.g. confidence/skills/experience/cv writing.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the proposed grants set out above and at in Annex 2 be approved.