

	Meeting (No)	Community & Environment (2)
	Date	11 August 2026
	Document	Ref No
	Community Event Donations	CE2/20

Correspondence from Neston Female Society

The information below has been received from Neston Female Society.

Last night Neston Female Society held their AGM and held discussions ref provisional funding 2027.

Road Closure £2,200

Medical Cover £200

Entertainment £1000

Neston Female Society would like clarification on NTC intentions with regard to installation of bunting Neston Town Centre for the months of June and July 2027. If NTC are considering not to install bunting we would be grateful for early notification to explore options eg crowdfunding.

Kind regards

Secretary Neston Female Society

Budget Clarification

Following last year's streamlining and consolidation of budget account codes/EMR codes, all costs associated with any community events will now be costed to account code 4363. This will ensure that total funding per event will be easily identifiable.

Environmental Considerations

Neston Town Council has committed to reducing plastic pollution as part of the Neston Plastic Free Community accreditation¹. The Council resolved to lead by example by working towards removing single-use plastic items from council premises as well as encouraging plastic-free initiatives, promoting Plastic Free Neston and supporting events.

As a result of this Council resolution, the Community Event Donations policy was updated to include a requirement for all recipients to actively engage with this commitment: "Donations will only be made to events that become Plastic Free Neston Community Allies. This can be achieved by the event itself becoming a Plastic Free Community Ally or by the organisation responsible for the event becoming a Plastic Free Community Ally."

¹ Plastic Free Communities is a national scheme. The scheme defines plastic free as follows: "It's not about removing all plastic from our lives. It's about kicking our addiction to throw-away plastic, and changing the system that produces it." (<https://www.sas.org.uk/plastic-pollution/plastic-free-communities/>).

Traditionally, the bunting used has been made from flexible PVC which is very difficult to recycle and is an extremely polluting product. An alternative might be nylon or polyester, but they are both still plastic and have a negative environmental impact, especially if they contain a polyurethane (PU) coating for water resistance. Having researched the options, officers are able to confirm that there are suppliers who can provide bunting in polyester without PU coatings which will make the recycling process more straightforward. There is also an option of purchasing bunting made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET) which one of the suppliers considers to be the most sustainable alternative. There are no easy solutions and all the above options have negative aspects and a far higher environmental footprint than natural fibres. If a decision is taken to purchase plastic bunting, it may be a case of deciding upon the least bad option, being mindful of the fact that this purchase is inherently damaging to the environment, and also budgeting for end-of-life disposal at the outset.

Points for Discussion and Decision

- a) To consider the request from Neston Female Society and decide whether to provide a donation from account code 4363 for any or all of the items requested. (Please note that accounts relating to the donation for the 2026 Ladies Day are awaited and any decision to fund future events can only be taken subject to receipt and approval of accounts for previous donations.)
- b) To decide whether to install bunting in 2027 with cost being met from account code 4363.
- c) If bunting is to be installed during 2027, the Committee may wish to consider the options listed below.
 - i. Having discussed the environmental considerations contained in this paper, the Committee may wish to agree an environmental statement in relation to material used and its eventual disposal.
 - ii. The Committee will wish to decide whether the Town Council should either install the bunting or provide a donation to Neston Female Society to do so as part of the overall donation.
 - iii. If a decision is taken to include an amount for bunting installation within the overall donation to Neston Female Society, the Committee will need to decide if the bunting should remain in place for a short period (ie for Ladies Day only), or whether Neston Female Society should be requested to take responsibility for keeping the bunting in place during the summer as a thank you to tax payers for their ongoing financial support.

Audrey Duncan
Community & Environment Manager