



MAIN GRANTS PROGRAMME
(for applications to a maximum value of £2,500)
APPLICATION FORM

Name of organisation	Neston Pirate Samba
Official address (if applicable)	

	First contact	Second contact
Name	Stuart Hardcastle	Kirsty Wright
Position	Workshop leader	Administration
Address		
Telephone		
Email		piratesamba@gmail.com

Does your organisation have a named bank account with a minimum of two signatories?	YES	x
	NO	

Registration status (if applicable)	
Charity Commission registration number	
Companies House registration number	

Your organisation	
What does your organisation do?	We provide ongoing samba drum workshops for children, parents, grandparents and teachers in the Neston area. Many participants are at risk of social exclusion and a significant number come from minority groups or have learning/physical disabilities. For most, this is the only extracurricular activity they access. We focus on communication, teamwork, musical aspiration and the building of strong relationships.
How does your organisation benefit the local community? Please include a specific example.	We support Neston by performing at local events. In the last 12 months this has included the Xmas Lights Switch On, Neston Village Fair, West Vale Fun day and Celestial Market events. We have played to hundreds of people in the area and our performances are always well received. These opportunities are also vital for our own participants sense of community and self-belief.

How many people benefit directly from the work of your organisation (itemise numbers of members, volunteers and service users)?	40 young people aged 6 to 17. 20 volunteers (parents, grandparents, teachers).
What activities, events or services has your organisation provided in Neston during the last 12 months?	Workshops for Neston and Parkgate Primary. Regular "Sambanans" sessions for older residents. Regular youth band workshops. Workshops for Neston area Guides and Scouts. Performances at Xmas Lights, Neston Library, West Vale Fun Day, Neston Village Fair, Celestial Market Days and the Town Council AGM. Trip to Oslo to perform alongside Norwegian teenagers at the International Mela.
What activities, events or services does your organisation plan to provide in Neston for the next 12 months?	Continuation of regular workshops for young people and their support network Early years workshops for local primaries Link with music depth at Neston High to give more teenagers access to music opportunities. Development of a brass band for all ages to play at local events. Further Exchange project with youth groups in Oslo. Trip to London Southbank to take part in Kinetika Bloco summer school Performances at key events in Neston's cultural calendar.

Your project	
Project title	Neston Community Brass Band
Amount requested	£2500
Project start date	12/10/2026
Project end date	31/8/2027
Describe your project	The creation of Neston's own brass band to play at events including the Xmas lights switch on and do exchanges with partner groups in London and Oslo.
List the main objectives of your project	to further widen the educational reach of Neston Pirate Samba. To provide high quality performance opportunities across different media To bring the wider community together to share and experience music making-in particular brass. To give young people the opportunity to learn and play different instruments

	To give all community members the beginnings of a music hub on their doorstep.	
Explain how each main objective will be achieved.	Advertisement through social media for regular open brass workshops. Performance dates to support workshops including the Xmas Lights Switch on. Participation in other key events in Neston's cultural calendar including the Village Fair and West Vale Fun Day Continuation of our link with Grunnerlokka brass band in Norway and Kinetika Bloco in London.	
Provide a timeline for implementation of your project.	From Oct to April - workshops supported by local brass tutors. Premier performance at end of Nov for the Xmas Lights Switch on. Summer 2026 performances at community events. Aug 2027 chance for youth members to join 50/50 street band at Oslo Mela.	
Detail the evidence that proves why this project is needed.	Lack of opportunity for young people to play brass instruments in group settings in the Neston area. Young people in our organisation wanting opportunities to play different instruments. Public feedback that brass and other instruments would be a great addition to the drumming. Feedback from our own participants following Oslo project that Samba Pirates should have own brass section.	
Please demonstrate how the people who will benefit from your project, with lived experience of the issues tackled, have been involved in its development and how they will be involved in its delivery.	Access to music increases well-being and a sense of community. Participants in this project will also gain confidence and key life skills through collaboration and performances. Playing and including different instruments deepens the individuals understanding and appreciation of music.	
What difference will your project make to the lives of the people who will benefit from it and how will you measure its legacy?	The project will be the first time for many participants at risk of social exclusion to take part in a group that includes tuned instruments. For all members it will be provide a local hub for sharing and engaging in different forms of music and instrumentation For audiences it will provide another medium for them to enjoy at community events	
	Direct beneficiaries	200

How many people do you estimate will benefit from your project?	Volunteers	20
If you aim for your project to carry on in the future, how will you ensure it continues after the funding from this application has been used?	All participants to be invited to our regular sessions which are free to access and funded by our members.	

Breakdown of project costs	
Description of expenditure	Amount £
10 x community band workshops [2x workshop leaders)	2000
5 x open community performances throughout year	1000
website maintenance for signposting	200
equipment repairs	
t-shirts for performances	200
TOTAL PROJECT COST (do not include in-kind costs)	3500

Sources of project funding and in-kind support	
Have you secured any other funding for your project? If so, where from?	Amount
membership donations	600
Description of in-kind assistance secured (eg volunteer hours or donated equipment)	Amount (what is the financial conversion for this in-kind help?)
volunteer workshop support (20 sessions at £20)	400

Financial information about your organisation (last financial year)	
What was the date of your last financial year end?	5/4/2026
What was your organisation's income in the last financial year?	7950
Did your organisation have a surplus or deficit for the last financial year?	Surplus £1679.42 Deficit £
What were your organisation's unrestricted reserves at the end of the last financial year?	£1679.42

Financial information about your organisation (current financial year)	
Are you projecting a surplus or deficit for the current financial year?	Projected surplus £2000 Projected deficit £

What are your organisation's projected unrestricted reserves for the end of the current financial year?	£2000
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Previous grant support from Neston Town Council		
Please detail below previous grant support that your organisation has received from Neston Town Council during the past five years		
Date of grant award	Purpose of grant award	Amount
1 October 2024	preparation for Xmas Lights	500
22 October 2024	community workshops	2500
30 April 2025	London performance preparation	500
30 March 2026	Pirates on tour	2500

The Town Council's funding priorities	
We look for projects that support the funding priorities detailed in the Town Council's Grants Policy. Which of these priorities does your project support?	
To enable local people to participate in voluntary groups and activities.	x
To help the Neston area's voluntary and community groups to improve the impact on the community.	x
To ensure the provision of services, needed by the residents of the Neston area, via the voluntary sector.	x
To support organisations which meet the needs of people experiencing social and economic difficulties.	
To ensure that there is equality of access and opportunity for all Neston area residents to the services it provides and funds.	x
To improve or enhance the local environment.	x

Checklist	
Latest annual accounts	
Copies of written estimates or catalogue pages (if applicable)	
Policies for the protection of children and/or vulnerable adults (if applicable)	

Declaration	
1. I am authorised to make the application on behalf of the above organisation. 2. I have read Neston Town Council's Grants Policy and Funding Agreement. 3. I certify that the information in this application is correct. 4. If the information in the application changes in any way I will inform Neston Town Council. 5. I confirm that our organisation has the necessary governance in place to ensure accountability for the spending of any grant money allocated by Neston Town Council. 6. I understand that information provided in this application (with the exception of contact details and signatures) will be in the public domain and will be uploaded to the Town Council's website. 7. I agree to participate in monitoring, auditing and reporting feedback related to Neston Town Council grant funding.	
Name	Stuart Hardcastle

Signature	
Date	27/9/2026

Applications to the main grants programme are considered twice a year and the deadlines for submission of applications are **31 March** and **30 September**.

You can submit your application electronically to council@nestontowncouncil.org.uk or by post to Neston Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Neston CH64 9TR.

NESTON TOWN COUNCIL PRIVACY NOTICE FOR APPLICANTS TO THE TOWN COUNCIL'S GRANTS PROGRAMME

The Data Protection Act 2018 governs how we handle personal data.

Why are we collecting your information?

On our grant application forms most of the information we need relates to your organisation. However, we are often provided with names, email addresses, contact telephone numbers and addresses relating to named individuals who are submitting the form on behalf of the group. We are processing the data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. We will only use the personal data supplied for the means of administering the grants programme.

How will we use your information?

The information you provide to us in connection with your grant application (including personal contact details) will be held securely as hard copy originals and as electronic data on Neston Town Council's shared drive. We will only use this information to assess, process and award community grants. For those successful in obtaining a grant award, we will use information about the project in publicity to promote the grants programme but will not share any personal data. If we want to use any photographs showing people at your events we will ensure we gain consent from them at the time in order to use images of them.

Who will we share your information with?

The information may be shared with other Council Officers and Town Councillors as part of our grant assessment and monitoring process. A redacted version of your grant application (removing private addresses, private telephone numbers, private email addresses and applicant signatures) will be considered at a grants meeting and, as such, will be uploaded to the Town Council website alongside other papers detailed on the agenda. Your contact details will not be passed on to third parties. Please note that Neston Town Council is subject to the Freedom of Information Act and other legislation.

How long will we keep your information?

Information from successful applicants will be retained for the current financial year plus six years. A redacted version of the grant application uploaded to the website as a meeting paper will be available to view for an indefinite period (private addresses, private telephone numbers, private email addresses and applicant signatures are redacted).

Information from unsuccessful grant applicants will be kept for 12 months from the point of application. A redacted version of the grant application uploaded to the website as a meeting paper will be available to view for an indefinite period (private addresses, private telephone numbers, private email addresses and applicant signatures are redacted).