



SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME
(Maximum £500)
APPLICATION FORM

Name of organisation	Neston Singers
Official address (if applicable)	

	First contact	Second contact
Name	Margaret Harrison	Mel Pryer
Position	Chair	Treasurer
Address		
Telephone		
Email		

Does your organisation have a bank account with a minimum of two signatures? <i>Grants will only be awarded to organisations with a bank account.</i>	YES	yes
	NO	

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

Your organisation	
What does your organisation do?	Neston Singers is a Neston based community choir. Our mission is: Neston Singers exists to bring people together through the joy of singing. We aim to create a welcoming, in-person space where people of all backgrounds can reconnect with music, build community, and experience the uplifting and grounding power of singing together. We meet to rehearse every Monday evening and perform two concerts per year, one at Christmas and one in late Spring. We also hold social events for the choir. When possible we take part in community events in Neston, for example singing at the Christmas market.
How does your organisation benefit the local community?	Research has shown that singing in a choir promotes our sense of happiness and both physical and mental wellbeing. In 2026

	Professor Daisy Fancourt of UCL published “Art Cure: the science of how the arts transform our health” This puts forward powerful arguments for how creative activities and cultural engagement impact physical and mental wellbeing. Making music exercises the brain and the body. Singing improves breathing, posture and muscle tension. Equally importantly singing in a choir builds and strengthens social networks. We try to make these benefits as widely available as possible to the people of Neston. This year we revisited our vision for the choir and our branding. Our mission expresses the importance of community and connection to the choir. We reinforced our aim to welcome all ages and abilities and the value of learning and developing together and our aim to serve and celebrate the Neston community.
How many people benefit directly from the work of your organisation? (Itemise numbers of members, volunteers and service users.)	The choir currently has around 20 members. Family members and friends of the choir also volunteer to support concerts. The audience at our concerts varies from between 40 to 80 people.

Details of your grant application	
Briefly describe the project, activity or purchase for which you require a grant. <i>Retrospective requests will not be considered.</i>	We have been asked, and agreed, to perform the opening concert for the Neston Music Festival in April 2027. This would mean putting on three concerts instead of our usual two in 2027 and brings additional costs. We put on concerts for benefit of the choir and our supporters but we do not always cover the costs.
How will the project, activity or purchase benefit the local community?	The concert will support the Neston Music Festival. This is an annual event that brings music to Neston. We hope that by taking part we can share more widely the joy and connection that choral singing brings. We hope that by being part of the festival we will reach a much wider audience than we currently attract. With additional funding from Neston Town Council we will offer this concert with free

	entry.
Project/activity start date and end date <i>The project start date must be later than the meeting at which your application is to be considered. It is not possible to award grants retrospectively.</i>	The opening concert is on Friday 9 th April 2027.
How much will your project, activity or purchase cost in total?	£490
How much are you requesting from Neston Town Council?	£490
Please give a breakdown of the cost of the project, activity or purchase.	Hire of the URC for two sessions (afternoon rehearsal and concert) £200 Accompanist fee £170 Musical Director fee for rehearsal and concert £120
If your project, activity or purchase cost is more than the amount requested in this grant application, how will you fund the difference?	

Financial information about your organisation

Please provide details of any reserves held by your organisation.	Neston Singers currently holds £3000 in reserves. Last year we benefited from a £2000 legacy from a former member. Without this our yearly income would not cover our running costs.
Have you attached your most recent accounts? If not, please explain why.	yes

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
June 2025	Singing in the Round	£654
March 2023	Purchase of music	£433

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 will your project support?	
To enable local people to participate in voluntary groups and activities.	✓
To help the Neston area's voluntary and community groups to improve the impact on the community.	✓
To ensure the provision of services, needed by the residents of the Neston area, via the voluntary sector.	
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.	✓
To improve or enhance the local environment.	

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 private 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	
Signature	
Date	29.09.26

Applications to the small grants programme will be 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.gov.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 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).



Parkgate & Neston United Reformed Church

INVOICE FOR HALL/ROOM HIRE

Contact name	Margaret Harrison
Hirer	Neston Singers
Address	
Email	

A/C to Week Beginning	Fee per meeting	No of Meetings	Cumulative Fee now due
01-Jun-26	£200 £45	2 church sessions 20 weekly sessions	£1,100

Payment is requested within 7 days.

The preferred method of payment is by transfer to the Church's bank account:

Name	Parkgate-Neston URC
A/c Number	
Sort Code	
Reference	Hall Hire

Please send queries about this invoice to the Church Assistant Treasurer: