



ABERGAVENTNY TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY SMALL GRANT SCHEME APPLICATION FORM 2023/24

This application form is to be used to submit an application to Abergavenny Town Council Community Small Grant Scheme. Please read the guidance notes carefully before completing the form.

Completed forms to be returned to Clerk@abergavennytowncouncil.gov.uk or by post to Town Clerk, Town Hall, Cross Street, Abergavenny, NP7 5HD.

Section 1 – Contact information

a. Group Name	Abergavenny Pride
b. Contact Name	Jo Webb
c. Contact Address	10 Belmont Crescent
	Abergavenny
	NP7 5LF
d. Contact email	abergavennypride@hotmail.com
e. Position in Group	Volunteer
f. Contact tel no	07951 979854
g. Bank Account Details	Lloyds Bank A/C Name: Abergavenny Pride

Section 2 – Tell Us About Your Group

a. Briefly tells us about the activities that your organisation/group undertakes

Abergavenny Pride was set up in 2019 and the town's first Pride took place at the Park Street Community Centre in July that year, attended by more than 200 people. After the hiatus caused by the pandemic, we were back in action in July 2022 and, thanks in part to a grant of £600 received by Abergavenny Town Council, the event was a huge success -

we were able to switch to the bigger venue of the Priory Centre and Tithe Barn and over 400 people attended. Plans are now well underway for Pride 2023 to be held at the same venue on June 24th (we anticipate at least 500 people) and we would be extremely grateful for further consideration by the Council.

The event itself will be wider in scope this year. We plan a Parade through the pedestrianised areas of town (under separate discussion with stakeholders), and a Family Fun Day from 12.00-5.00 at the Priory Centre, with an evening After Party that will feature Drag Acts, a Comedian and a DJ. The main event is free, whilst the After Party is restricted to 18+ (this will be strictly enforced). There will be more participation this year from local young people, who are keen to deliver artwork and activities for the Fun Day and be involved in the Parade. In addition to the "ThinkSpace" at the Tithe Barn making another appearance this year (with talks from participants including Mind Monmouthshire, Father John from St Marys and the Period Dignity charity) a new feature/service will be offered, as a direct result of King Henry School pupils' involvement in Abergavenny Pride. They commented that young people who may be questioning their identity have nowhere to try on clothes safely in our town. At Abergavenny Pride this year, we offer a safe space (called "Out of the Closet") where anyone can try on any clothing they like. Clothes will be donated and borrowed from the Melville Theatre and other donors. We recognise that transgender people of all ages may benefit from this.

Thanks in part to the support of the Council, we have been able to maintain a network of support to an extent throughout the year – not just on the day of Pride itself. Although we still have work to do in this regard, we have enabled some small events, such as an LGBTQ+ picnic, and our social media has encouraged healthy discussion and signposting to services. We hope to build on this to help reduce social isolation and build a more resilient network of support for anyone struggling with their mental health.

Everyone is welcome at all our events – Abergavenny Pride celebrates inclusivity and diversity – and we hope that the Pride event itself continues to act as a catalyst for bringing together the whole community, providing support to all, whatever their sexual orientation. We also think having a Pride makes Abergavenny an even more attractive place for LGBTQ+ people to live, work and contribute.

As the Council will no doubt be aware, earlier this year, the LGBTQ+ Action Plan was launched as part of the Welsh Government's Programme for Government and the Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru, showing that Ministers are committed to meaningful change for all LGBTQ+ communities. We hope that by supporting our Pride again in 2023, the Council can help Abergavenny to contribute to advancing equality and inclusion, thereby helping to make Wales "the most LGBTQ+ friendly place in Europe" (*Deputy Minister for Social Partnership, Hannah Blythyn*).

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b. Charity Details (if applicable)	Charity Number N/A
c.VAT Registered?	No

Section 3. Tell Us About The Community Project/Activity You Want To Undertake

a. Which objective does this project mainly contribute towards (**please tick one**):

- Giving Children and Young People the best possible start in life
- Support for community wellbeing inc. volunteering and active citizenship
- Supporting an economically thriving community
- Protecting and enhancing our natural environment

b. Please give more detail on how your project will meet the objective you selected above:

We already have a number of volunteers for the event itself, who contributed to its success last year, and we are collaborating with GAVO to attract more volunteers, both on the day and for subsequent events. We feel that our organising committee demonstrates the inclusivity of our Pride, being made up of both gay and straight members and we strive to consult with transgender people on a regular basis. All twelve committee members give their time voluntarily and are proud to participate in an event which can be seen as a positive asset to our town. Additional volunteers participate via our social media outlets and at various smaller events. The relationships and networks we are building between organisations and individuals such as the Police, Fire Service, St Johns Ambulance, the Town Council and MCC, local businesses and sponsors, artists, support services and charities in the town all help to improve community wellbeing and there is often “cross pollination” which benefits everyone.

c. Total Project Cost	£4347
d. How much are you applying for from Abergavenny Town Council?	£723
e. Have you raised the balance of funds?	Almost. The balance required is £3747 and we have £3345: £1595 in proceeds from Pride 2022 (raffle, GoFundMe, merch sales) £500 from our own fundraising so far (Community Canteen, Open Mic,

Bingo Night)
£250 Grant from Beaumont Trust
£1000 from Community Fund in
Wales
Further funding bids of 2K from
Grassroots Pride Fund are in
progress and we are hopeful of a
positive outcome.

(25% of the total project costs should come from other sources)

f. Please specify how you will use the Town Council grant?

We would like to promote the event in as professional manner as possible and have the following projected expenses for marketing (based on recent quotes from local firms):

200xA5 booklets (programmes), 2 banners and 15 large signs - £450

250 x A4 and 250x A4 posters - £93

Website SSL & Social Media Boosts - £180

(Total £723)

g. How will your project benefit the community of Abergavenny?

Not only does Abergavenny Pride aim to support and celebrate Abergavenny's LGBTQ+ people, their friends and families, but we also fervently wish to improve understanding and build relationships across the whole community, increasing and strengthening participation by all. This can mean having difficult discussions on transgender and non-binary issues – Pride can provide us with the ideal opportunity to do this. As in any town, there is a minority who find the increased visibility of LGBTQ+ people and any “non-standard” family structures challenging, and may criticise, attack or disrespect those they see as different. 2022 saw a 56% increase in hate crime against transgender people (*Home Office Report, Oct 22*) and Gwent Police recorded an 82% rise in hate crimes overall (*BBC, 6 Oct 22*) - data which somewhat supports the anecdotal evidence we already have. Although the picture locally may not be as shocking as these figures suggest, we really hope to promote acceptance of others through our Pride activities and to support those who want to be educated about difference. Aside from LGBTQ+ individuals and their families feeling less isolated and more connected to the community, there are many beneficiaries in the town – from local businesses who profit from increased footfall, or have a presence at the event (e.g. Angel Bakery, Bookish, Shepherds Ice Cream et al) to organisations such as MIND Monmouthshire, Breast Cancer Awareness and ABHB who raise their profiles by being at Pride, and boost community wellbeing. A Facebook post from a local person (not involved in Pride) said after last year's event: “If you had told me decades ago that we would have been celebrating Pride at St Mary's

Priory I would not have believed you! I found it very moving to see all the rainbow flags flying on the church. Well done ...you are changing history and bringing more love and acceptance to our town!"

h. If your project involves working with young people does your organisation have a safeguarding policy?

Yes	No
X	

i. When will your project start and finish?

Start date

June 24th 2023

Completion date

June 24th 2023 (and ongoing)

j. Are there any outstanding permissions i.e. planning permission required before this project can start? If so, please list together with expected dates when permission will be granted

We are currently liaising with MCC and the Town Council regarding the possibility of painting the pedestrian crossing on Monk Street the Pride colours for 24 hours on 24th June.

Our Food Permits for the three food suppliers to be stationed in the Priory Centre Car Park are in process and we hope they will be granted in time.

We are currently completing an Event Notification Form for the Events Safety Advisory Group of MCC.

Section 4

This application is to be signed by a person holding a position in the organisation applying for the grant. Before submitting the application please ensure that you have all the additional information as set out in the guidance.

Signed



On behalf of
(name of group)

Abergavenny Pride

Date

27.4.23