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**ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY SMALL GRANT SCHEME**

**APPLICATION FORM 2024/25**

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](mailto:Clerk@abergavennytowncouncil.gov.uk) or by post to the Principal Officer, Town Hall, Cross Street, Abergavenny, NP7 5HD.

**Section 1 – Contact information**

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| a. Group Name | Monmouthshire Veterans’ Support Hub |

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| b. Contact Name | Joe Skidmore |
| c. Contact Address | St John Ambulance Hall, Fairfield Car Park, Abergavenny |
|  | Postcode: NP7 5SG |

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| --- | --- |
| d. Contact email | [JoeSkidmore@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:JoeSkidmore@monmouthshire.gov.uk) |
| e. Position in Group | MVSH Committee Member  MCC Community Development Lead – working in partnership with the Veterans’ Support Hub |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| f. Contact tel no | 01633 644344 |

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| --- | --- |
| g. Bank Account  Details | Name of your organisation’s bank account  Lloyds Bank  Monmouthshire Veterans Support Hub |

**Section 2 – Tell Us About Your Group**

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

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| The Monmouthshire Veteran Support Hub launched in March 2022 to provide high-quality, timely, person-centred support to the Armed Forces Community. One of the functions is to create the structures to empower those transitioning from military to civilian life to help themselves and to integrate effectively into local communities drawing on the experiences and peer support of those who will be best placed to assist.    The Hub aims are to:   * Develop a greater awareness of the support and services available to the Armed Forces Community in their local community. * Provide individuals with the confidence, knowledge, and skills to be able to access timely and relevant support that meets their needs. * Reinforce people’s self-reliance, confidence, esteem, and empowerment with the view of improving health outcomes and longer-term well-being. * Create a safe space for the Armed Forces Community to create friendship networks and support structures. * Offer opportunities to engage with the local community and undertake collaborative activities.   The weekly sessions are held in Abergavenny, Monmouthshire which is easily accessible by car, train, and bus routes.  Objectives for the Hub are to:   * Enable access to relevant, timely support and guidance in respect of housing and benefits for the Veterans and their families. * Reduce Social Isolation and combat Loneliness. |

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| b. Charity Details (if applicable) | n/a |
| c.VAT Registered? | No |

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

1. 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 |  |

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

The Monmouthshire Veterans’ Support Hub is a Veteran run group for the benefit of Veterans and their families. It is supported by a multi-agency approach with Monmouthshire County Council, ABUHB, Veterans NHS Wales, SSAFA, RBL, DWP, and more.

The Veterans’ Hub provides individuals from the Armed Forces Community with the space and the mechanism to access relevant and timely support as and when needed. It provides peer support structures to encourage self-reliance, esteem building, and self-empowerment. The need for appropriate and timely advice and guidance is something we see across the county, although the nature of support this cohort may require is not something currently on offer in this way.

The Armed Forces Community is often a hidden one and specific numbers requiring intervention are unknown, though data from the 2021 Census puts Monmouthshire at an estimated Veteran population of 5.4%. According to the evidence-based findings of the veteran population in Monmouthshire, there is an estimated 1540 working-age veterans, 890 that claim a military pension and as a county, we are within the hotspot perimeter of the financial hardship within Monmouthshire. Monmouth is also home to the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) and several Armed Forces associations.

We have heard anecdotal evidence of the support provided by this hub literally saving lives. It is so important that Veterans and their families get not only support but the right support and at the right time. Through the experience of our committee, we are in an ideal position to involved appropriate subject matter experts attend the hub and offer real, tangible support.

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| --- | --- |
| 1. Total Project Cost | £2,500 |
| 1. How much are you applying for from Abergavenny Town Council? | £500 |
| 1. Have you raised the balance of funds? | Yes |

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

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

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| The intention for this grant would be to facilitate outreach activities by purchasing a marquee, pop-up banners, and other promotional materials to allow Veterans from the Hub to visit towns and villages across Monmouthshire to raise awareness of the Hubs existence and the support on offer.  Large parts of Monmouthshire are digitally excluded and reliance upon social media alone isn’t enough. Given the county’s elderly and rural population, and the fact that single pensioner households are the least likely to have internet access (at 51%), it is likely that digital exclusion currently affects many residents in Monmouthshire. |

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

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| Based on the 2021 Census, there are approx. 5,000 Veterans within Monmouthshire. It is anticipated that we will engage with roughly 10% of those with outreach activities. Approx. 500 from the Armed Forces Community (those who Serve, have Served, and their spouses/children)  Abergavenny has the largest population within Monmouthshire, and we’d expect to see beneficiaries reflect that. Approx. 100 individuals. |

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| 1. If your project involves working with young people does your organisation have a safeguarding policy? | Yes | No |
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1. When will your project start and finish?

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| --- | --- |
| Start date | 01/06/2024 |
| Completion date | 31/03/2025 |

1. 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

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| n/a |

**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 | A black wire on a white background  Description automatically generated |
| On behalf of (name of group) | Monmouthshire Veterans’ Support Hub |
| Date | 24/04/2024 |