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

**Section 1 – Contact information**

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| a. Group Name | Abergavenny Pride |

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| b. Contact Name | Aaron Flowers |
| c. Contact Address |  |
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| d. Contact email | abergavennypride@hotmail.com |
| e. Position in Group | Chairperson |

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| --- | --- |
| f. Contact tel no |  |

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| --- | --- |
| g. Bank Account  Details | Name of your organisation’s bank account  AC Name – Abergavenny Pride  AC Number –  Sort Code – |

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

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

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| Abergavenny Pride was set up in 2019 and the towns first ever pride took place at Park Street Community Centre in July of that year, and 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 St Marys Priory and Tithe barn and over 400 people attended. Last year was our biggest Pride to date – we attracted over 1500 people to the event throughout the day (excellent footfall for Abergavenny Town itself) and featured a load of new features such as the first Pride Parade – the parade stretched the whole of the town centre and brought so much colour, vibrancy and positivity on display in Abergavenny. The parade ended at Abergavenny’s first rainbow crossing outside the market bringing more footfall and social media presence with people taking selfies and posting. We also had the introduction of our ‘Out of the Closet’ feature, bringing a safe space to all to explore their gender identities and expression and take home anything they wanted free of charge.  The event itself this year, will be held on Saturday 29th June, in the same venue as the previous 2 years (St Marys Priory & Tithe Barn). The parade will be the same as last year – starting in St Gabbs square at 1030 and ending at the market (under separate discussion with stakeholders) and also the Rainbow crossing signifying the end of the march is also under proposal for temporary instalment.  The main event itself will be 1200-1700, and labelled as a family fun day, as its free entry and designed for all ages to have fun in a safe inclusive environment. We have our main stage packed full of entertainment, a variety of local stallholders (commercial and charitable), and bar/food vendors. We have our kids corner back to keep toddlers entertained, and our ThinkSpace hosted by local queer historians Mok and Norena.  We have worked with local children/youth groups throughout the year and our Out of the Closet will be back, following its huge success last year, and we will continue to offer this at other local pride events throughout the country where possible.  We continue to increase our networking and since last year has worked with Mon Life creating a queer travelling exhibition for Monmouth and worked with Norena Shopland to create a worldwide package for labelling and displaying queer artefacts for the public.  Thanks in part to the support from ATC, we have been able to maintain a network of support throughout the year, not just with social evenings such as quiz or games nights, but we have also introduced our queer community suppers. These events are designed to help the local community find their chosen family, provide a safe space for everyone, and also we provide a healthy vegan meal all for free, no questions asked or non-obligatory donations, in our very own of helping tackle the cost of living crisis within our community. Our social media has encouraged healthy discussions and signposting to services. And our new website also includes a monthly blog, providing information on important topics within the LGBTQIA+ community, LGBTQIA+ history, and signposting to well needed services specifically for LGBTQIA+ community, especially mental health and specific heath issues such as HIV/AIDS and trans.  Everyone is welcome at our events – Abergavenny pride celebrates inclusivity and diversity – and we hop that the Pride event itself continues to act as a catalyst for bringing the whole community together, providing support to all, whatever their sexual orientation. We also thinks having a Pride makes Abergavenny an even more attractive place for LGBTQIA+ people to live, work and contribute.  Abergavenny Pride will also help contribute to the LGBTQ+ Action Plan introduced by the Welsh Government in 2023, and we hope that by supporting our Pride Event will help ATC show that you are committed to the Ministers goals of making Wales the most LGBT friendly place in Europe and contribute to advancing equality and inclusion in Abergavenny. |

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| b. Charity Details (if applicable) | Charity Number |
| c.VAT Registered? | Yes/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**):

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

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

We already have a number of volunteers from the community for the event itself and we are collaborating with GAVO to attract more volunteers for both the day itself and for any subsequent events. We feel that our organising committee demonstrates the inclusivity of our Pride, being made up of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual members, plus we collaborate and consult with trans and non-binary people on a regular basis (these have also volunteered to host our Out of the closet feature, to better serve the purpose of the event and provide honest, and lived through experiences where they can) All 6 committee members give their time voluntarily and are proud to participate in an event which is seen as a positive to our town. Additional volunteers participate via our social media outlets and at various smaller events. The relationships and networks we are between organisations and individuals such as the Police, Fire Service, St Johns Ambulance, MCC, local businesses, sponsors, artists, support services, charities within the local and surrounding areas and most importantly Abergavenny Town Council help to improve community wellbeing and there is often “cross-pollination” which benefits everyone.

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| 1. Total Project Cost | £10,500 |
| 1. How much are you applying for from Abergavenny Town Council? | £1000 |
| 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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| Our Current cost of the event has significantly increased over the years, mostly due to a huge price increase across all sectors, but also as the event grows so does our need for safety and security.  Venue Hire - £800  Security - £1500  Licenses & Permits - £250  Stage - £500  Waste Management - £300  Medical Cover - £780  We are asking ATC if they could help us cover the costs of being a professional service. These are based on current quotes from local services within Abergavenny Town  Insurance - £260  Marketing - £478 (signage, Printing Posters & Leaflets, Mag/Newspaper articles)  Social Media & Websites - £382 |

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

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| Not only does Abergavenny Pride aim to support and celebrate Abergavenny’s LGBTQIA+ 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 conversations on transgender and non-binary issues – Pride can provide us with an ideal opportunity to do this.  The latest census figures show that in Monmouthshire there is 1791 queer people (2.3%), of which 48.7% identifies as not straight, 43.6% as bisexual, and 0.3% don’t identify as a gender assigned at birth (32 trans men, 54 trans women, 26 non-binary). At Abergavenny Pride these figures don’t seem aligned with what we know about the community and there are a lot of reasons why these figures are deflated, hospitalisation, care homes, military personnel etc, there may also be some people may not feel comfortable revealing such information, people may not be aware of their sexual orientation if the form was completed on their behalf, or in fear of being “outed” earlier than wanted or may not be able to come out because of the environment they live in, and we hope that by having a Pride in Abergavenny we can help ease these transitions and have an accurate reflection of our community whilst supporting and educating where we can.  As in any town, there is a minority who find the increased visibility of LGBTQIA+ people and any “non-standard” family structures challenging and may criticise, attack or disrespect those they see different. 2022 saw an increase by 56% in hate crime against transgender people (Home Office Report, Oct 2022) 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. This year we have had to deal with a protest around Trans issues and the committee used their spare time to help remove the hate speech stickers posted around town following this.  Aside from LGBTQIA+ individuals and their families felling less isolated and more connected to the community, there are many beneficiaries in the town – from local businesses who has benefited from increased footfall, or have a presence at the event (e.g. Bookish, Shepherds Ice Cream, Bean & Bread et al) to organisations such as Gay Outdoor Walking Club, ABHB etc who raise their profiles by being at Pride, and boost community wellbeing.  A Facebook post from a local person following last years Pride (not involved at Pride) said “if you had told me decades ago that we would have been celebrating Pride at ST Marys 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!” |

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| 1. If your project involves working with young people does your organisation have a safeguarding policy? | Yes | No |
| X |  |

1. When will your project start and finish?

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| Start date | 29th June 2024 |
| Completion date | 29th June 2024 (and ongoing) |

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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| We are currently liaising with MCC and ATC regarding the possibility of painting a rainbow crossing outside the market by the toilet blocks as per last years Pride crossing.  Our temporary premises license and Block trading permits are currently awaiting a decision with MCC.  The ESAG form is currently being worked through to be submitted following on from consultations with the various stakeholder groups ahead of submission |

**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.

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| Signed | Aaron Flowers |
| On behalf of (name of group) | Abergavenny Pride |
| Date | 05.05.2024 |