SECTION 1 - CONTACT INFORMATION:

Group Name: Happy Dragons Theatre CIC

Contact Name: Rhona Richards

Contact Address:

Contact Email: rhona@happydragonstheatre.co.uk

Position in Group: Artistic Director

Contact Tel No::

Are you a constituted group holding annual AGMs?: Yes

SECTION 2 - TELL US ABOUT YOUR GROUP:

Briefly tells us about the activities that your organisation/group undertakes: Happy Dragons Theatre CIC is an Abergavenny-based theatre company which creates theatre for, with and about communities in Wales. We are currently working with People First Abergavenny, running theatre workshops exploring the themes of self-advocacy, inclusion, and social connection.

Charity Details (if applicable): N/A

VAT Registered?: No

What Well-being of Future Generations Act Deliverable/s would the grant contribute towards (please tick at least one of the below): A resilient Wales, A healthier Wales, A more equal Wales, A Wales of more cohesive communities, A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

SECTION 3 - TELL US ABOUT THE COMMUNITY PROJECT/ ACTIVITY YOU WANT TO UNDERTAKE:

Please give more detail on how your project will meet the objective you selected above.: Happy Dragons has worked with members of People First Abergavenny to devise a script drawing on their lived experience of feeling ‘othered’ and socially isolated. The script also celebrates their talents, dreams, and everything that makes them unique and loved. The result is 'Dance', an original film about inclusion, understanding, and the joy of dancing with friends.

Brief Synopsis:

The script is based on the experiences of Lewis, a member of People First Abergavenny. His experience of moving to Abergavenny was, for the first time in his life, to feel accepted and seen as a valued member of society. The film shows Lewis attending his first Big Night Out, a biannual event when The Auberge Nightclub is given over to members of Abergavenny People First and The Bridges Centre.

Opening the door to The Big Night Out changes Lewis' life. He is welcomed and made to feel like he belongs. Looking around the club, he begins to see that people have dreams and ambitions: a rock star, a prime minister, an actor, a footballing sheep farmer...

Lewis loves to dance but has always been too embarrassed, feeling that people will make fun of him. The final shot is Lewis dancing. Everyone is dancing.

The Team

Rhona Richards, Artistic Director of Happy DRagons Theatre (www.happydragonstheatre.co.uk), leads the project in collaboration with Cinematographer, Steve Thomas (https://mixmedia.net), Filmaker and Producer, Becky Johnson (a copy of Becky's CV is attached), and Red Mountain Films (https://www.redmountainfilms.com). All members of the team are offering their services pro bono or at rates far below the normal industry standard. They are doing this because they feel the film is important and provides a platform for a group of unique people whose voices deserve to be heard.

The Budget

A copy of the budget is attached.

We are awaiting the outcome of an application to the Arts Council Wales Creative Fund. We have also written to the local Rotary Club requesting support, although this is likely to be in the form of assistance with providing suitable transport for the cast. We have secured £1,500 in sponsorship

from three local companies, which have a personal interest in supporting projects for people with disabilities.

As Happy Dragons Theatre CIC was formed only in 2025, a full set of accounts is not yet available. However, if required, copies of current bank statements can be provided.

Total Project Cost: 7560

How much are you applying for:: 1600

Have you raised the balance of funds? (25% of the total project costs are encouraged to come from alternative sources): Yes

Please specify how you will use the Town Council grant?: The grant will be used to cover the shortfall in the budget. It will help to pay the reduced rates charged by the filmmakers involved in this project.

How will your project benefit the community of Abergavenny?: The film celebrates Abergavenny as a town that changed a young man's life by showing him acceptance and respect. This is an opportunity to promote Abergavenny in the media and to the general population as a forward-thinking town that celebrates diversity and inclusion. In addition:

- Abergavenny and any contribution from the Town Council will feature prominently in all publicity.

- Upon completion, the film can be made available to schools, community groups and other associations, helping to educate about the importance of equity and diversity.

- The film is being made by highly experienced professionals. The finished product will be of broadcast quality and will be submitted to film festivals which celebrate diversity (Osaka Film Festival https://oskabright.org, We Crip Film Festival https://www.bfi.org.uk/news/programme-we-crip-film-festival-2025, Disability Film Festival https://www.disabilityfilmfestival.be/en)

- The film is likely to attract significant media attention (members of the team have strong links to broadcast media, including BBC, ITV and Channel 4)

- The film celebrates Abergavenny as a town with a vibrant cultural life, offering more than thirty learning-disabled and neurodiverse people the opportunity to take part in a unique creative experience. Importantly, Abergavenny is hosting a project over which people with learning disabilities have ownership. The words and experiences portrayed in the film are their own.

- The film will benefit local film students and graduates. We can offer unpaid internships, giving invaluable hands-on experience and helping to forge industry contacts to assist with future employment.

- The film aligns with Abergavenny's commitment to protecting the environment. Happy Dragons Theatre is registered with the Theatre Green Book and is committed to ensuring that all its projects have minimal environmental impact. We follow the principle of reduce, reuse, and recycle. Accordingly, as far as possible, all sets, costumes and props used in 'Dance' will be made from reused and recycled materials.

When will your project start and finish?:

Start Date: : 2026-05-27

Completion date: : 2026-07-31

Are there any outstanding permissions or agreements required before this project can start? If so, please list together with expected dates when these will be granted.: No

SECTION 4 - DECLARATION:

Bank Account Details: : Happy Dragons Theatre CIC, Nat West Bank, Acc No:, Sort Code:

Date: 12 March, 2026

Time: 14:37