

WARBLETON PARISH COUNCIL

GRANT APPLICATION

IMPORTANT

Please read guidance notes on page 3 before filling in this form

Name of Organisation	The Village Leaf Fund
Contact Person	Nigel McKeeman
Address	Tudor Cottage, Rushlake Green, TN21 9QD
Tel No/Email	01435 830574 / nigel.mckeeman@gmail.com

About Your Organisation

1. Briefly explain the aims and objectives of your organisation:

The aim of the Rushlake Green Village Leaf community website (www.rushlakegreenvillage.co.uk) is to provide useful and relevant information for local residents and all those connected with, and participating in, the local community.

Our defining mantra is:

‘A friendly place for people who value their local community’

The Village Leaf website objectives are to provide . . .

A front page:

- featuring topical stories covering relevant community information
- promoting and celebrating local events and local traders such as the RG Village Stores;
- alerting people to things like community safety issues, road diversions, community campaigns, WPC meetings and info, and village developments.

A Flexible content and format, complimented by a linked Facebook page that includes:

- Calendar (in normal times) of local community activities and events of interest
- Information section for things like Clubs, Societies and Places of Interest
- ‘Green Pages’ section promoting local traders, businesses, groups and organisations.

Clearly the current Covid-19 epidemic and accompanying restrictions have temporarily shifted the emphasis and balance of the website content, which now includes sections on local volunteer support for those in need and links to government covid-19 information and restrictions.

But throughout this difficult period we have endeavoured to provide positive stories of local enterprise, community support and voluntary action, and will continue to adapt and evolve our content as events play out.

2. Are you a registered charity? No we are not a registered charity

3. Are you a commercial or non-profit making organisation?
 - We are a non-profit organisation, created and run by local volunteers for the benefit of local residents, businesses and organisations. Access to the website is free.

4. How many members do you have?
 - A local readership reach of 250 – 1500 for the Website and Facebook pages

How many are juniors Not determinable

Age range We assume the majority of readers are 18+

How many are seniors?

- Anecdotal evidence suggests that a significant proportion of our readers are over 50
- However some topics such as art, craft, music and local events clearly appeal to individuals and families of all ages.

How many are disabled? Not determinable

How many live in this Parish?

- Evidence suggests most of our website and Facebook visitors (and contributors) live or work in and around the Warbleton Parish area

About the Grant

5. What is the grant to be used for (include a brief description of who/what will benefit from the grant)

The grant will cover 50% of the anticipated costs for the Village Leaf website operation and development in 2021.

We are seeking £90 towards the estimated £180 for web and domain. All the content development, editing, compilation and publishing is provided by volunteer editors and contributors within the community. Our main external cost is for the services of our local website designer and manager.

We are seeking £120 towards an estimated £240 required in 2021 to allow us to further develop the functionality of the website. This will include things such as the capability to download material (e.g. Public information, Council Notices, and Event poster and flyers); the inclusion of local web and social media news feeds; the potential for local groups to have a space where they can input their own up to date news and information.

These elements of funding will in these difficult times ensure the continued survival of the Village Leaf and enhance its ability to remain fresh, responsive, interesting, relevant, useful and accessible for all the community.

We have been helping our local community and all its local groups and activities, and local traders, for nearly ten years and wish to continue doing so.

6. Sum requested: **£210.00** Representing 50% of projected £420 annual expenditure in 2021

7. What other sources of funding have you investigated and what amounts have been raised?

Since the Village Leaf website was first created in 2011, we have raised all the funds needed (to cover website and domain costs) through appeals to generous local individuals, groups and organisations. Understandably 2020 has proved a very challenging period for fund-raising, and this has led to a significant reduction in our available funds going forward. We will continue to seek local donations throughout 2021, but anticipate that the present funding hiatus will be with us for some time to come - while the covid-19 epidemic continues to disrupt life and restrict people's ability to donate.

8. What would happen if this request for a grant is unsuccessful?

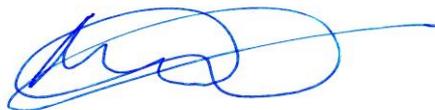
If we fail to raise sufficient funds for ongoing operations, the website will close. And we do not believe we will be able to enhance and evolve the website without a grant contribution, as in the past we have sometimes struggled to raise the money for the basic operation. To survive and flourish, the Village Leaf needs to innovate by offering new and useful features for local people and community groups. And it needs to continually adapt and respond to people's online preferences.

Additional Information

9. Please give any additional information that you feel to be relevant, including details of any funds received from public bodies during 2020, due to the CoVid-19 epidemic.

I am happy to provide any additional information that is felt to be helpful in the consideration of this grant application and can be contacted as indicated above. I will gladly speak, or answer questions, at the Finance & GP Zoom meeting if that is appropriate.

Date 27th November 2020



Signed

Grant Application – Guidance Notes

1. The Parish Council, when considering grants, will give priority to those groups and organisations which can demonstrate that other fund-raising efforts have been made.
 2. Grants will normally only be given towards specific items of expenditure – i.e. equipment or capital projects and will only be paid on production of a receipted invoice. They will normally not exceed 50% of the total cost of the project.
 3. Requests for grants must be accompanied by either audited accounts, (in the case of a Registered Charity to include a copy of the Trustees Annual Report to the Charity Commission), or a business plan for a new organisation or group. Please note: if accounts were submitted as part of a 2019/20 application, this will be regarded as sufficient
 4. Grants will not normally be made available to commercial or national organisations, statutory bodies or groups from outside the parish unless there are identifiable benefits to residents of the parish.
 5. If part or all of the grant is unspent, the Parish Council reserves the right to request that any unspent funds are repaid
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For office use

Date

Received.....Approved/Refused.....

FGP

Date.....Conditions.....

Accounts Received.....

Date Paid.....

Forms to be returned to (by email if possible):

Jackie Cottrell, Parish Clerk

Warbleton Parish Council

4 Kingsmarsh Cottages, Five Ashes, Mayfield, East Sussex, TN20 6JE

Email: warbletonparishcouncil@gmail.com

WPC/grantapplicationform/2020