

Burgess Hill Town Council Cost of Living Grant Application Form

This application form is open to community groups providing services to residents of Burgess Hill and must be read in conjunction with the Conditions of Funding that applies to Minor and Major Funding available on the Town Council website. <https://www.burgesshill.gov.uk/town-community/grants1/>

There is a limited pot of funding and applications will be considered by the Grants Awards Panel - an open Council meeting that members of the public are welcome to attend. You will be advised of the meeting date your application will be considered.

The respondent's email (_____), was recorded on submission of this form.

Please select if you are applying for a Grant to provide a Warm Hub in Burgess Hill or towards a food project. *

Please note these are the only two options available.

Food project for Burgess Hill Residents currently open to the Burgess Hill Pantry or Burgess Hill Community Foodbank

Warm Hub in Burgess Hill - please note this is for regular warm hubs to be set up and not a one off event. Guidance on warm hubs can be viewed here <https://www.wrccrural.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Warm-Hubs-Organisers-Checklist.pdf>

Name of Organisation *

The King's Church Mid-Sussex

KINGS CHURCH 2

Full contact details of name of person completing the application form to include *
a phone number.

Angela Marie Bee, Children and Families Team Leader 01444 244215 or

Is your organisation a registered charity, CIO, CIC or constituted community
group? *

- Registered Charity
- CIC
- CIO
- Constituted Community Group

How many residents of Burgess Hill would benefit from this project? *

Our building is open to the public from 8:30am every week-day with over 1000 local people coming through The King's Centre doors each week. This includes:

- around 170 attendees each week (80 households), to our week-day community parent and carer group (Noah's Ark) with an optional contribution of £1 per person and free for babies under 12 months.
- 120 attendees (60 households) to our free week-day parent and baby support group (Little Footsteps)
- 70 youth (Ages 10-18) to our Tuesday evening Youth Group
- 8-10 attendees to our Monday evening knitting group
- We provide a social group for those over the age of 50.
- over 800 people a week (100-150 people a day) visiting the cafe and/or the free toddler soft play area (open six days a week).

In addition, we have an attendance of around 350-400 people to our Sunday services, which includes the running of groups for youth and children and 30 minutes of refreshments/social interaction time for all attendees.

Describe how the project will provide support to residents of Burgess Hill and when will it begin? *

Please note Council are hoping the projects are implemented quickly to provide support quickly to residents during the winter months of 2022/2023.

The King's Church already provides support to the residents of Burgess Hill and the surrounding areas by keeping our doors open from 8:30am through to the evenings on weekdays, in order to provide a welcoming and warm space for people to access and/or to facilitate the groups mentioned above.

We would like to be able to maintain this offer to the community at a time when in addition to the increase in the cost of living, the building running and maintenance costs have also dramatically increased, including an anticipated 200%+ increase on our energy bills, which from December, are looking to rise from £26,000 pa to £60,000 pa.

We would like to increase our offer to the community through providing a warm space for families during school holidays, with the option of adding some resources/activities for older children, in addition to our toddler soft play.

The King's Church aims to serve the local community and to relieve poverty. They aim to do this by engaging the socially excluded, by supporting families, parents/carers, children, youth, the lonely, disabled, elderly, those on low incomes, those with mental health issues, those struggling with debt, the homeless and ex-offenders.

Our children and families offer to the community

Our parent and carer groups have been running in various forms (and locations, prior to our development of The King's Centre) for over 35 years. I have been running them for 18 of these years.

Our volunteer-run (with one paid member of staff) Noah's Ark and Little Footsteps sessions, enable children to receive a broad range of learning opportunities, covering all areas of The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. The groups provide outlets for parents with post-natal depression and are vital for both the health and mental well-being of those who attend - particularly those who find themselves challenged in parenthood.

The largely peer-support based groups help to prevent parents/carers feeling isolated in their roles and enable them to build supportive friendships that often last right through their parenting journeys.

The team support through coming alongside parents and carers (some of who are childminders, who also benefit from having indoor play spaces to take their children to in wintertime). We will help those who are struggling to seek support and provide some accountability for this. We will also refer to Early Help when this is deemed necessary.

Noah's Ark and Little Footsteps receive referrals from health visitors and Family Support Workers, who sign-post to us. We have a newly retired health visitor who is volunteering on the Little Footsteps team who can offer the most up to date advice and guidance for parents with young children.

In addition, as a branch out from Little Footsteps, we are piloting a project called Baby Love. This initiative aims to provide love and early connection for more troubled and vulnerable, expectant parents and their babies. We do this through the provision of a baby start up pack (a moses basket filled with quality, essential items for their new baby) which can be presented to them via the agency who have referred them to us or by one of the Little Footsteps/Baby Love team. The basket includes an invitation to Little Footsteps and the completely optional opportunity for them to connect with the team at the earliest possible point in their parenting. Whatever their story or circumstances may be, we hope we can offer a warm and welcoming environment where they can benefit from connecting with other parents and beneficial care and support as they start their parenting journeys. Nominations are through agency referral. Each basket costs around £100 to produce.

Similarly, the soft play area provides a free space where pre-school age children can play safely. One parent stated that it provides a 'large space to meet with friends that's child friendly with lots of space for buggies'. Our feedback from parents also highlights that the facilities offer free parking, no time limits, good toilet and baby changing facilities and a very relaxed atmosphere. Parents we have asked have said the soft play at The King's Centre is very suitable for preschool children. One parent said 'you can let little ones play... and not have to chase them around a multilevel maze which makes it a much more social option for parents to meet together. It's all quite low level and safe for smaller ones.'

In addition to our regular week-day, term time activities, we run a couple of larger scale children's afternoons each year for families in the community, with a range of crafts, activities and entertainment for families with primary and preschool age children. These are The Summer Saturday (this year's special guest was CBeebies Gemma Hunt) and The Christmas Cracker (an afternoon of Christmas crafts, activities and entertainment). Each event has an attendance of over 450 people from the community.

We charged a minimal amount of £4 per person (free for babies under 12 months) for The Summer Saturday, to cover the running costs and Gemma's fees. The Christmas Cracker is free to attend.

There are a number of people who come to the café as an alternative to working from home, largely to avoid feeling isolated. We know of numbers of people who find this social space hugely beneficial to their emotional well-being. One of the people (a non-church member) who spends much of their week working here as an alternative to working from home said:

"I wish Home as it is now had existed when I moved here eight years ago. The building was here, and I brought my kids to the baby groups, but I sit here now, watching the countless streams of mums and dads coming in with their kids and enjoying their coffee, lunch and long mornings together... what Home does is provide a place of friendship and sanctuary that really is like no other I've seen. Plus the coffee and Wi-Fi is amazing. You guys should be so proud of what you've built here."

We already have a discretionary pot of money for free drinks/food to those who would benefit from them, including the homeless and the more vulnerable in our community. We would like to be able to increase this fund.

Other support provided from The King's Centre and run by The King's Church Mid-Sussex

We run King's Money Advice and have a team who are committed to supporting individuals and families who are experiencing difficulty in managing their finances and the impacts of this.

In addition, we can offer the pre-arranged use of our showers to the homeless/sofa surfers. We also offer our rooms for hire (keeping our hire rates as low as we are able) to a range of organisations, including local community groups, NHS blood donation, companies.

As a staff team, we endeavour to make ourselves available as much as possible to meet with those who need a chat or support finding the right kind of help.

Our building is also used for partnership projects such as:

- the annual collection and packing of food for the Christmas Hampers Project (providing hampers to 250 households locally)
- the running of fun mornings in the school holidays for families with children who have special educational and disabilities (SEND)
- Hope into Action work
- King's Money Advice (a debt and financial support service)

Other free courses we run as a church, from The King's Centre include The Bereavement Journey and The Money Course. We were run parenting courses (one for people who look after children and one for people who look after teenagers) prior to covid lockdowns and we would like to be able to reintroduce them again in the near future.

Describe the financials of this project to include *

1. how much you are applying for?
2. the total cost?
3. how much of your own money will fund this?
4. are you seeking funding from other organisations?

We are applying for a £15000 grant to help towards our increased energy bills and also to assist us in continuing and increasing (in small ways) our offer to the community of Burgess Hill.

Much of the money we already have is ring-fenced. Although we could dip into this fund, it would mean it could not be put towards our community work and will make it more difficult for us to continue our offer to the community at the current level.

At this time, we have not approached any other trusts or organisations for funding towards our 200%+ rise in energy bills. This is something we will do if required. Another reluctant consideration would be to decrease, rather than to maintain and slightly increase our offer to the community, in order to reduce energy usage. This is obviously a path we would never choose to go down, especially at a time when need is only increasing in many areas and services are stretched. We want the building to continue to be as accessible as possible to the many who benefit.

Describe the publicity plan in place to promote this project. *

We promote our offers to the community through our own social media on Facebook and Instagram, individual Facebook groups for our parent and carer groups, the endorsement of Burgess Hill Town Council, The Family Grapevine, West Sussex Family information Service and via our own church website. Most people however, hear about our work through local word of mouth.

In order for your application to be considered the following documentation must *
be emailed to the communityteam@burgesshill.gov.uk.

- A copy of your organisation's Constitution, signed and dated by the Chair.
- A copy of your organisation's audited or independently examined accounts for the previous financial year.
- A copy of your organisation's MOST RECENT bank statement(s) of any current and investment accounts

Thank you for submitting your application. *

The Community Team will be in contact within two working days to confirm receipt of your application. If you have not had an email please telephone 01444 247726 and ask to speak to the Community Team.

Please read the following statement:

I declare that I have read and accept the Guidance Notes and Conditions of Funding and that I have answered all questions fully and truthfully. I also declare that any grant made will be used solely for the purposes outlined in this application. I understand that Burgess Hill Town Council reserves the right to reclaim the grant in the event of it not being used for the purpose specified.

- I confirm I have read the declaration.

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