

District Council Report November 2024

Community Grant Scheme

The Newark and Sherwood District Grant Scheme has been opened up again to consider applications to support district based registered charities.

The scheme recognises the important contribution that local organisations make to improving people's quality of life and that even small amounts of funding can often help make a difference. Grants are available up to £20,000. Any grant awarded over £5,000 will need to be match funded at 50%.

Approval will be via the councils Cabinet following consideration by a cross party panel.

The applicants will need to demonstrate;

- A local need for the project
- How the project contributes to one or more of the council's community plan objectives
- That the project takes place within the district
- Financial information to support application
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Applicants will need to demonstrate;

- Projects that contribute to overcoming the cost of living crisis
- Projects that contribute to public protection by reducing crime or anti- social behaviour
- Projects that improve bio-diversity or contribute to reducing climate change
- Projects that can demonstrate match funding (above £5k)

Peer Review

Newark & Sherwood District Council underwent a Corporate Peer Challenge at the start of the week. The visiting team was made up of elected members and senior leaders from different parts of the country.

The corporate peer challenge is an external assessment of the Council, designed to support ongoing learning and development. All councils are encouraged to take part in this type of review, they meet a broad cross section of people from within and outside the Council. There are one-to-one sessions, meetings with political groups, officers and the scrutiny committee. A report on the findings will be available and a return visit within a year, to assess any improvement the council has made as a result of the review.

Kidney Stones

The administration at Castle House are supporting the instillation of what have become known as the Kiddey stones. The stones are to be displayed outside the NSDC Council building. The Kiddey stones comprise 12 pieces of stone forming panels. The individual stones measure 2 meters in height and 1 meter in width and are carved sandstone. The stones are the property of Newark Town Council.

The project is costed at £81,240 minimum.

A consultation was launched and ran for the month of September, to gain public opinion. I am aware that 13,000 clicked onto the website and 853 left comments.

Officers are currently assessing the survey results which will be made public around mid November.

The final decision rests with cabinet members.

Cllr Penny Rainbow
Southwell ward member