



Hednesford Town Council

Community Support Grant Application Form 2026

SECTION 1

To be completed by all applicants

CONTACT AND ORGANISATION INFORMATION

Name of organisation / group	Chaselighthouse Furniture & Household Support
Name of individual completing application	Helen Allman
Position within organisation	Chairperson
Address and postcode of organisation	
Registered address if different to above	
Company number if applicable	
Charity number if applicable	
Company status i.e. Charity / Not for Profit / Community Interest Company	Community Group
If part of an affiliated / national organisation please state	
Does your group have a constitution or set of rules? If YES please attach a copy	Yes
Does your organisation have a bank account? If YES please attach the most recent bank statement	No, this is the first funding we have applied for. We are currently setting up a bank account. We expect the account to be fully operational by mid-April 2026 with Helen Allman and Carole Ewers as signatories.
Name of bank account signatories	Helen Allman, Carole Ewers
Years / Months operating	2 Years & 8 months
Number of volunteers if applicable	6
Number of members if applicable	7800 Facebook Group/Subscribers https://www.facebook.com/groups/249782348001089/

Telephone number	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Website	[REDACTED]

SECTION 2

To be completed by all applicants.

ABOUT YOU

Tell us about your group / organisation (max 200 words)

Chaselighthouse Furniture & Household Support is a volunteer-led community group providing free essential household items—including furniture, white goods, bedding, curtains, crockery, and in urgent cases food and toiletries—to families and individuals in crisis across Hednesford and surrounding areas. Referrals come from Cannock Chase District Council, Social Services, Early Help Team, schools, refuges, housing associations, probation services, and direct requests.

We redistribute donated items (often from full house clearances) kindly shared by our 7,800+ Facebook group members. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/249782348001089/> We participate in Staffordshire's Waste-Savvy "Rescue Me" scheme, rescuing reusable furniture and household items from recycling centres that would otherwise be disposed of. Since June 2023 (building on Chase lighthouse's earlier furniture support), Helen Allman, Carole Ewers, and 6 dedicated volunteers (many former service users) have used personal vehicles and an accessed van to collect and deliver. We have helped hundreds of local residents escape hardship and rebuild safe, stable homes.

Can you give a specific example of how your group / organisation has benefited the community and residents in Hednesford? (max 200 words)

In 2023, we supported a Hednesford resident referred by a Housing Officer. Previously homeless and living in YMCA accommodation with no family support, he moved into a flat with only a cooker. We supplied a sofa, bed, bedroom furniture, TV, fridge-freezer, washing machine, bedding, curtains, and crockery. This enabled him to create a comfortable, independent home and begin rebuilding his life. This support prevented prolonged hardship, reduced isolation, and fostered greater self-reliance and mental wellbeing.

SECTION 3

To be completed by Community Grant applicants

PROJECT

Please explain your project (max 200 words)

From September 2026, our current free storage unit in Norton Canes (funded personally by David Ewers) will no longer be available. It stores smaller essentials like bedding, curtains, and crockery, using ~half the space. We are negotiating with the landlord for a smaller unit, reducing costs from £180/month to £144/month. Without secure storage, our ability to provide these vital items will be severely limited, impacting vulnerable Hednesford residents. The project covers ongoing rental of this smaller unit plus emergency purchases of food, toiletries, or undonated essentials (e.g., a cooker). Founders Helen Allman and Carole Ewers currently fund these personally. The £500 grant will secure storage for Sep–Dec 2026 and support urgent purchases, ensuring uninterrupted service

When will the project take place? Please note that grants cannot be awarded retrospectively

Ongoing from September 2026 onwards (storage costs start then; no retrospective funding requested).

How will your project benefit the residents and community of Hednesford? Your answer will be used to help panel members decide on your application so please be concise. Please provide number to be engaged, anticipated outcomes, expected impact

We assist 400+ service users annually (based on referrals/collections over 2+ years), with ~20–25% from Hednesford postcodes" and "80-100+ Hednesford households/year. The grant will secure storage for small essentials (bedding, curtains, crockery), enabling continued support for vulnerable residents facing financial hardship. This will reduce reliance on charity shops and freecycle sites and improve mental health/wellbeing through stable homes for our service users.

Please state clearly state why you believe this project or activity is required. (max 200 words)

In the current cost-of-living crisis, many Hednesford families struggle to furnish homes or replace broken essentials. Our needs-based service redistributes genuine donations efficiently, filling a critical gap not met by statutory services. Unlike larger charities, we offer rapid, needs-based, no-cost support with home delivery, directly from community donations.

What are your group / volunteers contributing / gaining from this project? (max 200 words)

Volunteers (mostly ex-service users) gain purpose, belonging, and skills through collections, deliveries, sorting, and storage. This builds confidence and community ties—many progress from recipients to active contributors.

If this is a new project and you want to carry it on in the future, how will you make sure it continues after the funding from the application has been used?

We plan to formally register as a charity within the next 12 months, enabling access to additional grant streams and donations. In the interim, we will continue personal funding where needed and generate small income from Vinted sales of surplus (non-essential) donated items. Long-term, increased volunteer capacity and partnerships (e.g., "Rescue Me") will reduce costs.

SECTION 4

To be completed by all applicants.

COSTS

The maximum grant that can be awarded is **£500.00**

Please state how much grant you are applying for and clearly detail how the grant funding is to be used? (max 200 words)

We apply for the maximum £500. This will primarily fund storage rental for smaller essentials and contribute to emergency purchases of undonated items (e.g., food/toiletries/cookers) for service users in urgent need. We receive no membership fees or regular external funding.

Please provide an itemised breakdown of costs and detail the item / quantity / cost. Not providing this information may negatively impact the outcome of your application

Itemised breakdown:

- Storage unit rent: £144/month × 3 months (Sep–Dec 2026) = £432 (Assumes smaller unit available from September; covers bulk of initial period.)
- Emergency food/toiletries/essentials: £68 (balance of grant) (Estimated based on past urgent needs; annual total ~£100–£200, shortfall met by founders.)

Total project costs exceed £500; ongoing shortfall covered personally by Helen Allman and Carole Ewers until charity registration enables further funding.

Is the total cost of the project greater than the amount applied for?



Yes



No

If YES, please tell us how you plan to raise the rest of the money. Please let us know if you have applied for other funding to make up the difference.

Costs will continue to be funded by Helen Allman & Carole Ewers.

Have you received any grants from us previously? Yes **No**

If YES please state the date and amount.

N/A

Have you applied for other grants to support this project? Yes **No**

If YES please provide details including the name of the organisation and the level of funding you received.

N/A

Please detail fundraising efforts to date to support this project / idea including any sponsorship, crowdfunding, membership fees. (max 200 words)

We plan to register as a charity soon, unlocking further grants. Additional income will come from Vinted sales of surplus donated items.

Data Protection Statement

We need the information we ask for on this form to assess your grant application.

By submitting this application, you are consenting to us sharing appropriate information on this application with employees, Councillors and Grant Panel members. This information may be used for publicity purposes if the grant is awarded.

Media consent form

I consent to being photographed/recorded by Hednesford Town Council and authorise that the photos / recordings may be used in the following ways:

- In publicity materials, including printed publications, promotional videos, and digital media including Hednesford Town Council website and social media
- In news releases sent to the media, including local press

Name (please print)
behalf)

Helen Allman

Signature (if under 18 a guardian must sign on

[Redacted Signature]

Date

27/2/2026

If you'd like us to stop using an image / recording please let us know by emailing:
matthew.johnson@hednesford-tc.gov.uk or telephone **01543 424 872**

Under the 1998 Data Protection Act, your rights include:

- Your consent to the publication of your images can be withdrawn at any time
- Your images / recordings will not be used for any other purpose without your further consent
- The contact information you have provided will only be used to contact you about these images

Conditions of use

- We will not include personal e-mail, postal addresses or telephone numbers on video, our website or in printed publications and advertising
- We may use group or class images with very general labels such as 'Winners of Council grants'
- We may use the image in literature unrelated to when the picture was actually taken
- We may include your full name with the image
- We will retain your consent form for five years; however we reserve the right to store and retain the images/recordings in our archive indefinitely

Return application forms by midnight on 28th February 2026

By Post or in person to:

Community Grant Application
Hednesford Town Council
Pye Green Community Centre
Bradbury Lane
Hednesford
WS12 4EP

By Email to:

Community Grants - Matt Johnson, Community Officer
matthew.johnson@hednesford-tc.gov.uk

Guidance Notes and Conditions of Funding

Hednesford Town Council awards grants to local organisations and community groups to assist them in achieving their aims and objectives

Please ensure that you read all the following prior to applying for the funding

Funding Guidance/ Terms and Conditions:

- Funding applications can only be accepted from groups or organisations who work within Hednesford and benefit the local community
- Please ensure that all questions on the form are completed in full and provide any additional documentation as needed to support your application
- Grants are for a maximum of £500.00 and awarded and agreed by full council. You may be awarded less than applied for
- The funding is available for start-up groups and organisations as well as those already operating and established (We do require a bank account in the groups/organisations name, relevant signatories and documentation relating to the constitution of the group)
- There are some things that will not be considered, including:
 - Applications from individuals
 - Activities that occur outside of Hednesford
 - Discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, age, disability, religion
 - Buying, selling or consumption of alcohol
 - Activities that support any political or religious activities
 - Profit-making / fundraising activities
- Statutory duties such as Education, Health or Social services for which the Central Government, Health Authority, District or County Council are the appropriate funder will not be considered; although local schools may apply for funding for items not considered statutory
- Groups / organisations must clearly state aims and objectives and provide a written constitution or governing documents in order to be eligible to apply for the funding
- The group/ organisation is required to have its own bank account in its own name, with two authorised signatories as named on the application form
- The group / organisation is required to submit accounts that have been independently considered by a qualified person for the previous financial year or in the case of a new group /organisation a budget and plan
- The Town Council has the right to reclaim the grant in the event of it not being used for the purpose as outlined on the application form
- Grant funding must be spent within 12 months of being received. Any monies not spent will need to be paid back to Hednesford Town Council unless prior written agreement has been sought from Hednesford Town Council

- Organisations receiving grant money must acknowledge the Town Council's contribution on all media/publicity work
- A representative from the organisation must to be available to attend the Annual Town Assembly on Friday 10th April 2026 to collect the grant award
- All awarded organisations must complete a project report update at 6 months and 12 months detailing the positive impact that the grant funding has had for their organisation. This will be sent to you by the Community Officer for you to complete. Failure to provide satisfactory updates within the timescales given may result in the grant being recalled by Hednesford Town Council
- If you have difficulty completing the reports please contact the Community Officer

Declaration

We have read and understood the terms and criteria of the Hednesford Town Council Community Grant Scheme.

We declare that all the information given by us is true and we understand that if any funds are not used for the purpose outlined in this application, then they are liable to be recovered by Hednesford Town Council.

We will keep full records of all receipts relating to expenditure and will provide to the Council within six weeks of completing the work outlined in this application form if requested. If the group or business is dissolved and equipment has been purchased with this grant, any such equipment remaining will be distributed within the community at the discretion of Hednesford Town Council.

Please sign below



Signatures authorising this application from your group or organisation

(two people must sign this form unless you are the sole company director).

Signature 1

Signature 1

Name (please print)

Name (please print)

Date

27/2/2026

Date

27/2/2026

Please remember to include any supporting documents including your organisation constitution /rules or statement of your company aims/objectives, recent copy of organisation bank statement and any other supporting information that may assist your application.

Grant application timeline

Please note that we do not accept late entries or second applications from organisations in the same funding round.



Further information

If you have any questions or enquiries regarding the funding or application process, please contact Hednesford Town Council on **01543 424872** or visit www.hednesford-tc.gov.uk – projects and community - funding

Community Grants

Matt Johnson
Community Officer
matthew.johnson@hednesford-tc.gov.uk
01543 424872

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