



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	Crystal Academy: Aerial Arts and Dance CIC
Name of individual completing application	Kirsty Kolmer
Position within organisation	Director
Address and postcode of organisation	
Registered address if different to above	
Company number if applicable	14996452
Charity number if applicable	
Company status i.e. Charity / Not for Profit / Community Interest Company	CIC Ltd by Guarantee (not Shares)
If part of an affiliated / national organisation please state	N/A
Does your group have a constitution or set of rules? If YES please attach a copy	N/A
Does your organisation have a bank account? If YES please attach the most recent bank statement	YES
Name of bank account signatories	Jason and Kirsty Kolmer
Years / Months operating	As a CIC since July 2023
Number of volunteers if applicable	10
Number of members if applicable	200
Telephone number	
Email address	
Website	www.crystalacademy.net

SECTION 2

To be completed by all applicants.

ABOUT YOU

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

Crystal Academy: Aerial Arts & Dance CIC is a not-for-profit community interest company based in Hednesford, delivering inclusive dance and physical activity opportunities for children and young people aged 3–14.

Our core aim is to remove barriers to participation in the arts and physical activity for local families, particularly those experiencing financial hardship, additional needs, or low confidence. We provide a safe, supportive environment where children can develop physical skills, confidence, resilience, and positive mental wellbeing through structured movement and creative expression.

We work closely with local families, schools, and community partners to ensure our provision is accessible, affordable, and responsive to community need. Our sessions are fully inclusive and welcoming to children with SEN, neurodivergence, and those who may struggle in traditional sporting settings.

As a CIC, all surplus income is reinvested directly into community provision, enabling us to offer funded and subsidised places, specialist equipment, and high-quality support for Hednesford residents.

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

Since transitioning to a Community Interest Company in 2023, Crystal Academy has delivered demonstrable, award-recognised community impact for children and families in Hednesford and the surrounding area.

We have supported **over 1,000 children** through inclusive after-school provision and funded holiday activity programmes, many of which included the delivery of a **warm, nutritious meal** for children during school holidays. These sessions provided safe, structured activity, social connection, and routine for children who may otherwise have limited access to enrichment opportunities.

Our work has been recognised through multiple **Community and Social Impact Awards**, including achieving **Top 10 nationally for Best Social Impact**, reflecting both the quality and reach of our provision. In addition, our programmes have received a **glowing appraisal from Staffordshire County Council**, highlighting strong safeguarding practice, inclusive delivery, and positive outcomes for children's wellbeing and confidence.

By securing grant funding from a range of providers, we consistently deliver high-quality, accessible provision that directly benefits Hednesford residents, supports families facing

financial pressures, and contributes positively to children's physical, emotional, and social development.

SECTION 3

To be completed by Community Grant applicants .

PROJECT

Please explain your project (max 200 words)

This project will use Community Support Grant funding to provide **free and subsidised dance and physical activity provision for children living in Hednesford**, alongside the purchase of inclusive equipment required to deliver this safely and effectively.

The grant will enable us to offer funded places during school holiday periods and targeted sessions for local families experiencing financial hardship, including those not eligible for Free School Meals but still struggling with cost-of-living pressures. All funded places will be allocated **exclusively to Hednesford residents**, identified through our registration process, which requires a home address and postcode.

In addition, funding will support the purchase of small but essential inclusive equipment, such as fusion balls, resistance bands, yoga blocks and an air roller. This equipment improves accessibility, supports safe participation across a range of ages and abilities, and will remain in long-term use for future community provision.

By combining funded places with improved resources, this project ensures children in Hednesford can access safe, inclusive and structured physical activity, helping reduce isolation, increase confidence, and support wellbeing during periods of highest need.

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

The project will take place from **February 2026 through to February 2027**, beginning with delivery during the **February half-term 2026** and continuing across subsequent school holiday periods and funded sessions throughout the year.

Grant funding will be used to support future delivery only and will not be applied retrospectively.

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

This project will directly benefit **Hednesford children and families** by increasing access to free and subsidised holiday and after-school activity provision.

Numbers engaged

- 60–80 children from Hednesford supported over a 12-month period
- 20–30 children accessing fully funded or heavily subsidised places
- Delivery across February half-term, Easter, Summer and October holidays

Anticipated outcomes

- Increased access to structured physical activity for Hednesford children
- Reduced financial barriers for families experiencing hardship
- Improved confidence, wellbeing and social interaction
- Inclusive provision for children with additional needs or low confidence

Expected impact

- Clear, measurable benefit for Hednesford residents
- Reduced isolation and inactivity during school holidays
- Long-term engagement as families progress into affordable ongoing provision

How we will track Hednesford residents

- All participants will be required to sign up using our online booking form
- This form will store addresses in line with GDPR (we are ICO registered) and will clearly show the Hednesford attendees – this will include the date of birth of each child – or enrolment can be found here:

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

Many families in Hednesford continue to experience financial pressure that limits their children's access to structured activities, particularly during school holidays. While some families qualify for Free School Meals, a significant number do not meet eligibility criteria yet still face hardship, meaning their children are often excluded from enrichment opportunities.

Holiday periods present the greatest challenge, with increased household costs, limited affordable childcare, and fewer accessible local activities. Without targeted support, children are at greater risk of inactivity, isolation, and declining wellbeing.

This project directly addresses that need by providing funded and subsidised places for Hednesford residents only, ensuring local children can access safe, inclusive physical activity regardless of financial circumstances. By combining funded places with appropriate equipment, we can deliver high-quality, preventative support that promotes physical health, confidence, and social connection.

Without local grant funding, many children would be unable to participate at all. This project ensures tangible, targeted support reaches families within the Hednesford community when it is most needed.

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

Our organisation will **match fund the £500 grant**, doubling the overall value of the project and maximising its impact for Hednesford residents. This match funding will be met through reinvested CIC income, existing grant support, and staff time contributed in-kind.

Our staff and volunteers will contribute planning, delivery, safeguarding, and pastoral support throughout the project, ensuring high-quality, inclusive provision for all children attending. This includes adapting sessions to meet additional needs, supporting children with low confidence, and engaging positively with families.

Through this project, our team gains valuable experience in delivering targeted, community-focused provision and responding directly to local need. Staff and volunteers further develop skills in inclusive practice, community engagement, and working with children facing a range of social and financial barriers.

For the organisation, the project strengthens sustainability by enabling us to support families at key pressure points while maintaining quality and accessibility. It also reinforces our commitment to reinvesting resources locally, building trust within the Hednesford community, and working in partnership with the Town Council to deliver meaningful, preventative support for children and families.

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 have already demonstrated our ability to sustain community projects beyond the life of a single grant. Following approval of our **2024 Community Support Grant**, the equipment purchased remains in full use and continues to support funded and inclusive provision for Hednesford residents.

Sustainability is built into our delivery model. As a Community Interest Company, all surplus income is reinvested into provision, and we actively secure funding from multiple grant

providers to support free and subsidised places. This enables us to continue delivery even when individual funding streams end.

The equipment funded through this project will have long-term value, supporting future holiday clubs and community sessions without ongoing replacement costs. In addition, many families initially supported through funded places progress into affordable paid sessions when circumstances improve, helping sustain provision while keeping it accessible.

We operate on very low margins to prioritise access and inclusion; therefore, grant funding is essential for the free and funded elements of our work. Our proactive approach to funding, combined with careful financial management and a proven delivery record, ensures this project can continue and grow beyond the funding period.

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 are applying for the **maximum grant of £500.**

The funding will be used to support **free and subsidised provision for children and families living in Hednesford**, alongside the purchase of inclusive equipment required to safely deliver this activity.

Grant funding will be allocated as follows:

- **£300** – Contribution towards funded and sponsored places for Hednesford children during school holiday activity sessions, particularly for families not eligible for Free School Meals but experiencing financial hardship
- **£200** – Purchase of additional inclusive and safety equipment to support accessible delivery across a range of ages and abilities

This £500 will be **match funded by our organisation**, doubling the overall value of the project and ensuring strong value for money. All equipment purchased will be retained for long-term community use, supporting ongoing provision beyond the grant period.

Grant funding will be used exclusively for future delivery and directly benefit Hednesford residents through accessible, inclusive and high-quality community activity.

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 of Costs (Grant Request: £500)

1. Funded / Sponsored Holiday Club Places

- Item: Funded activity places for Hednesford children
- Quantity: Approx. 20–25 places
- Cost per place: £12
- Total: **£300**

2. These places will be allocated to families experiencing financial hardship, including those not eligible for Free School Meals, to enable free or heavily subsidised access to holiday provision.

3. Inclusive & Safety Equipment

- Item: Specialist inclusive dance and physical activity equipment (e.g. mats, balance and conditioning equipment)
- Quantity: Multiple items
- Total: **£200**

4. Equipment will support safe, inclusive delivery for a wide range of ages and abilities and will remain in long-term use for future community provision.

Total grant requested: £500

This funding will be **match funded by our organisation**, doubling the overall project value and ensuring strong value for money. All costs relate to future delivery and directly benefit children and families living in Hednesford.

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.

Through membership fees and/or Director's investment.

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

If YES please state the date and amount.

£500 during the 2024 application.

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.

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

To support this project, our organisation will **match fund the £500 requested from Hednesford Town Council**, doubling the overall value of the project.

Match funding will be met through a combination of **reinvested CIC income**, affordable **membership fees**, and careful financial management across our core programme. As a Community Interest Company, all surplus income is reinvested directly into community provision, enabling us to support free and subsidised places where needed.

In addition, we actively apply for and secure funding from a range of external grant providers throughout the year to support inclusive delivery, equipment, and holiday provision. This approach ensures that funded activity can continue beyond the life of a single grant and reduces reliance on any one funding source.

While this project does not rely on sponsorship or crowdfunding, our matched contribution demonstrates our commitment to the project and our confidence in its delivery. By match funding the grant, we ensure strong value for money and maximise the benefit of Hednesford Town Council's support for local families and children.

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) **Kirsty Kolmer**

Signature (if under 18 a guardian must sign on

Date **05/01/2026**

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
- 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 **Kirsty Kolmer**

Signature 1 **Jason Kolmer**

Name (please print)

Name (please print)

Date **05/01/2026**

Date **05/01/2026**

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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