

Cultural Celebrations Grants Scheme Criteria 2018

1. Introduction

Funding is available to encourage the expression of cultural identity at the time of the traditional July/August events.

2. Funding Available

Funding of up to a maximum of £1,500 for single day events and up to a maximum of £2,000 for multi-day* events is available for events held to express cultural identity.

To qualify for funding, the construction and burning of a bonfire is not necessary, applications should normally come from groups hosting a traditional bonfire, hosting a beacon, or hosting an event in place of what historically was a traditional bonfire. Where a bonfire will be built as part of the event, the following criteria will be applied.

* Activities must take place over two or more consecutive days within the timeframe stated in Section 7.

For events that do not meet the above criteria, funding may be available through the Community Festivals Fund.

4. Commitment

Where applicable, applicants are required to have close liaison with bonfire organisers and attend all site meetings with bonfire organisers to ensure that where bonfires do take place they are as safe and environmentally friendly as possible.

5. Good Relations

In the interest of good community relations, it is desirable that organisers endeavour to discourage sectarian or racist graffiti or the flying of flags or emblems or the burning of election posters at their bonfire site.

6. Funding Conditions

Funding for festivals will be withdrawn where bonfires contain any tyres.

Successful applicants of the Community Festivals Fund will not be permitted to apply for additional funding under this scheme for that particular project.

7. Dates

Events must take place between 10th and 13th July and 14th and 17th August 2018.

8. Who Is Eligible for Grant Aid

Applicant Groups should be properly constituted and based in the Mid & East Antrim Borough Council area, and hold a bank account in the name of the applicant organisation.

A constituted group working in partnership with up to three bonfire sites/builders may apply for the collective amount of funding to host festival events in those areas, i.e. up to £4,500 for one day events and up to £6,000 for multiday events. The applicant will take full responsibility for the festivals in ensuring those events that are linked to bonfires adhere to the rules of this scheme and that high levels of governance are applied. Expenditure for all events must be evidenced in the form of paid invoices and bank statements.

9. Community Engagement / Safety

If there are plans to have a bonfire, there must be substantial engagement and co-operation with the community and the following relevant agencies:

- Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
- NIFRS
- PSNI
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive

10. What Can and Cannot Be Funded

Funding can be used for:

Festival events e.g. Activities such as music and art, various cultural/educational activities, consumables, portable toilets and skips. This list is not exhaustive and should be used only as an indication of eligible costs

Funding cannot be used for the purchase of capital equipment, alcohol or items directly related to a bonfire.

N.B. Where services such as Bouncy Castles/climbing frames etc. are commissioned, proof of public liability insurance from the supplier must be provided to Mid & East Antrim Borough Council prior to the event.

11. Payment of Claims

Payment of grant will be made after the project or activity has taken place and upon completion of the Project Report and Claim Form and the submission of original invoices, receipts and bank statements.

In the instance where issues with cash flow may prove detrimental to the project or activity taking place, consideration may be given to releasing 50% of the awarded funding in advance. This will be done on a case by case scenario and the applicant will be required to demonstrate that there is a need for this advance payment. No further payments will be made until completion of the project and satisfactory vouching has taken place.

Deadline for submission of all claim forms and accompanying documentation will be Friday 28 September 2018. Council will therefore endeavour to have all claims processed and paid by Friday 26 October 2018.

Please consult the Grants Officers if you require any additional information.

12. Equal Opportunity and Good Relations

While administering this scheme Mid & East Antrim Borough Council will ensure the promotion of equality of opportunity between:

- persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation
- men and women generally
- persons with a disability and persons without
- persons with dependants and persons without

In addition due regard will be given to the promotion of good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

13. How to Apply

1. Applications are made online by going to www.mea.eformz.info. If required, hard copy application forms are available on request.
2. Before completing an application form, the applicants should make sure that they are eligible to apply and have read this Guide.
3. Please ensure that you have completed the application form in full and that all supporting documentation is included.
4. The complete application form must be submitted by **12.00 noon on Friday 11 May 2018. Late Applications will not be considered.**
5. Please contact the Grants Officers if you require any additional information 028 2563 3148 or 028 9335 8240 or email grants@midandeantrim.gov.uk

Grants Officer
Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

'Ardeevin'
80 Galgorm Road
Ballymena
BT42 1AB

Smiley Buildings
Victoria Road
Larne
BT40 1RU

Civic Centre
11 Antrim Street
Carrickfergus
BT38 7DG

Please note the following:

If you deliberately give any false or misleading information, we will withdraw your application, or, if a grant has already been awarded, ask you to pay back any money we have given you. This will also have implications for any future applications you may submit.

Mid & East Antrim Borough Council may defer applications if further information is needed.

Mid & East Antrim Borough Council will not consider a claim that your application was lost or delayed in the post, unless you have proof of posting.

It may not be possible to support all applications even if they are eligible to apply.

Only one application will be accepted per group for this scheme in a financial year.