

BRIGHTWELL CUM SOTWELL PARISH COUNCIL DONATIONS UNDER SECTION 137 OF LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

The Law

1.1 A Parish Council can use the Local Government Act 1972 s137 to incur expenditure for the benefit of all or part of the Parish if no other specific power allows the action. This power was amended by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to include that the benefit should be proportionate with the expenditure.

1.2 The amount that may be spent under s137 is limited and is calculated annually. A Council may spend up to a maximum sum of money (set by the Government and linked to RPI) per elector per annum. The current limit can be found on the Parish Council Website. Unspent s137 monies cannot be carried forward to the next financial year.

1.3 Any s137 expenditure should be noted in the minutes and a separate column maintained in the accounts for this expenditure to ensure that the Council doesn't exceed the annual limit.

The Parish Policy

2.1 The Clerk will calculate the annual spending limit, and maintain a record of all s137 Grant spending and recipients. The Council does not have to issue all available grant funds if there are insufficient quality projects to reach the spending limit.

2.2 The Council will consider all applications submitted and allocate grants having weighed their eligibility and merits. Grants may often be for less than the full value applied for.

2.3 This Policy document is to be reviewed annually by the Council at its March meeting.

Grant Eligibility

3.1 The following conditions are used to guide s137 grant eligibility

- The project will make the Parish a better place to live, work or visit
- The grant primarily benefits people who live in the Parish

3.2 The following are not eligible for s137 grants:

- Support for individuals or private business projects
- The running costs of an organisation
- Projects which are the statutory responsibility of other Public bodies
- Projects which primarily benefit privately owned land or property
- Projects which have already been completed
- Projects or organisations that do not directly benefit the Parish.

### Grant Application Process

- 4.1 Applications are to be made on the Grant Application Form available from the Parish Clerk and downloadable from the Parish Council website.
- 4.3 A receipt for a grant must be returned to the Clerk for audit purposes.
- 4.4 Grant funding must only be used for the purpose stated in the Application.
- 4.5 A short written report of how the Grant has been spent, and what it has achieved, must be submitted to the Clerk within 12 months of receipt of the Grant. The report will become a document available for public inspection under the provisions of Section 228 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 4.6 Recipients of Grants should acknowledge the Parish Council's support in any publications, publicity, and other promotional material.