



The Benevolent Committee of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham

GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANTS

1. Charities should have a particular relevance within the Province of Durham. Applications from National Organisations should be referred to the Masonic Charitable Foundation, the exception being where the application is clearly to support a local project In which case a written undertaking must be given by the National Charity confirming how the money will be applied locally.
2. Applicants should be recognised as a charity as defined by law, and also be able to demonstrate effective management.
3. There should be no specific exclusion of Freemasons and their dependants from receiving the benefits of any Charity, i.e. the Charity should not have any record of anti-Masonic comment or exclusion of Freemasons.
4. There should be no political objects in the charity.
5. Consideration should not in general be given to government quangos or in support of projects which should properly be funded by the government.
6. No grants should be recommended towards the general repairs and maintenance of any buildings or monuments.
7. They must provide with their application a current set of audited accounts or in the case of small charities a current Profit/Loss balance sheet.
8. Last minute decisions should be avoided in the working group simply because an appeal has just been received. Any decision on such payment should be deferred until the following meeting when a proper assessment and recommendation by a working group can be made.



9. Emotive appeals following national disasters should be deferred until sufficient time has elapsed to evaluate the situation properly.

10. No appeal should be considered by the General Purposes Committee until a working group has investigated both the appeal and the Charity seeking assistance.

11. No grant should be recommended for any Charity if, in the opinion of a working group:-

a) It fails to demonstrate appropriate financial management of its affairs

b) It spends too high a proportion of its income on administration

c) It is holding funds in excess of its requirements

d) It is failing to disperse a sufficient proportion of its income for the charitable purposes which the money was collected.

e) It is a 'third party Charity' (i.e. a Charity which only collects money to give to other charities).

f) It appears to have an improper connection with, or appears to be a 'shell' for a commercial organisation.

12. When a grant is sent to a charity it should be clearly stated that it has been made by the Freemasons of the Province of Durham as this is easily understood and recognised by those who are not Freemasons. The Benevolent Committee should take such steps as might be necessary to achieve maximum beneficial publicity for any donations.

These guidelines were accepted and agreed by the General Purposes Committee at a meeting held on 18th February 2016.