

Full Circle Food Project
The Growing Zone,
Hirst Park,
Ashington,
Northumberland



Reference to Grant Funding

Dear Ashington Town Council,

I write to thank you for the grant funding offer of £2000.00. We are extremely grateful and appreciative of the support Ashington Town Council has awarded us both in monetary terms and in working together collaboratively.

We do note however, that our original fund was for £11,800 which would see us expand the alternative food provision, which is much needed in our community and has been received very positively from those more vulnerable members of our society.

Unfortunately, due to the nature of the project and the resource commitment we cannot allocate this reduced bid to this project. Scaling down the project isn't feasible and therefore we could not report back on any outcomes.

We completely understand the Ashington Town Council's commitment to try to support all the VCSE sector in Ashington and understand that there has been a reduced overall budget as well as an unprecedented demand for funding.

We would like to accept your offer of £2000 on the terms that it will be spent on storage equipment or be put into core operating expenses and therefore we won't be able to deliver a report on this basis.

We would also like to feedback on the process and seek some clarity for future years funding bids.

Ashington Town Council would like to see a presentation either in person or via video for funding bids and whilst I appreciate how helpful this may be, it takes a great deal of resource to try and put this together when we are a small team with limited capacity. Nevertheless, the importance of the project found us deem appropriate to offer up that resource and put together a professional video.

Due to the nature of the grants funded by Ashington Town Council this year we don't think Councillors have taken the time to assess our project and its worthiness for receiving the full grant, and we can't see the rationale behind the decisions. I reiterate that we understand the limited funding available, and Ashington Town Council's wanting to try and help all organisations but we feel disappointed by the lack of clarity in the application process.

In future we would like to make a suggestion of capping the fund so that we know the project we create has to fit within a set budget, or we can use that to match fund. We would also like to suggest some simple criteria, for example if Ashington Town Council wanted to fulfil the objectives of delivering sports and recreation activities within the town then we know we would not fit this and wouldn't apply.

Full Circle Food Project
The Growing Zone,
Hirst Park,
Ashington,
Northumberland



As a charity we welcome any funder that funds core operating costs, as this is the trickiest aspect of running a charity to cover. If Ashington Town Council would only like to fund core operating costs this again would simplify the application process and we would not need to cost out specific projects, we would welcome clarity on this aspect too, although would also feel the reporting of such a fund would need to be an overview without specific objectives.

We hope that you can take our feedback on board so that we can work better together and keep the lines of communication flowing. We do value the work that we do together with Ashington Town Council and hope that this continues so that we can continue to support the community in Ashington.

Kind regards

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

CEO

[Redacted contact information]

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

Chair

[Redacted contact information]

Full Circle Food Project
The Growing Zone,
Hirst Park,
Ashington,
Northumberland

