



Shrewsbury

Town Council

COMMUNITY GRANTS FUND APPLICATION

Please answer all questions which are relevant to your organisation – failure to do so may result in a delay in the determination of your application

PROJECT (In no more than 25 words)	Season 4 of SY Gigs: Six immersive events exploring alternative music in historic Shrewsbury spaces, designed to inspire curiosity and aid well-being in the community	GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED	£1400
--	---	-------------------------------	--------------

Contact Details

Q1 Name of organisation making application:

SY.Gigs

Name of contact for this application

Title:Mr

First Name:Chris

Surname: Taylor

Position held in the organisation:

[REDACTED]

Contact Address, including full postcode:

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

Contact Telephone Number:

[REDACTED]

Email address:

[REDACTED]

About your organisation

Q2 What type of organisation are you?

Tick (✓) relevant category:

Registered Charity: () Charity Registration Number
Voluntary Organisation: (✓)
Company Limited by Guarantee: () Company Number
Other – Please specify:

Q3 When was your organisation established?

2022

Q4 Briefly describe your organisation.

Describe your organisation, including how many members/users you have, whether there is a subscription fee and the usual activities/services you provide.

If you are a new organisation, describe the services/activities you plan to provide.

SY.Gigs is a not-for-profit, community-focused music initiative founded by Chris Taylor. Chris is responsible for overall artistic direction, programming, artist booking, venue coordination, event production, marketing, and delivery. The initiative is supported by a committed network of key committee members, sponsors, partners, and volunteers who all contribute to its community-driven and not for profit objective.

SY.Gigs operates as a recognised cultural brand within Shrewsbury, while remaining agile and project-based to enable responsive decision-making and efficient delivery. This community initiative is supported by a small governance board that meets periodically to review and discuss all aspects of concert planning, financial oversight, risk management, and delivery, ensuring accountability, transparency, and strategic direction.

Since launching in 2022, SY.Gigs has delivered 30 live events in various historic buildings in Shrewsbury, typically attracting audiences of 80–150 people per event, representing approximately 2,500–3,000 attendees. In addition, SY.Gigs maintains an active newsletter with over 750 subscribers, providing updates on upcoming events, nature and wellbeing core strands that have engaged a local and regional audience.

SY.Gigs does not operate a membership or subscription model for events, although some attendees provide periodic voluntary donations to support the initiative.

Access to all events is through individual ticket purchases, helping to keep events open and accessible to the wider community. Ticket prices are kept affordable and include concessions for those under 25.

To maintain these accessible price points, external funding is required to help balance the costs associated with staging high-quality professional live music, including venue hire, artist fees, travel, accommodation, and technical production, on a concert-by-concert basis.

SY.Gigs presents high-quality alternative and experimental live music, often featuring international artists, within Shrewsbury's historic churches and underused heritage spaces, thus generating awareness in some of Shrewsbury key assets. Events span genres including experimental folk, ambient, electronic, drone, post classical and contemporary jazz.

Beyond concerts, SY.Gigs provides wider community value by: supporting cultural diversity and access to international arts, creating safe and inclusive environments, enhancing and articulating the benefits of live music to mental wellbeing, activating heritage spaces, and strengthening local creative networks and partnerships.

Q5 If you are a subsidiary of a larger organisation, please state which one.

No

Q6 Does your organisation have an agreed Constitution or Memorandum of Association?

Please state which and attach a copy: **Mission Statement and Governance Model attached.**

Q7 What is your primary source of funding?

Ticketing, donations, sponsorship and grant funding.

Details of the project or activity you are planning

Q8 Describe the projects/activity you plan to use this grant for.

i. Try to be specific about what you will do and how you will do it.

2026 Season 4 will include 6 concerts across 3 different historical venues in Shrewsbury. The Grant application for Season 4 excludes Event 1, that took place at Shrewsbury Library on February 1. This inaugural event set the tone for this year's season of events that is focused on 'being curious' about music and spaces.

Event 2 March 28 - St Alkmunds Church

A focused night on Welsh artists which invites the audience to explore their beautiful sonic landscapes, offering a thought-provoking and immersive experience from Awen Ensemble and Peiriant.

Event 3 May 16 - The Unitarian Church

A night of electronic music. Dylan Henner presents his deeply considered and choral-laced experimental ambient music.

Events 4 July 11 - St Alkmunds Church

A full afternoon and evening of music, connection and shared experience at St Alkmund's Church. Featuring Mia Doi Todd and Turn On The Sunlight from Hawaii, with returning SY Gigs artists Miles Spilbury and Aisha Vaughan and some new faces. In the church gardens, Steve Guy leads a Shrewsbury Food Hub collaboration, transforming leftover produce into a tasty and beautiful shared menu. Guests are invited to pull up a picnic blanket, relax and enjoy the rhythm of the day in between performances. An unhurried day of music that nourishes body, mind and spirit.

Event 5 September 13 - Shrewsbury Library

Our second Matinee of the Season. Celebrating their new album with Meg Morley, Haiku Salut visit us from the Peak District to perform in the beautiful setting of the old Shrewsbury School Chapel. This performance will be an orchestral reimagining of a score for the 1930's silent film 'People on Sunday'.

Event 6 November - Shrewsbury Library

The final event will be a Sunday evening or Matinee performance with an international Artist who is yet to be confirmed.

- ii. Please state how you have identified this need and how the project will benefit the people of Shrewsbury, together with the estimated time span. If you are seeking continuation funding for this project, please provide evidence for this continued need.

The need for this project has been identified through direct audience engagement (100 responses) via a questionnaire undertaken in December 2025 (see appendix), ticket demand, stakeholder feedback, and sustained community growth since SY.Gigs launched in 2022.

Over 30 events have attracted 2,500–3,000 attendees, with many concerts selling strongly in non-traditional venues. Our newsletter has grown organically to over 750 subscribers, demonstrating sustained and increasing local interest in high-quality alternative live music.

Audience feedback consistently highlights three key themes: a desire for greater cultural diversity within Shrewsbury; appreciation for intimate, safe and welcoming environments; and the positive impact of live music on mental wellbeing. Many attendees report that SY.Gigs provides access to music they would otherwise need to travel to Birmingham, Manchester or London to experience. This demonstrates both a cultural gap locally and a clear appetite for continued provision.

The project also responds to the underuse of Shrewsbury's historic churches and heritage spaces. By sensitively activating these buildings through carefully curated concerts, SY.Gigs contributes to their visibility, relevance and sustainability, while preserving their character.

The benefits to the people of Shrewsbury include:

- Increased access to high-quality and diverse cultural experiences
- Support for mental wellbeing through shared live music experiences
- Strengthening of community connection and social cohesion
- Activation, introduction and celebration of local heritage spaces
- Support for the local economy through partnerships and audience footfall

iii. How many people from the Parish of Shrewsbury do you expect to benefit directly from your project or activity?

600-800

iv. Please indicate which of the key pillars of the Council's Vision are met and how:

Pillars	Met	How
Building Resilient Communities For Shrewsbury	YES	SY.Gigs creates welcoming, inclusive cultural spaces that strengthen social connection and community resilience. Our concerts attract a broad cross-section of residents, including people who may feel excluded from mainstream cultural venues. By presenting intimate, thoughtful live music events in non-traditional settings, SY.Gigs encourages people to come together, slow down, and share meaningful experiences. This sense of belonging and collective participation contributes to stronger, more connected communities and helps reduce social isolation.
Supporting Shrewsbury Residents To Live Active And Healthy Lives Through The Provision Of Quality Services	YES	Mental wellbeing is a core principle of SY.Gigs. Our events are carefully curated to offer calm, reflective, and emotionally engaging musical experiences that support positive mental health. Live music has been shown to reduce stress, improve mood, and enhance feelings of connection. By offering high-quality cultural experiences locally, SY.Gigs provides residents with accessible opportunities to improve wellbeing

		without the need to travel outside of the county town or engage in high-cost trips to other venues.
Preserving Shrewsbury's Heritage	YES	A defining feature of SY.Gigs is the use of Shrewsbury's historic and under-used buildings, particularly churches and heritage spaces as performance venues. These events bring new audiences into buildings they may not otherwise visit, encouraging appreciation of Shrewsbury's architectural and cultural heritage. By activating these spaces respectfully and sensitively, SY.Gigs helps ensure they remain relevant, valued, and visible within the community.
Creating A Greener And Better-connected Shrewsbury	YES	SY.Gigs prioritises local audiences and walkable, central venues, reducing the need for long-distance travel. Events are hosted within Shrewsbury town centre, encouraging sustainable transport such as walking, cycling, and public transport. By bringing high-quality cultural experiences to the town rather than requiring residents to travel to larger cities, SY.Gigs contributes to a more locally connected and environmentally conscious cultural offer.
Maintaining A Sustainable, Resilient And Efficient Organisation	YES	SY.Gigs operates as a lean, not-for-profit community project. There are no salaried staff, and all planning, administration, and delivery are undertaken voluntarily with careful financial management and transparency. Funding support enables SY.Gigs to cover essential costs such as venue hire, artist fees, and technical production, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the programme

		while maintaining fair pay for artists and accessibility for audiences.
Taking Positive Action To Tackle Climate Change	YES	SSY.Gigs actively works to reduce its environmental impact while encouraging audiences to engage with nature. Events are hosted in existing historic buildings rather than purpose-built venues, and promotion is digital-first to minimise paper use. Beyond these operational measures, SY.Gigs integrates audience participation in environmental care. For example, at the end of Season 1, attendees were given wildflower seeds to plant in their gardens or local green spaces — a playful, hands-on contribution to rewilding and local biodiversity. We plan to continue and expand these initiatives in 2026, inspiring residents to connect with the natural world and take small but meaningful actions to support climate resilience. Through this combination of sustainable practices and community engagement, SY.Gigs demonstrates how live music can foster environmental awareness and active participation among audiences, linking creativity, culture, and climate action in a tangible way.

Q9 What criteria will be used to measure the success of the project and how many people from the Parish of Shrewsbury do you expect to benefit from it?

Attendance at events

Testimony of artists

Comments and feedback from audience and building hosts

Health & Safety

Q10 What, if any, special safety issues are related to your project/activity?

Please provide the following information:

- i. What kind of insurance does your organisation have?

SY.Gigs undertakes Health and Safety compliance reviews prior to each event.

SY.Gigs holds Public Liability Insurance, that is an industry standard, of up to £5 Million per event

- ii. Do the leaders have the relevant qualifications and/or experience?

All key partners and delivery agents hold relevant professional qualifications in their areas of expertise. I hold both project management and accountancy qualifications and have a history of delivering large scale programmes in the public sector.

- iii. What policies does your organisation have in place (i.e. Health and Safety, Child Protection/Safeguarding, working with vulnerable adults, Equal Opportunities, CRB Checks etc.)? *You may be required to submit copies of your policies.*

SY.Gigs operates under a formal Risk Assessment policy for every venue. A copy of our standard Event Safety Plan and Safeguarding Statement is available upon request.

We always also ensure all equipment is PAT tested and all volunteers are briefed on good practice and customer etiquette.

No vulnerable adults or children are co-opted as volunteers.

Funding of your project

Q11 Previous Applications

If you have applied for and received funding from Shrewsbury Town Council in the past please provide details of the amount, the year and briefly what the funding was used for.

Year	Project Description	Award £

Q12 Project Funding

Please provide details of the amount of funding you need for your project and give us a breakdown of what the money is for (please enclose any relevant estimates or details).

Tell us the amount of grant requested £..... and provide a detailed breakdown as to how you have reached this figure

Project Expenditure Please list all items of expenditure for your project	Amount of Project
Artist Fees	£6140
Artist Accommodation	£2350
Venue Hire	£1110
Marketing	£550
Lighting	£1025
Sound Engineer	£3250
Backline/Sound Equipment Hire	£1300
Overheads	£750
Total	£16475
Project Income Please list how the project shall be funded	
Ticket Sales	£10776
Existing sponsors	£1200
Bar Income	£890
Cash Reserve	£2209
	£15075
What is the difference? This should be the same as the amount of Grant you are applying for	£1400

Q13 Covering a Shortfall

If the Town Council makes an offer less than the amount requested, how will that impact on the Project and how will you cover the shortfall?

We will need to look at another sponsor, increase ticket prices or self fund from private sources or cancel events.

Q14 Sustainability

What plans do you have in place to ensure that your organisation becomes more sustainable and less reliant on grant funding, particularly from the Town Council?

We are always looking to build new relationships and collaborations that support our vision and can potentially introduce funding sources that make SY.gigs sustainable.

Ticket prices have increased this year to reflect rising production and artist costs but the high costs of setting up each event from scratch will always require an element of additional funding to ensure ticket prices are not prohibitively expensive.

Your Accounts

Q15 Please provide the following details from your most recent annual accounts

Total Income	£18649
Less Total Expenditure	£19511
Surplus / Loss	£862
Savings (Reserves, Cash, Investments)	£2734

Please provide a copy of your most recent annual audited accounts or, in the case of newly established organisations, the projected income and expenditure for the next twelve months.

You need to include these documents with this application.

Account Details

Q16 Please provide your bank or building society account details

You can only apply for grant if you have a bank/building society account in the name of your organisation. We will only pay grants into an account which requires at least two people to sign each cheque or withdrawal. These people should not be related.

Account name: [REDACTED]

Sort Code: [REDACTED]

Account Number: [REDACTED]

Bank/building society name: [REDACTED]

Bank/building society address - [REDACTED]

Who are the signatories and what position do they hold in your organisation?

- 1 Name [REDACTED] Position: Founder, Curator and Senior Responsible Owner
- 2 Name [REDACTED] Position: Strategic Business Advisor

Any Other Information

Q17 Any other information which you consider to be relevant to your application.

The small deficit highlighted in the accounts in 2025 was absorbed by reserves to ensure all artists were paid fairly, demonstrating our commitment to the project's integrity.

References for operational and business integrity:

[REDACTED] - Shrewsbury BID

[REDACTED] - My Shrewsbury Managing Editor

Further details via www.sygigs.com and <https://sygigs830.substack.com/>

Declarations

Q18 Declaration

Please give details of a senior member of your organisation.
For example, this may be your Chairperson, Treasurer or Secretary. They must read the application and sign below. **(This must not be the main contact name in Q1).**

I confirm, on behalf of SY.Gigs

That I am authorised to sign this declaration on its behalf, and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all replies are true and accurate.

I confirm that I have read the Terms and Conditions set out in the Notes which accompanied this application and further confirm that this application is made on the basis that if successful, the organisation will be bound to use the grant only for the

purpose specified in this application, and will have to comply with those Terms and Conditions and any others which the Council might attach to the Grant.

Post held in organisation:

SY Sponsor and Chairperson

Title: [REDACTED] First Name: [REDACTED] Surname: [REDACTED]

Organisation address:

[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Signed: [REDACTED]

Date:

Q19 Signature of Person Completing the Application

This must be the signature of the person named in Q1 as the main contact and **not be the same person who has signed in Q18**

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information in this application from is true and correct. I understand that you may ask for additional information at any stage of the application process.

Signed: [REDACTED]

Date: 6.2.2026

Checklist

1. Have you answered every question? ☐
2. Have all signatures been completed? ☐
3. Have you included a copy of your constitution? ☐
4. Have you included a copy of your most recent audited accounts? ☐
5. Please state any supporting documents you are submitting: ☐

Please return your completed application form to:

Town Clerk
Shrewsbury Town Council
Livesey House
7 St John's Hill
Shrewsbury
SY1 1JD

Telephone: 01743 281010
Email: Helen.ball@shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk