



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)	Meole Brace Juniors FC defibrillator and pitch improvement project	GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED	£1,000
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Contact Details

Q1 Name of organisation making application: MEOLE BRACE JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB

Name of contact for this application

Title: MR **First Name:** ANDREW
Position held in the organisation:

Surname: MASON
CLUB SECRETARY

Contact Address, including full postcode:

Contact Telephone Number:

Email address:

About your organisation

Q2 What type of organisation are you?

Tick (✓) relevant category:

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

Q3 When was your organisation established?

1995

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.

Meole Brace Juniors FC is a grassroots football club providing access to football for children aged 5 – 16 years old in Shrewsbury. The club is based around the Meole Brace area, playing its home matches at the Meole Brace Primary and Secondary schools. It is fully affiliated and accredited to the English Football Association and to the Shropshire Football Association

The club has 170 registered players across twelve teams, all of which compete in the Shropshire Junior Football League. It also operates a football club for school children in Foundation and Year 1 (Meole Brace Strikers), as a gateway to football. The club is run on a voluntary basis, with a management committee plus coaches and assistant coaches for all twelve teams.

Each team will partake in training activities on a weekly basis, with matches held on a Sunday over the period from September – May. Teams will also typically compete in local tournaments (typically held May – July).

The club requires each registered player to provide an annual subscription fee of £55, to cover expenses such as league entry fees, public liability insurance, coaching qualification fees (for team coaches) and facilities fees. Individual teams typically apply a £10 per month fee, to meet the cost of pitches, referees, kit and training equipment. We are an inclusive club and where parents of players are unable to afford fees, these will be reduced or waived, at the Club Committee's discretion.

In 2020 and 2021, the annual subscription fee was reduced to £35, to acknowledge on-going pressures on family finances from Covid-19.

The overarching philosophy of the club is to help children develop a love of the game. We are an inclusive club and want to help players develop in a safe, fun and constructive environment.

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

None

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

A copy of the Meole Brace Juniors FC constitution is attached to this application.

Q7 What is your primary source of funding?

As described above, the club's primary source of funding is the annual subscription fee of £55 per player.

Individual teams then apply a monthly fee – typically £10 – to meet on-going expenses arising from running the team.

Periodically, corporate sponsorship has been sought by individual teams and the club to assist with specific purchases (typically, team playing strips).

Fundraising activities have been used in the past to generate funding for the club, although Covid-19 has unfortunately curtailed these since the summer of 2019.

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

We have identified two projects which we would use any grant to support:

1) Purchase of a portable defibrillator:

Football as a sport has become more aware of the risks of cardiac incidents affecting players and spectators, over the past twelve months. This is to be welcomed but the risk of serious injury – or death – from a cardiac incident can only be reduced through access to defibrillators at football facilities.

As noted above, Meole Brace Juniors FC play their home games at the Meole Brace Primary and Secondary school sites. We would like to have ready access to defibrillators at both sites but their arrangement – particularly at the Secondary School – means that any wall-mounted defibrillators would be a significant distance from the pitch. In a situation where a defibrillator was required, speed is of the essence and we would like to be in a position where such a device is available pitch-side. This means we require fully portable defibrillators.

Although the club purchased one portable defibrillator (see [here](#)) in OCT21 (for use at the Meole Brace Secondary school pitches), the cost was significant (£1,074). We funded this through a £3 surcharge on the 2021/22 season's subscription, to defray some of the financial impact. We would like to purchase another portable defibrillator, to be available pitch-side at the Meole Brace Primary School. Doing so would ensure a defibrillator is always pitch-side and rapidly, at each school site.

Unfortunately, despite exploring grants available through the Football Foundation, these do not cover portable defibrillators. Moreover, our club finances would be severely dented by funding the purchase directly (see below). Consequently, we are seeking a Community Grant to help fund the purchase of an additional portable defibrillator.

2) Improved pitch maintenance:

Meole Brace Juniors FC is an expanding club, particularly at younger age groups (e.g. Under 7s – Under 12s). As a consequence, the pitches which the club rents from the Meole Brace Primary and Secondary schools are subject to greater wear and tear. In the Autumn and Spring, this necessitates greater maintenance (e.g. cutting, repairing, pitch marking) and in the Winter, requires more matches to be played on artificial surfaces (e.g. at SCAT, Shrewsbury Sports Village, Shrewsbury Town FC) to preserve avoid serious damage to the grass pitches.

Greater pitch maintenance and greater use of facilities with artificial surfaces has resulted in the club incurring greater expense, to host matches and training.

To avoid this resulting in significant increases in club subscription fees – and to ensure the club remains accessible to all – we would like to purchase our own line-marking equipment. Doing so would reduce reliance on the Town Council and the school grounds staff, whom we are reliant upon to mark pitches for the club (that cost being met through payments to the schools). It would also help to minimise instances where games have to be postponed, because of inadequate pitch marking.

- 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.

Purchase of a portable defibrillator:

The need for an additional portable defibrillator has been identified through wider awareness around the risks of cardiac incidents at sporting events. Many will have seen the incident involving Danish footballer Christian Eriksen, who suffered a cardiac arrest on the pitch at the European Football Championships on 12JUN21. Eriksen survived but tragically, there have been numerous incidents in the recent past where footballers – of all ages – have lost their lives due to non-availability of pitch-side defibrillators.

Positively, incidents such as these have to spark wider campaigns to ensure football facilities had access to Automated External Defibrillators (see, for example, [here](#)). However, as noted above, having investigated these campaigns we have determined that Meole Brace Juniors FC's circumstances – in particular our need for *portable* defibrillators – has ruled the club out of using these campaigns.

This particular project will directly enhance the safety of the players and spectators who attend football matches played by Meole Brace Juniors FC. We estimate this benefit would endure over the life of the defibrillator, which is determined by the battery and pad life. These are c5 years, subject to appropriate maintenance (which the club would ensure).

Improved pitch maintenance:

We have identified the need for improved pitch maintenance through observing an increased incidence of match postponements affecting Meole Brace Juniors FC compared to other clubs in Shropshire. We do not directly own the pitches we use for home games but are willing to invest time and effort to improve their condition.

Improved pitch maintenance, including through better line marking, would allow the club to support more teams at younger age groups and ensure that there are fewer match postponements because of poor pitch conditions. Improving pitch maintenance is an investment and we would expect the benefits to be long-lasting.

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

Purchase of a portable defibrillator:

Access to a portable defibrillator at the Meole Brace Primary School site would benefit the teams which use that facility (U7s – U10s), which amounts to c75 players plus spectators and coaches, all of whom live in and around Shrewsbury.

Improved pitch maintenance:

Better quality pitches would benefit all players and coaches at the club (170 registered players plus 25 coaches / assistant coaches), all of whom live in and around Shrewsbury.

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?

Purchase of a portable defibrillator:

Success of the project will not be limited solely to successful purchase but also to appropriate training of all club officials and team coaches in the correct use of a portable defibrillator.

It is a club requirement for all coaches and their assistants to have completed training on the use of a defibrillator, which is also covered through the Football Association Emergency Aid qualification. That qualification is a mandatory requirement for all coaches and their assistants whose teams compete in the Shropshire Junior Football League.

Specifically, the criteria would be ensuring that all team coaches and their assistants maintained up-to-date Emergency Aid certification. Monitoring would be the responsibility of the Club Secretary.

In addition, all spectators attending a game held at the Meole Brace Primary or Secondary schools would be made aware of access to the pitch-side portable defibrillator.

Improved pitch maintenance:

The criteria used to assess improved pitch maintenance would be a reduction in the number of games which the club is required to postpone on account of pitch conditions.

In addition, improved grass pitch conditions should result in reduced expenditure for the club on fees for access to facilities with artificial surfaces.

Health and Safety

Q10 What, if any, special safety issues are related to your project/activity? Please provide the following information ---

- What kind of insurance does your organisation have?

Meole Brace Juniors FC holds the following, which are also requirements of the English Football Association:

- Sports Liability Insurance
- Public Liability Insurance

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

All club officials and team coaches and their assistants must hold a valid DBS / CRC certificate.

Specific club roles require the role-holder to have completed other role-relevant qualifications, as required by the English Football Association

All team coaches and their assistants must hold:

- Level 1 Certificate in Football Coaching
- Emergency Aid in Football certificate (renewed every 3 years)
- Safeguarding in Football certificate (renewed every 3 years)

- 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*

Meole Brace Juniors FC maintains the following policies, which are also requirements of the English Football Association:

- Football Leadership Diversity Code;
- Safeguarding Children Policy;
- Equality Policy;
- Respect Code of Conduct;
- Separate Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Club Officials, Players and Parents;
- Health and Safety Policy; and
- Emergency Action Plans for all match and training facilities used

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.

N/A – no previous funding has been applied for

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
Heartsine 360P Fully Automatic AED, Backpack, One Person Travel First Aid Kit and Prep Kit (see here)	£1,074
Stadiummax aerosol line marker for sports pitches (see here)	£104
One season's supply of 750ml aerosol line marking paint (approx. 50 cans) (see here)	£250
Total	£1,433
Project Income Please list how the project shall be funded	
Meole Brace Juniors FC contribution	£433
What is the difference? This should be the same as the amount of Grant you are applying for	£1,000

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?

Meole Brace Juniors FC would prioritise purchase of a portable defibrillator device over items to improve pitch maintenance.

If any grant awarded required a contribution from Meole Brace Juniors FC in excess of c£750, both projects would likely be cancelled. Ultimately, this would result in higher subscription fees being applied by the club and higher monthly fees applied by individual teams

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?

- Resumption of annual fund-raising activities (e.g. end-of-season club event), subject to removal of Covid-19 restrictions;
- Proportionate increases in annual club subscription fees (to reduce the need for increases to monthly team fees);
- Requests to club members / parents to donate relevant time / materials / equipment.

Your Accounts

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

Total Income	£	6263.03	
Less Total Expenditure	£	7394.39	
Surplus / Loss	£	1131.36	LOSS
Savings (Reserves, Cash, Investments)	£	2136.0	

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:

Sort Code:

Account Number:

Bank/building society name:

Bank/building society address

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

1	Name:	Position	Vice Chair
2	Name:	Position	Treasurer

Any other information

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

Meole Brace Juniors FC is a growing club and we are genuinely rooted in the community in and around Meole Brace. The pandemic has resulted in fewer opportunities for young people to play sport and develop a love of football; we want to address that by continuing to be there for the local community, providing access to football in a safe environment, with good facilities.

Our model is lower-cost than some other grassroots football clubs, reflecting how we work with both Meole Brace schools and because we want to ensure that access to football is as wide as possible.

We recognise the financial constraints that families and companies (as potential sponsors) are operating under, hence our decision to explore the Community Grant, for the two projects outlined. We feel this appropriate, in order to avoid layering additional cost on to the players, their families and the wider network of volunteers which we rely upon.

This is our first ever application for a Community Grant.

Q17 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 Meole Brace Juniors Football Club:

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:

Title: First Name: Surname

Organisation address:

(Please note this is the address of the club, as registered with the English FA)

Telephone:

Signed:

Date: 19 January 2022

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:

Date: 19 January 2022

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
Riggs Hall
The Library
Castle Gates
Shrewsbury
SY1 2AS**

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Email: helen.ball@shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk