Durham Freemasons Charity 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. 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 comments or exclusion of Freemasons.

3. There should be no political objects in the charity.

4. Consideration should not in general be given to government quangos or in support of projects which should properly be funded by the government.

5. No grants should be recommended for the general repairs and maintenance of any buildings or monuments.

6. Complete and audited financial statements must not exceed 15 months from their creation date and should be accessible on the Charity Commission website. For other organizations, when requested, accounts should be submitted via email and also adhere to the 15-month timeframe.

7. 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.

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

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

10. 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 over its requirements

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

e) It is a ‘third party Charity’ (i.e. a Charity/Organisation 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.

11. 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 General Purposes Committee should take such steps as might be necessary to achieve maximum beneficial publicity for any donations.

12. When submitting a grant application, it is advisable to specify a particular project for consideration.

13. We do not generally fund animal charities

14. If there is any confusion we will refer to the terms and conditions of the Masonic Charitable Foundation terms and conditions which can be found. Get Support - The Masonic Charitable Foundation

15. The CSG committee will consider match funding applications up to £1000 from any Lodge or group of Lodges within the province of Durham.

16. Match funding will be provided at a rate of up to £1,000 on a pound-for-pound basis. While larger amounts may be considered, it is unlikely that they will be matched on a full pound-for-pound basis. Dependant on uptake and budgeted funding the CSG Committee each fiscal quarter may revise and report the “match funding rate” to the GP Committee.

17. A community support grant application must be completed and submitted. The lodge is required to forward the donation to the Durham Freemasons Charity, which will then provide the match funding.

18. The Lodge will present the certificate from Durham Freemasons Charity and the Lodge at a time organised by the Lodge and any publicity can be published by the Lodge and Durham Freemasons Charity.

19. A 6 month follow up report should be completed. If possible, a representative of the DFC committee should also attend any presentation.

20. Match funding will not be subject to the three-year rule, except in instances where multiple applications are submitted for the same charity or group. In such cases, decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.