

# The Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity

## Matched Funding Grants

The Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity is committed to working with Lodges and Chapters, both individually and in groups, to invest in a brighter future for the disadvantaged in our communities.

The Charity wishes to ensure that it makes grants to good causes that have the wholehearted support of the brethren of the Province. As a result the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity Matched Funding Scheme has been introduced.

The Scheme provides for the Trustees of the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity to agree up to £20,000 of funding annually to be disbursed by grants to a maximum of £250 for each application or Lodge/Chapter participating.

Those making applications for funding should be aware that there are regular Trustees meetings throughout the year but applications must be made in good time if you know there is a critical date for the grant presentation. It should be noted that if a Lodge or Chapter have already presented their cheque to the 'good cause' then a retrospective application for Match Funding will not be considered.

In the normal course of events the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons Charity would not expect to approve grants to any charity or organisation that is well funded and has a substantial amount in reserves. Therefore as part of the enquiries undertaken relating to any charity or organisation the Cornwallis Treasurer will look at the finances should they be available on line. Once the financial position of the charity or organisation is known this will be reported back to the Lodge or Chapter for their information with a view as to whether the grant will be recommended for support by the Trustees.

To comply with the CEKFC's rules, as well as charity law and Charity Commission guidance, the Trustees have absolute discretion on whether to award or decline a grant, and the input of local Charity Stewards is purely to provide information that will help Trustees reach a decision.

Matched funding will be considered as follows:

- To match money raised by Lodges and Chapters for local non-Masonic charities, voluntary organisations or community initiatives in East Kent. A local charity is one whose work is carried out and whose beneficiaries are located in the Province.
- To match money raised by Lodges and Chapters for national non-Masonic charities with a branch and specific beneficiaries in the Province.
- The focus of the charity, organisation or community initiative must fall within the current guidelines for grants made by The Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity. These include:
  - Vulnerable People – improving the lives of the vulnerable and disadvantaged in our communities
    - Disability
    - Care for the seriously ill and older people
    - Support for Carers
    - Relieving Poverty and Distress
  - Youth Opportunities – helping children and young adults reach their full potential through
    - Youth groups and organisations
    - Developing life and work related skills
    - Focus on disadvantaged young people under 25
  - Local charitable initiatives
- Match Funding Grants can be used to purchase or renovate equipment and property, or to fund an initiative or specific project. Grants will not be approved to cover running or staff costs or to increase reserves.
- Matched funding will not be made for those undertaking sponsored walks or similar fundraising.
- Grants will not be approved to pay fees or travelling expenses of individuals undertaking an education course or a 'gap year' experience.
- National charities must be registered as a charity with the Charities Commission.
- Applications may be made by individual Lodges, Chapters or groups thereof with a maximum grant of £250 per Lodge or Chapter.
- Statutory Charities and organisations (e.g. schools), where the funding should normally be provided by the Government, Local Authority, or other statutory body are not eligible.

Example:

A group of four lodges and chapters from a Masonic Centre wish to support repairs to a scout hut estimated at £2,000. The group donates £1,000 and the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity provide matched funding of £1,000.