

NEWTON ABBOT TOWN COUNCIL



Ethical Fundraising Policy

Date of adoption	
Reviewed	July 2016, Reviewed 2017, Nov 2018, 22 nd June 2022, 19 th June 2024
Next Review Date	June 2026
Reviewed By	Policy & Resources Committee

Ethical Fundraising Policy



Ethical Fundraising

1. The Town Council recognises its responsibility to its stakeholders and participants to consider the ethical issues that may arise in working with or accepting funding from an organisation/individual and the associated risks.
2. Therefore, the Town Council seeks, so far as is practical and within the constraints of UK law, to:
 - Develop initiatives that do not compromise the independent status of the Town Council; it will establish the principles of its activities first, based on the needs of the beneficiaries and independently of any funding opportunities.
 - Ensure that the activities of organisations and individuals it works with are consistent with the Town Council's values.
3. The Town Council will not accept any funding from companies directly involved in activities that run contrary to its overall vision/aims.
4. The Town Council will accept funding from statutory bodies. It recognises that, in accepting funding from statutory bodies, it must consider the policy implications and obligations that might be tied to it and ensure that these do not contravene the aims of the Town Council.
5. The Town Council can seek to raise funds from a series of trusts and foundations but recognises that they are not necessarily ethical givers. The Town Council therefore does not accept money from any trust or foundation if it is a requirement of grant receipt to advertise any company or organisation whose activities run contrary to its aims.
6. In order to further inform the Town Council's decision as to whether to accept funding or enter any kind of partnership, it commits to undertaking due diligence background research into the organisation/individual in question, which would include considerations such as:
 - a. Is the organisation part of a larger group?
 - b. What are its motives for giving?
 - c. Is it financially sound?
7. The Town Council will consider carefully any obligations that are included within a funding gift – in the case of individuals or companies this could include publicity or naming rights to some part of the programme. The Town Council will ensure that it undertakes a thorough background check into each individual or organisation to ensure that there is nothing within

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their activities, whether current, past or planned, that would contravene its aims or harm its beneficiaries or reputation.

- 8. The Town Council will maintain accountability and open and honest relationships with all its partners, by regularly monitoring and evaluating its work.
- 9. It is impossible to produce an exhaustive list of the areas that the Town Council would consider to be contrary to its aims, however, companies likely be seen as working against its aims and association would carry reputational risk. No particular examples will be listed in this Policy as they will all be considered on their individual merits.
- 10. Consistent with its principles, the Town Council will not accept funds in circumstances when:
 - a) The donation is made anonymously (other than small donations for example given by an individual attending the Town Council, Museum or Newton’s Place on a visit), through an intermediary who is not prepared to identify the donor to anyone at the Museum or Town Council;
 - b) The donor has acted, or is believed to have acted, illegally in the acquisition of funds, for example when funds are tainted through being the proceeds of criminal conduct; or,
 - c) When acceptance of the funds would, in the judgment of Newton Abbot Town Council, significantly damage its effective operation, and in particular the Museum in delivering its mission for example, whether because such acceptance would:
 - 1. Harm the Council’s or Museum’s relationship with other benefactors, partners, visitors or stakeholders;
 - 2. Create unacceptable conflicts of interest;
 - 3. Materially damage the Council’s or the Museum’s reputation; or,
 - 4. Detrimentially affect the ability of the Council or the Museum to fulfil its mission in any other way than is mentioned above.

Date.....

Signed..... Mayor

Signed..... Town Clerk

Date approved: July 2016, Reviewed 2017, Nov 2018, June 2022, **June 2024**
Due for review **June 2026**