

Criteria for grants to voluntary and other organisations

1 The parish council periodically makes funds available for community organisations or activities.

Grants of up to 50% of the total project cost may be provided for applications which meet one of the following criteria:-

- improve the village environment or amenities within the Parish boundary
- enhance the social, cultural or recreational life of the Parish
- provide a service or facility for the residents of Napton
- provide a service which supports vulnerable/disadvantaged members of our community
- supports the priorities set out in the emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan
- projects which support environmental improvements/help to tackle climate change.

Preference will be given to applications which benefit the community at large rather than minority interest groups.

The maximum award which can be given is £500.

2 Applications will not normally be considered from the following:

- Groups which are not formally constituted i.e. do not have a constitution and bank account
- Commercial organisations
- Groups undertaking projects or activities which would normally be funded from other sources/ by other organisations
- Individuals
- Groups which do not have an open membership policy or which discriminate on the grounds of race, sex, gender or religion.

3 Applicants should provide a fully-costed proposal, and will ideally demonstrate evidence of effective fund-raising by the applicant or sponsors. The Parish Council may request to view audited accounts.

4 Grants shall be spent within 6 months of being awarded. Unspent funds must be returned to the Parish Council. In exceptional circumstances, an extension may be agreed.

5 Variations in projects after grants are awarded must be discussed with the Parish Clerk who may wish to raise the issue at a council meeting.

6 The Parish Council will require copies of all invoices before releasing payment.

7 Retrospective applications will not be considered. Applications should therefore be made well in advance in order to allow sufficient time for consideration.

Napton Parish Council

Grant Applications

Name of organisation:

Napton Environmental Action Team (NEAT) in support of Napton Swift Group

Applicant's name, address and email:

Jacky Lawrence, Crown House, High Street, Napton, CV47 8LZ

Jackylawrence31@hotmail.co.uk

Position in organisation:

NEAT Steering Group member

Name of Project:

Napton Swift (Apus apus) Project

Please give details of your project and explain how it meets the Council's criteria by benefitting the community (max 750 words)

The swift is a long-distance migrant that chooses to nest amongst our dwellings. Breeding Bird Survey data shows the population in the UK has dropped by over 66% since 1995 and continues to fall. They have been on the UK Birds of Conservation Concern Red List since 2021 [Swift | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology](#).

Swifts do not normally begin breeding until they are four years old with a typical lifespan of nine years. Before they are old enough to breed, juveniles are finding it harder to survive to adulthood due to poor weather conditions (climate change) and reduced availability of aerial insects (loss of biodiversity).

For breeding pairs who return to the same nest site each year, the main problem is a lack of nesting sites. Modern buildings are not designed with nature in mind. Old buildings are renovated or knocked down and nest holes are filled during refurbishment, depriving swifts of their nest sites.

Swifts fly here from Africa every summer to breed. Napton used to have many breeding sites, but we believe only one site remains. Swifts still return to Napton, with 'screaming parties' of at least 30 swifts spotted over the centre of the village in the summer of 2024 [How to use Swift Mapper – FAQs](#).

Napton Swift Group aims to improve the natural environment by this project, as well as giving pleasure to the many people who delight in seeing these amazing birds in flight. This project could also support any NPC Local Nature Action Plan [Warwickshire-Local-Nature-Action-Plans-guidance-for-town-and-parish-councils-DRAFT-September-2024.pdf](#)

We can help with conservation action – starting by putting up nest boxes of the right type and in the right place, at least 4.5 metres from the ground. Swifts are social birds, so we need plenty of boxes, in groups of at least two boxes per site, to attract more birds. Other villages, such as Harbury, with financial help from their Parish Council have done this successfully with the aim of creating 50 new nest sites and becoming a 'Swift Village'. At least 20 Napton householders would like to have swift nest boxes on their homes. The swift project lead from Harbury has been to survey these houses in Napton to identify priority locations.

This request to Napton Parish Council is for £300 which will go towards the cost of safely installing the boxes.

Napton Parish Council

Grant Applications

The indicative cost for installing 50 boxes is £500. This would be done by Jason Goode of Goodeclean, who is experienced in working at height.

The nest boxes will nearly all be paid for by the householders. Prices vary from £20 for the simplest box to £45 for an RSPB box. We estimate there will be 20 at £20 each, 20 at £35 each and 10 at £45.

This adds up to £1,550 for boxes. The total cost including installation is £2,050.

A small number of householders may find the expense difficult; we already have £50 in donations towards subsidising their costs.

The boxes will be installed in March 2025, in good time for swifts arriving in Napton from the end of April.

Total project cost: £2 050

Amount of funding requested: £300

The project leads are: Grania O'Mahony, Penny Alsop and Jacky Lawrence

(531 words)

Thank you

Signed...*J. M. Lawrence*

....Date.....28/12/2024

After the initial number of swift nest boxes are installed, we will continue to work to halt the decline in swift populations by:

- Encouraging local woodworkers to make more nest boxes and residents to install them.
- Encouraging householders to plant insect friendly gardens and make wildlife ponds to encourage the insects swifts love to eat and stop using insecticides
- Using 'swift callers' to attract swifts to investigate the new nest sites [2014-06-21](#)
[swiftcallsinstructions.pdf](#)
- Undertaking swift surveys and record the results on the Swift Mapper App [Swift Conservation: Take Part in Swift Mapper](#)
- Making available a range of publications about Napton Swifts.
- Engaging local children to participate in a swift art and creativity project as part of a national Rotary 'Endangered Species' project in 2026.

