

**Request for financial support for Oakham Pride from Oakham Town Council.**

Pride is a unique and important part of a town's annual calendar bringing the LGBT+ community and allies together to promote inclusion, equality and diversity.

Oakham Pride launched in 2022 with a parade followed by a festival in the castle grounds. The event was far better attended than we had anticipated with over 500 attendees. The feedback from the day was overwhelmingly positive and we were especially proud of the engagement we had from the town's young people and families.

It is estimated that around 1-in-5 adults under 24 no longer identify as 'cis het' and in small rural towns such as Oakham that do not have a thriving LGBT+ 'scene', an event like Pride is the only chance the community has to show support and celebrate sexuality and gender identity.

We are now looking to build on the success of Pride 2022 and provide a bigger and better Pride 2023. We are planning a parade followed by a festival again, but this time (with thanks to you) this will be in Cutts Close Park.

We predict that our total costs for this year will be £3000 with the following breakdown

Performing Acts and volunteer expenses	£1100
Health, Safety, first aid	£800
Prizes	£300
Decoration, banners, advertising	£500
Bins and toilets	£300

We are asking if Oakham Town Council could help support this event by offering funding of up to £2000 towards the cost of the event. We believe Pride reaches teenagers and young people in a way that most town events do not. We are also fundraising with a selection of smaller events including a tea party and a masquerade ball alongside online fundraising, charging for stalls and a repeat of the 'Big raffle' we held last year. Should it be necessary, we are happy to be fully transparent to the council about our accounts and budget and meet any necessary legal requirements. This is an opportunity for Oakham Town Council to support the teenagers of Oakham and show its commitment to diversity and community spirit and we welcome any support you can offer. Financially, we aim to use this year's event as a platform to be able to self support moving forward and hope to raise sufficient funds this year to host next year's event.