



GRANT APPLICATION FORM

**For Applications for the Financial Year
April 1st 2023 – March 31st 2024**

Part 1: Your Details

Your Name:

David Lewis

Name of Organisation:

Rutland and Stamford Sound Community Interest Company

Telephone:

01780 721976

E-Mail:

david.lewis@rutlandandstamfordsound.co.uk

Address:

56 High Street, Oakham. LE15 6AL

If you are applying on behalf of a community or voluntary group, please give its name and address.

As above

Part 2: A Description of your idea

What do you want to do?

Rutland and Stamford Sound is a not-for-profit community station, launched in March 2021 with the aim of improving wellbeing by making people feel more connected with their local area. We employ a full time Station Manager (Rob Persani) who is well-known and widely respected in the local community. All other roles are filled by volunteers (on-air presenters, back-office support and the management team).

We are now seeking financial support to renew and upgrade our website and streaming software, a project we are planning to undertake in the first quarter of 2024. The total cost is estimated to be £3,016 and any contribution from Oakham Town Council would be appreciated.

Part 3: Your Community

Who would benefit from your project?

The project will enable us to continue serving the people of Rutland, Stamford and the surrounding villages. On a daily basis we feature interviews with local people and keep listeners up to date with local events. Local news is broadcast every hour. In a survey we conducted during August 2023, we were pleased to receive 269 responses, with 95% of our listeners saying that Rutland and Stamford Sound makes them feel more connected to the local area.

The residents of Oakham form a significant portion of our audience. We also support a large number of community groups in the town, helping them to promote their activities, raise funds and recruit volunteers.

During the first quarter of 2024 we are planning to establish a studio facility in the Citizens Advice building on Oakham High Street, enabling us to further increase our community outreach activity. This is a project we have been working on for some time, with the final implementation date being dependent on approval of a grant funding application for that project.

What difference will your project make?

The renewal and upgrade of our website and streaming software are essential if we are to maintain and develop the service we provide. As we are currently an online, smartspeaker and app station, ensuring that the website remains viable is central to our operation.

Among the benefits which the website delivers to the people of Oakham is that it hosts a comprehensive Events Calendar. Not for profit organisations and charities list their events on the calendar free of charge and receive free on-air promotion from our presenters. See:

<https://www.rutlandandstamfordsound.co.uk/community/>

Part 4: Monitoring

How will you monitor the project once it has started?

The renewal and upgrade to our website will be managed by our Station Manager, supported by volunteers, with most of the technical expertise provided by a third-party supplier who specialises in providing software to radio stations. The project will be monitored at our management meetings, held fortnightly.

Part 5: Funding

What is the total cost of your project? (Please remember to enclose two quotes if applicable)

£3,016.

How much money are you applying for?

£1,500

Have you applied for funding from anywhere else? Please give details.

We are in the process of submitting an application to Stamford Town Council and are also planning to approach local businesses and community organisations to ask if they would be willing to make a contribution. To date no funds have been committed by any other groups.

Please give an approximate breakdown, if applicable, of how you expect to spend the money:

The money will all be spent on paying the third party supplier to renew our website and associated streaming software. The third party (Air Inc) is our existing supplier and is a specialist in providing services to radio stations. A change in the supplier would be very disruptive and there would be a high risk of an adverse impact on broadcast quality. The estimate of £3,016 is a discounted price for a community station.

On our side, the implementation work will be undertaken by the Station Manager, supported by volunteers. We are not seeking any financial support for staff and volunteer time.

If your application is unsuccessful, are funds available to ensure your project goes ahead? If yes, please give details:

It may be helpful to provide some context for our financial position. Our main source of income is advertising revenue from local businesses. We are able to generate sufficient advertising income to just about cover our largest cost, which is the salary costs of the Station Manager. We are investing a lot of management time in seeking to add either an FM or DAB service, which will provide a major boost to advertising revenue and will help to make us financially sustainable in the long-term. In the meantime, we need to attract grants and donations to cover outgoings other than staff costs.

If this application is unsuccessful, it is likely that we will decide to use advertising income to cover the cost of this project. We will then need to look at alternative grant applications or other fundraising initiatives to cover salary costs during 2024.

Signature

D.R. Hill (DIRECTOR)

Date:

4/12/2023

Note: Please remember to supply the most recent set of accounts, if applicable, of your organisation.

Please return this form to: Town Clerk
Oakham Town Council
ROL House
Long Row
Oakham
Rutland
LE15 6LN