

**GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

**For Applications for the Financial Year**

**April 1st 2024 – March 31st 2025**

**Part 1: Your Details**

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| **Your Name:**  Joanna Burrows |

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| **Name of Organisation:** The Victoria Hall |

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| **Telephone:** [01572 722496](https://www.google.com/search?q=the+victoria+hall+Oakham&rlz=1C1UEAD_enGB1120GB1120&oq=the+victoria+hall+Oakham&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIKCAEQABiABBiiBDIKCAIQABiABBiiBDIKCAMQABiABBiiBNIBCjExNjE1ajBqMTWoAgiwAgE&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8) **E-Mail:** info@victoriahall.org |

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| **Address:** 39b, 39 High St, Oakham LE15 6AH |

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| **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**

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| **What do you want to do?**  The Victoria Hall in Oakham is celebrating its 125th anniversary but like many  public amenities and businesses is struggling under the burdens of significantly increased costs.  We urgently need short term (3 months) support for the ongoing running of this unique and much-loved Hall, to enable us to have time to restructure the staffing, promote the hall with a functioning website and some brochure, and secure other funding which we are applying for, but that takes longer to secure.  We have several medium-term plans in place to raise funds, including launching a Crowdfunding initiative, applications to local trusts for a new boiler, and applications to national funders such as the Lottery for other upgrades such as bathrooms, carpets, decorating. We have set up a new Friends of the Hall fundraising group and have engaged a company to promote the downstairs two front rooms for letting.  Longer term we are investigating possible partnerships with other nonprofit groups such as Root and Branch and Peppers to provide more opportunities for the community of Rutland and changing the legal status from a charity to a CIO.  We need 3 months of breathing space to set all this up. |

**Part 3: Your Community**

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| **Who would benefit from your project?**  The ballroom in the Hall is a wonderful space for large gatherings. Its capacity is versatile and can accommodate up to 200 guests. There is a large dance floor, a fully licenced bar and professional kitchen facilities. It has a lift and disabled access on the ground floor  The Hall serves many community groups across a wide range of age groups, but is underused due to lack of promotion.  There is a lack of any similar facility in the town. Many of our current groups would be unable to travel further afield as some are disabled and elderly. Public transport to various villages is not an option for most.  Community members find the town centre location very user friendly, with plenty of free evening/ Sunday parking .  Currently we provide facilities for   * The community fridge – at no charge to them * Large and small community meetings and gatherings eg U3A * Theatre groups * Dance and exercise classes – eg yoga/ bounce * Thos who want an affordable party, weddings and other formal functions * Art and craft groups – we display their work, hold workshops * Adult discos * Christmas shopping/ fairs |

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| **What difference will your project make?**  By keeping the hall open and staffed we will  -give all local people a place to meet -the Hall is there for all to access and enjoy. Oakham is an expanding market town and as population grows facilities will be needed to match growing demand. One of our biggest user groups is U3A (University of 3rd Age) who gather monthly x 200 members of the over 60's who provide access to training (from other languages to golf lessons) and computer training to help improve life skills.  -make our community stronger – groups such as the arts and music groups that meet/exhibit/perform, adult discos and fairs tackle loneliness and enable people to make social connections  - improve the footfall in the town to benefit other businesses who will shop etc in the town while there rather than travel further afield  -help keep people active - Groups who use the hall facilities include yoga groups (3 times a week), bounce (weekly), Zumba (weekly). We have plans for more children’s activities to compensate for the closure of Catmose Sports Centre such as kids discos. |

**Part 4: Monitoring**

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| **How will you monitor the project once it has started?**  We will be monitoring usage of the hall, including numbers, age groups and activities taken part in.  We will be asking people to complete feedback forms and use our new Frends of the Hall group to help analyse these and use to help the board set the vision for the Hall.  We will be planning a community consultation as we move to change from a charity to a CIC, and will include questions about the public’s view of the activities that are offered by the hall |

**Part 5: Funding**

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| **What is the total cost of your project?** (Please remember to enclose two quotes if applicable)  £10,400 |

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| **How much money are you applying for?**  £10,400 |

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| **Have you applied for funding from anywhere else? Please give details.**  We are submitting multiple applications for continuation funding eg Awards fir All, Biffa, Screwfix  Rutland Memorial Institute for a new boiler  **Please give an approximate breakdown, if applicable, of how you expect to spend the money:** |

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| **Running costs 3 months (Oct-Dec)** | |
| General maintenance/ fire safety checks/ risk assessment | £1,200 |
| Cleaning | £1,500 |
| Casual staff to keep venue open | £1,250 |
| Admin/ bookings staff | £1,500 |
| Gas and electricity | £2,500 |
| Water | £350 |
| Marketing |  |
| New website (Expectation of match funding) | £1,500 |
| Events promo brochure- design and print | £600 |
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| **TOTAL** | **£10,400** |

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| **If your application is unsuccessful, are funds available to ensure your project goes ahead? If yes, please give details:**  We are short of our immediate running costs due to a drop in income matched with an increase in costs. It is critical that we have time to give the board, (which has several new members), and the Friends of the Hall to turn this around.  It would be much more difficult without this grant, as it is hard to raise urgent funds currently due to foundations being oversubscribed and the perception that Rutland is an affluent county that should be self – sufficient.  The risk is that by not having funds to pay the bills and the staff for the next three months this will turn into a downward spiral that will be very hard to recover from, and the reputation of the hall and the town will suffer. |

Signature

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_A close-up of a signature

Description automatically generated

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