



GRANT APPLICATION FORM

**For Applications for the Financial Year
April 1st 2026– March 31st 2027**

Part 1: Your Details

Your Name: [REDACTED]

Name of Organisation: The RAF in Rutland Memorial Bench Initiative

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

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

The RAF in Rutland Memorial Bench Initiative is a local project being run by two local RAF Veterans who are being supported by the Rutland Branches of the RAF Association and the Royal British Legion, along with the Lord Lieutenant and High Sheriff. The address is above.

Part 2: A Description of your idea

What do you want to do?

Today there is no clearly recognisable memorial to the Royal Air Force in Rutland, even though our small county was the long-term home of three vital Stations at Cottesmore, North Luffenham and Woolfox Lodge. The wicker Spitfire on the bypass is a nice gesture, but is poorly positioned and does not act as a true memorial. The idea is to have a Memorial Bench, dedicated to the Royal Air Force in Rutland, located centrally in our County Town of Oakham, although we stress that we have not yet contacted local authorities regarding the siting of the bench. At present our focus is very much on the challenge of fundraising the £2,000 to £2,200 required to commission the bench and pay for any ground works that will be necessary.

Part 3: Your Community

What difference will your project make?

Rutland has one of the highest populations per capita of veterans anywhere in the country (UK Census 2021), and, due to the RAF's local connection and history of the past 100 years, a very high proportion of those are RAF veterans who have retired locally. This memorial bench will give those veterans a focus for remembrance, and will also give tangible recognition of their service. Furthermore, it will act as a catalyst to those, particularly the younger generation, who may not be aware of this interesting, and valuable, chapter in our history.

Part 4: Monitoring

How will you monitor the project once it has started?

The project will be managed by both Barry and Ian (who has managed multi-million pound projects on behalf of the MOD), and is quite simple in its nature. Upon successfully raising the necessary funds, the parallel work of ordering the bench (with several weeks lead in time) from a craftsman in Grantham, seeking the local authority permissions over siting, and contracting for the preparation of the site, will all be overseen in detail by the two man team. In addition to the RAF Memorial Bench, and if fundraising exceeds expectations, we already have our sights on a second, more generic bench that will be representative of all Armed Forces in 20th century conflict, not just the RAF. This has already been discussed with the manufacturer.

Part 5: Funding

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

The project will cost up to £2200 for the RAF Bench alone, or up to £3800 if we are successful in our endeavours and purchase a second bench. The breakdown of costs are below.

How much money are you applying for?

£ 500

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

To date all funding has come from individual donations (totalling £800+ so far). We intend to ask the local branches of the RAF Association, Royal British Legion, and Oakham Memorial Institute for donations in parallel to this request.

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

The total cost estimate is based on the £1600 purchase price of the RAF bench and an estimated £400-£600 cost for siting, surveying, and the necessary ground work required, depending on where it is to be located. The second (smaller bench) is cheaper at £1000, but with similar additional costs.

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

This is yet to be determined. We are relying on the generosity of the general public, and hopefully a few local charities, to ensure the funding is available. However, although we are confident that we can achieve the project's aims, only time will tell.

Signature: *Signed electronically*

Date: 29th May 2026

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