

Grant Applications 2021 - 2022

General Grants.

£500 is allocated for grants in the Budget for 2021 - 2022.

Bridport Citizen's Advice Bureau has applied for a grant:

The following grants were made in 2020 - 2021: -.

Bridport Citizen's Advice Bureau	£200.00
Chideock News.	£200.00
Bridport Leisure Centre.	£100.00
Total	£500.00

Village Hall Repair Grant.

£700 was budgeted for a grant to Chideock Village Hall, to only be used towards repairs not for day to day running cost.

Information from Bridport Citizen's Advice Bureau.

We are most grateful to your Parish Council for its support of the work of Bridport and District Citizens Advice and although we appreciate the financial pressures you face, we hope very much that you will be able to do so again in the current financial year.

Of course we recognise that these are unprecedented times and the Covid-19 crisis will place an additional strain on all our budgets. Since the lockdown began we have transitioned and equipped our volunteers to work from home to deliver a full remote advice service, as required during lockdown periods, using phone (Dorset Adviceline and local phone) and email channels: we developed a new website in 2020 www.bridportca.org.uk where people can get information and contact us for email advice using the web form.

We have put in place appropriate supervision measures for remote and office-based workers them.

The system of Universal Credit which replaces six means-tested benefits for which people currently qualify if their income and savings are below a certain level had already involved a significant increase in our already heavy workload. But the Covid-19 crisis has led to many more people seeking our advice both on Universal Credit and whether they may be entitled to other benefits arising from the recent Government announcements.

All our advisers at Citizens Advice receive full training on who is eligible for Universal Credit, how it is calculated and the rules for making a claim. They are also able to assist clients to apply for discretionary payments, charitable grants and emergency payments, and any entitlements under the Government's new rules.

We are finding that people needing help, sometimes urgently often need help on other issues, such as food bank referrals, debt advice, disability benefit appeals, housing issues and energy costs.

In addition, our advisers give advice on a wide variety of other important issues such as employment and consumer rights and help during the difficult times of relationship breakdown or bereavement both of which are unfortunately pertinent at this time.

Much of our work is undertaken by more than 70 very loyal volunteers but we will continue to have office and administrative costs to meet and we rely heavily on the support of our local authorities in order to be able to continue our work.

Finally, you may be interested to know that during the last 12 months 25 people living in the area covered by your Parish Council received help from the Citizens Advice Service relating to 84 separate issues.

With many thanks for your continued support.