



TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

GRANT APPLICATION FORM – MAXIMUM GRANT £3,000

Applicants should familiarise themselves with the Discretionary Grants Policy and award criteria before submitting their Grant application. Please complete all the highlighted boxes on this application form. We also provide a guidance document to help you with the completion of this form.

1. Contact Details

Name of Organisation	Todmorden Folk Festival
Address of Organisation	[REDACTED]
Name of person making application	[REDACTED]
Position in Organisation	[REDACTED]
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
website	www.todfolkfest.co.uk

2. Organisation Details

2a. What type of Organisation are you? (Delete as appropriate)	
	Unregistered Community Group/Club/Society
2b. Do you have a constitution or a set of rules? (if yes, please enclose a copy of your constitution)	Yes
2c. Are you part of a larger, national or regional organisation? (If yes, please give details)	No
2d. How many trustees, volunteers and service users are there in your organisation?	Committee 10 Volunteers 80+ Users 1000+

2e. Tell us about your organisation, its aims and the work you wish to undertake and your main activities and how you encourage engagement from all sections of the Todmorden Community. (Please aim for a minimum of 200 words)

Todmorden Folk Festival was started on a shoestring in 2014 by two music-loving women who wanted Todmorden to experience a weekend of music, dance and community celebration rooted in the traditions of folk culture. Many folk festivals have become expensive events that are often held outside town centres and are therefore inaccessible to many local people. From the beginning our aim was different – to embed our festival within the heart of Todmorden so that the whole town could benefit, including local residents, businesses and visitors.

Since then the festival has grown into a well-established annual event in Todmorden's calendar. Over the festival weekend the town fills with Morris dancers, street performers, concerts, music sessions and free family activities. Visitors travel from across the UK to attend concerts and events, staying in local accommodation and supporting Todmorden's cafés, pubs, shops and market.

Alongside well-known folk artists, we actively promote local musicians and emerging performers. Concerts take place in local venues including churches, community halls and educational spaces, and many informal music sessions take place in pubs and bars across the town. These sessions are open to all and provide opportunities for both local and visiting musicians to participate.

Supporting young musicians is an important part of our work. Each year we run a Youth Showcase featuring performers aged 11–18 from the local area. This event has become a highlight of our programme and past winners have gone on to perform at major festivals including Glastonbury and Cambridge Folk Festival.

In recent years we have also worked with local primary schools to introduce children to folk music, dance and storytelling through workshops delivered in schools and during the festival. This helps younger generations discover folk traditions and encourages them to participate in the festival.

2026 marks the 10th Anniversary of Todmorden Folk Festival, an important milestone for a community-led event that began as a small grassroots initiative and has grown into one of the town's most recognised cultural weekends. This anniversary provides an opportunity to celebrate the success of the past decade while continuing to build strong community engagement. We are marking the anniversary with a programme that recognises the musicians, volunteers and community groups who have helped the festival grow while welcoming new audiences.

As part of our **10th Anniversary celebrations**, we are presenting a special exhibition celebrating the history and impact of Todmorden Folk Festival over the past decade. The exhibition will feature posters, photographs and memorabilia from previous festivals, giving visitors an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate many of the memorable performances, events and community moments that have taken place since the festival began.

The exhibition will launch at **Platform One Gallery on Friday 20th March at 7pm** and will run there for approximately one month before transferring to **St Mary's Church**, where it will remain on display until the end of the festival weekend. By presenting the exhibition in two prominent town-centre venues we hope to enable both local residents and festival visitors to explore the story of the festival and its contribution to the cultural life and community spirit of Todmorden.

All councillors are warmly invited to attend the **exhibition opening and drinks reception on Friday between 7pm and 9pm**. We are pleased to confirm that **the Mayor has already confirmed her**

attendance, and we would be delighted to welcome other councillors to join us in marking this milestone anniversary and celebrating the festival's continuing contribution to the town.

We remain strongly committed to delivering a large number of **free events**, ensuring the festival remains accessible to all members of the community. With support from Todmorden Town Council we will once again deliver **free children's activities on Pollination Street on Saturday**, which have become an integral and much-loved part of the festival for local families.

In addition, we are seeking support this year for our **free Sunday programme in the Oxford Street car park**, which features family-friendly live music and performances. This event attracts large crowds, particularly local residents, and brings significant footfall to businesses in the Water Street quarter.

Our committee is largely female and we actively work to ensure strong representation of women performers across the programme, helping challenge the perception that folk music events are dominated by older male performers. We aim to create a welcoming and inclusive environment where people of all ages and backgrounds feel able to participate in folk music, dance and storytelling.

2f. Will your project have any implications in respect of climate emergency and if so, how do you intend to minimise such impact?

We encourage festival attendees to arrive by public transport wherever possible and, as most events are centred within the town, many local residents and visitors are able to walk between venues.

We prioritise the use of **local food and drink suppliers** wherever possible and we own and reuse our own glasses at venues to reduce single-use plastic waste.

We source produce locally including meat from Todmorden Market traders and try wherever possible to use local shops and suppliers.

Since the festival began we have worked with local breweries to supply bars at our venues and we encourage other bars in the town to stock our local festival beers. This has helped generate ongoing orders for local breweries. This year we are working with **Eagles Crag Brewery in Todmorden**, while also stocking beers from **Vocation Brewery in nearby Hebden Bridge**.

We also use local venues such as **Todmorden Learning Centre**, which shares information with festival audiences about courses including those relating to climate awareness and sustainability.

2g. How will you acknowledge the assistance of Todmorden Town Council on all promotional material (Please see Section 7 below)

We have enjoyed a close and supportive relationship with Todmorden Town Council since 2015 when the Council supported our first festival. We recognise how important this support has been in helping the festival grow into a valued part of the town's cultural life.

Todmorden Town Council's logo will be included on all printed and digital promotional materials for the festival, including flyers, posters, brochures, banners and our website. The Council will also be acknowledged across our social media channels and in press releases promoting the festival.

We invite the Mayor to attend our main concerts and festival events and would warmly welcome all local councillors to attend activities throughout the weekend. Funders are also thanked publicly during events where appropriate.

3. Project Information

3a. Which Grant are you applying for?			
Small Grant			
3b. What is the Purpose of grant request (delete as appropriate)			
	Project Delivery		Civic Pride
	Voluntary sector youth Engagement	Social Exclusion	Accessibility and inclusivity
Community Benefit	Community Cohesion		Cultural Arts & Music
			Town Centre Event
Skill development	Economic difficulties	Health & Wellbeing	

3c. Project Name	Todmorden Folk Festival – 10th Anniversary Free Community Programme
3d. When will your project start?	Planning and artist bookings for the festival take place throughout the year. The project activity funded by this grant will take place during Todmorden Folk Festival weekend 1st – 3rd May 2026.
3e. When will your project finish?	The main activities will take place during the festival weekend in May 2026 , with evaluation and reporting taking place shortly afterwards.
3f. How will your project benefit the local community within the Todmorden town boundary?	
<p>By providing free activities in the town centre during the festival weekend we attract a wide range of visitors both from the local area and from further afield. Local families and residents are able to enjoy high quality live music, performances and activities without financial barriers.</p> <p>The festival generates significant footfall throughout the town. Traders consistently report that the festival weekend is one of their busiest weekends of the year, as visitors spend money in local shops, cafés, pubs and market stalls.</p> <p>Our programme deliberately spreads activity across different areas of the town so that multiple neighbourhoods benefit from the increased visitor numbers. Friday events are largely based around the College area, Saturday activities focus on the Market and town centre including Pollination Street, and Sunday events take place around the Water Street and Oxford Street area.</p> <p>The free family-friendly music and performances in the Oxford Street car park on Sunday attract particularly large audiences of local residents and visitors and help bring additional footfall to businesses in the Water Street quarter.</p> <p>Overall the festival helps create a vibrant atmosphere in the town, strengthens community pride and supports the local economy.</p>	

3g. Why is this project needed? What advantage will it bring to Todmorden?

Todmorden Folk Festival is now one of the town's best-known annual cultural events, bringing visitors, supporting local businesses and providing accessible music, dance and family activities for residents across the whole community.

Since its inception in 2014 Todmorden Folk Festival has become a well-established annual event that brings visitors to the town and contributes to Todmorden's cultural reputation.

We work hard to keep ticket prices affordable (currently £59 for a weekend ticket) so that as many people as possible can attend the concerts and ticketed events. However, we are very aware that many local people cannot afford paid events, particularly during the current cost-of-living pressures.

For this reason we remain committed to delivering a strong **programme of free events**, including children's activities on Pollination Street and the free music and performance programme in the Oxford Street car park on Sunday.

In previous years we have also received support from Calderdale Council to help deliver elements of the festival. However, changes to their funding criteria mean that events such as ours are no longer eligible. As a result we are seeking slightly increased support from Todmorden Town Council this year.

For our **10th Anniversary festival** we are requesting **£2,750**, compared with **£2,000 in previous years**, specifically to help fund the **free children's activities on Pollination Street and the free family music programme on Oxford Street on Sunday**, both of which are among the most popular and widely attended parts of the festival for local residents.

We believe this represents excellent value for the town, helping sustain a well-established community festival that attracts visitors, supports local businesses and provides inclusive cultural activities.

Todmorden Town Council has supported the festival since its early years and that support has played an important role in helping it grow into the well-loved community event it is today. We hope the Council will feel able to continue supporting the festival in this special **10th Anniversary year**.

3h. How many people within the Todmorden town boundary will benefit from the project?

We anticipate that approximately **300 Todmorden residents** will attend ticketed concerts and the Family Ceilidh over the festival weekend.

The **free events attract significantly larger audiences**, particularly families and local residents. We estimate that **at least 1000 people** attend the free activities across the three days of the festival, including the children's activities on Pollination Street and the Sunday music programme in the Oxford Street area.

As these events are free and take place in open public spaces it is difficult to establish precise numbers, but the footfall and engagement observed each year demonstrates strong participation from local residents alongside visiting audiences.

3i. Please include dates and venue of events if applicable (include a draft programme if available.)

We understand that a draft programme has been requested. Our full festival programmes are currently being printed by **Creative Graphics, our local Todmorden printer**, and are due to arrive later this week. Rather than providing a draft version, I will deliver copies of the finished programme to the Clerk as soon as they arrive so that councillors can see the full programme of concerts, free events and family activities we are delivering as part of this year's festival. We hope this will give councillors a clear picture of the scale of the festival and the wide range of activities taking place across the town. As this year marks the **10th Anniversary of Todmorden Folk Festival**, we are particularly excited to be presenting a programme that celebrates the success of the past decade while continuing to benefit the town and its residents.

What the Todmorden Town Council grant will help deliver

The requested grant of **£2,750** will contribute towards:

- **Free children's activities on Pollination Street on Saturday**, including creative workshops and participatory activities for families.
- **Free family-friendly live music and performances on Sunday in the Oxford Street car park**, attracting large audiences and supporting businesses in the Water Street quarter.
- **Street performances and participatory folk activities**, helping create a lively festival atmosphere in the town centre.
- **Accessible cultural events** that allow local residents to participate in the festival even if they are unable to attend ticketed concerts.

This funding will therefore directly support the **free elements of the festival that are most visible and widely enjoyed by Todmorden residents**.

4. Financial Information/ Project Costs

4a. Total Project Costs	£ 34,160.48		
4b. Amount requested from TTC (This figure must be equal to the shortfall between Figure A. Expenditure and Figure B. Income at item 4e below).	£ 2750		
4c. Have you previously applied for grant funding from Todmorden Town Council? (If yes please give details of grants received from the Town Council over the last 5 years.)	Yes		
In 2025 we were awarded £2000 In 2024 we were awarded £2000 In 2023 we were awarded £2250 In 2022 we were awarded £1000			
4d. Have you or this group previously applied for or received any other grant for this project? (If yes please give details below)		No	
Applied to			
Dates of application			
Received from			
Date received/or due			
Amount received			

4e. Budget: This budget should be for the total cost of the activity you are applying to do. Please be as accurate as you can, as you may be asked to explain any amount which is unclear. (Please provide estimates/quotations of the proposed items of expenditure you may use as evidence on separate sheets. If you are unable to claim VAT back please ensure the gross value is put in here. And please do not round figures up)

Expenditure Description	Cost (£)
Artists	£ 10,550.00
Venues	£ 2,282.00
Tech	£ 3,000.00
Marketing	£ 5,039.11
Food and Bar	£ 2,200
Overheads	£ 3,089.37
Volunteer Hours	£ 8,000.00
A. Total Expenditure (must be = to 4a: Total Project Costs)	£ 34,160.48

Other income	
Income Description	Cost (£)
Ticket Income (minus fees etc)	£ 12,000.00
Bar Income	£ 1,500.00
Food Income	£ 2,500.00
Other Income	£ 7,410.48
Volunteer Hours (this should match the figure in the expenditure table)	£8,000.00
B. Total Income	£31,410.48

C. Total Grant Requested from the Town Council*	£ 2,750
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*This figure must be equal to the difference between Figure A and Figure B above. Please put this figure in box 4e. Amount Requested from TTC)

5. Organisation Financial Information

5a. Level of Reserves Held at application date	£6,295.60
5b. Bank Statement(s) Balance at application date	£6,295.60
5c. Total value of Assets Held	£6,295.60