

APPLICATION FORM
FOR FUNDING FOR GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS
PLEASE READ THESE NOTES BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM

- a. Please complete the form carefully in readable CAPITALS in black ink, or typed. The application needs to contain ALL the information requested and is required to be completed and returned with all relevant documentation. The grant-making criteria is on the Town Council's website at www.broadstairs.gov.uk.
- b. Please enclose an up-to-date copy of the Constitution/Rules of your organisation.
- c. Please enclose a copy of the latest accounts for your organisation. Please be accurate about your budget and finances. If your funding application is approved we may ask for evidence of quotes to back up your budget statement.
- d. Public sector funds are limited so we are seeking a clear account of how you meet the Council's priorities in putting on your event. Please ensure that you consider your answers carefully as the Panel of Councillors will have a scoring sheet and be assessing your application in accordance with the Grant Criteria as set out on our website.
- e. If appropriate, the Council may require that a member of the organisation attend a meeting of the appropriate Committee to give a presentation about the request.
- f. If appropriate, the Council may require that a Member of the Town Council be appointed to the organisation requesting financial assistance.
- g. Should your organisation be successful in its grant application, the Town Council requires that you acknowledge its financial assistance in ALL publicity, publications and social media posts by using the Town Council crest, with text "Broadstairs & St. Peter's Town Council" under the crest. Please contact the office for a high-resolution copy of this.
- h. Any financial assistance is given on the understanding that your organisation complies with current legislation on Equalities and Diversity and Unlawful Discrimination.

Name of Organisation:

Neurodivergent Friends CIC

Grant amount requested:

£ 11,682.00

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date form received

Accounts Enclosed

Copy of Constitution

Grant Approved / Declined

1. Contact Name

Louis Palfrey

2. Position

Co-Director

3. Address

4. Telephone

5. Email

louis@ndft.org.uk

6. Website

ndft.org.uk

**7. Name & address
Of TREASURER**

Lux Chiocchetti (*Legal name: Lucie Chiocchetti*)

**8. If your organisation has a management committee, how is it appointed?
If not, how is your organisation managed? Does your group/organisation have
constitutional rules?**

NDFT is governed by a team of 3 Neurodivergent Co-Directors, Louis Palfrey, Lux (Lucie) Chiocchetti, and Sophie Yates Lu, who follow the CIC's Articles of Association.

They collaboratively lead all strategic decisions, programming, and community initiatives, ensuring management reflects the needs and voices of the Neurodivergent community.

9. What are the aims / objectives of your organisation?

Neurodivergent Friends CIC (also known as Neurodivergent Friends in Thanet or NDFT) purpose is to empower Neurodivergent people to thrive by promoting positive changes in their well-being, fostering a sense of community, encouraging self-acceptance, and facilitating self-advocacy. We recognise the existing gap in resources available to Neurodivergent people and are committed to addressing this by establishing a supportive community where individuals can connect with their peers and engage in activities tailored to their needs. We prioritise the well-being and unique needs of Neurodivergent individuals, fostering a safe and inclusive environment. Our vision is to actively contribute to the creation of a more inclusive and accepting society that embraces Neurodivergent individuals, diminishes stigma and discrimination, and provides comprehensive resources and support for their well-being and flourishing. To achieve these objectives, we organise social meetups and creative workshops that foster a sense of community and well-being, and support local authorities, statutory bodies, and employers shaping inclusive and affirming work environments and services that enable all to thrive.

10. How does your organisation benefit the local community of Broadstairs & St. Peter's?

Our organisation benefits the local community of Broadstairs and St. Peter's by creating safe spaces for Neurodivergent adults to interact with each other. We run regular social meetups and ad hoc creative events. We regularly use The International Cafe at the Queen Street Baptist Church as a venue for our events, offering a space for Neurodivergent adults to connect through conversation and simple, self-led activities such as board games, crafting, and arts workshops. We regularly attend community events, such as the Broadstairs and St. Peter's Community Festival at Pierremont Park, to spread the word about our organisation and the work that we do for local residents - this often results in a boost in meetup attendance, and town councillors regularly express an interest in helping to support us.

Last year we ran a pilot for this programme, funded by the council. This pilot successfully engaged Neurodivergent participants, providing a supportive and inspiring space to explore creativity, connect with others, and build confidence. Attendance and feedback demonstrate strong interest in the programme, while a significant increase in self-reported creative confidence highlighted its immediate positive impact. Participants' reflections on creativity, community, and future sessions further demonstrated enthusiasm for continued participation and a desire to explore a wider range of creative activities.

These outcomes suggest that the programme not only fostered individual growth and self-expression but also strengthened a sense of belonging and community among participants, providing a solid foundation for future sessions.

11. Approximately how many people benefit from the activities of your organisation?

Members: NA	Non-members: N/A	Broadstairs & N/A	Visitors: NA
Approximate overall TOTAL: N/A			
Due to the nature of our organisation (usually serving the whole of Thanet) and the scope of our activities (open to all Neurodivergent adults in Thanet, regardless of the town they live in and the event is being held in), we were previously advised by Kirsty Holroyd to answer this question slightly differently. We expect our activities to attract between 10-20 participants per session. It would be ideal for us if these same 10-20 people attended each session during the programme as it will enable us to more accurately monitor the programme impact on specific individuals, but if a different 10-20 people attend each of the 6 proposed sessions then this would also be advantageous as it would increase the overall number of participants.			

Since we have run this programme before, we are able to share that a total of 33 participants attended across 6 sessions. With more planning time, increased comms, implementation of participant feedback, and an additional 2 sessions for this edition of the programme, we would expect this number to increase

12. Amount of grant being requested

An amount must be stated

£ 11,682.00

13. For what purpose will the grant be used? *Please be specific.*

We wish to run a 2nd edition of our creative programme, the NDFT “Creative Connection Club”, as a complementary programme to our regular social meetups, providing a dedicated space for Neurodivergent adults in Broadstairs to engage in diverse creative activities that our community have already expressed an interest in.

Last year, with funding from the council, we ran an initial six-month pilot phase, with sessions exploring songwriting and soundscape creation; drawing, mapping, modelling and experimental sculpting; and free weaving with textiles. These 6 sessions were facilitated by our existing team of Neurodivergent facilitators, under the guidance of 3 Neurodivergent guest artists leading 2 sessions each. For this 2nd edition of the programme we wish to run 8 sessions with 4 artists, creating more work opportunities for Neurodivergent creatives, and more development and expressive opportunities for our community.

Last year’s pilot period enabled us to experiment with different formats and styles of delivery to assess participant engagement and gather insights on preferred activities and outcomes. We now have a wealth of data from participant feedback that we will use to further tailor this creative offering to our community’s needs and desires.

Responses from end of session feedback forms demonstrated an interest in a wide range of future activities. Suggested sessions included more visual arts such as drawing, life drawing, crafting, and graphic design, as well as writing and poetry. Participants also expressed interest in more music, sound workshops, movement-based activities, and electronics. Some also suggested trips to creative venues such as museums, although this would not be in the remit of this application. Overall, responses indicate strong interest in continuing the programme and exploring a broad range of creative practices and skills.

Just as in the pilot programme, all sessions for this edition will take place in a Neurodivergent-friendly venue in Broadstairs (Queen Street Baptist Church) ensuring

accessibility and comfort for our participants. We will continue to closely monitor and evaluate feedback throughout the programme, implementing feasible changes and suggestions as they arise, and taking note of other feedback that could be built into future editions of the programme.

The programme budget will cover venue hire, marketing, project management, facilitator fees – with a focus on hiring Neurodivergent artists – and all necessary materials, opting for environmentally friendly and recycled options wherever possible.

An NDFT Co-Director will act as Programme Manager and attend each session to gather direct feedback, which will guide future adjustments and ensure that offerings align with community needs and preferences. Based on learning from the pilot programme, we have adjusted costs from our previous budget. We are now asking for less money to cover materials and refreshments during sessions, but more to cover people's time.

We identified that additional time was needed for programme management, staff management and support, and evaluation time. We have also planned an additional 2 sessions compared to the pilot programme and, as such, our budget is higher this time around.

As a Neurodivergent and Disabled-led organisation, we pride ourselves on being transparent with our costs and paying people fairly, and this is regularly praised by our collaborators. The reality of working with Disabled people is that there needs to be time allocated for additional planning, processing, and support. This means that costs are often higher than when working with non-Disabled people.

Through the Creative Connection Club, we wish to build a sustainable and impactful programme for meaningful self-expression and connection, that aligns with the interests and aspirations of our community. It is in our future plans to make an Arts Council application in late 2026/early 2027, to help grow this programme further. We would also eventually like to invite regular participants to lead workshops, empowering them to share their creative skills and guiding them through the process of running public-facing Neurodivergent-friendly events. We expect that after 1 or 2 more rounds of this programme, this ambition should be feasible.

14. Please explain how the project links to at least one of the Council's 'Cleaner, Safer, Kinder' initiatives:

Cleaner - we will use recycled and natural materials where possible, and learn about green art practices.

Safer - everyone deserves to feel safe, which is embedded into the core of everything we do as an organisation – addressing the need for trauma-informed, community-led spaces for the local Neurodivergent community. It's why we work hard and use a

mixture of our lived-experience and community feedback to create Neurodivergent-friendly spaces for our events.

Kinder - forming communities and encouraging new friendships among Neurodivergent residents. Spreading our message of tolerance, awareness and acceptance of ourselves and others.

"Discovering a community that shares my experiences has transformed my self-perception. Offering mutual support within our group is a lifeline."

– Quote from a community member

15. Has your organisation previously received a grant from the Town Council?

YES

If YES, how much during the past financial year and when ?

£	5,810.00	Date(s)	14/04/2025
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16. How was this money spent?

The money was spent on a first iteration/pilot programme of the Creative Connection Club, running for 6 sessions. An evaluation report of this pilot period was submitted to the council on 31st March 2026.

Did you acknowledge the Town Council grant on your publicity ?

YES

Please provide a breakdown of your project's costs. Please note that this should be a breakdown of your total project costs	
Expenditure (eg Equipment, Transport etc)	£
Facilitation <i>NDFT Facilitators and Guest Artists</i>	£4,672.00
Evaluation <i>Including direct evaluation facilitation at events</i>	£2,156.00
Programme Management <i>Including recruitment, programme direction, staff management</i>	£2,550.00
Operations <i>Programme accounting, reporting and admin</i>	£1,384.00
Overheads	£920.00

<i>Rent, Materials, Participant's refreshments</i>	
Other Costs - NOT INCLUDED IN APPLICATION these costs will be covered via other internal funding avenues and are only presented for transparency. <i>Promotion posters printing - £10-20</i> <i>Promotion leaflet/posters distribution - Staff time - £24-48</i> <i>Organisational core running cost - 10% of core operational and compliance organisational overheads such as insurances and software subscriptions - £200</i>	£210-268
Total Project Costs This should match the Total funding required for your project	£11,682

Full Expenditure Breakdown:

 **Application - G0017 - Broadstairs Neurodivergent Creative Connec...**

<i>Please provide the following details from your most recent annual accounts.</i>	
Total Income	38,608
Less Total Expenditure	38,420
Surplus / Loss	188 surplus
Savings (Reserves, Cash, Investments)	

You should **also enclose the most recent set of accounts**. (See checklist on front page)

Most recent accounts (2024-2025):

 **Neurodivergent Friends Cic - Accounts - 31 July 2025 a...**

Please complete the section below as the final part of your application.
Failure to complete this declaration could result in a delay to your application.

Have you read and do you agree to comply with the Broadstairs and St. Peter's Town Council Criteria for the Awarding of Grants? Yes

Are you an employee of the Town Council or Thanet District Council? Are you related to an employee or a Councillor at the Town Council or Thanet District Council? No	
I am an Employee: Please record your job title, department and line-manager. N/A	
My relative is: Please provide their name, your relationship to them, and the role/job that they play at the Council. N/A	
I certify that the information given on this form is correct, and understand that the form will provide the basis on which the grant application is considered. I enclose an up to date copy of the constitution or rules of the organisation and the latest accounts.	
SIGNED: 	DATE: 29/07/2026

Please return the completed form – together with all appropriate attachments:

The Town Clerk
Broadstairs & St. Peter's Town Council
Pierremont Hall
Broadstairs
CT10 1JX
town.clerk@broadstairs.gov.uk

Annex: Our Funding Context for This Application

Broadstairs, September 2026

Neurodivergent Friends CIC (NDFT) is a Neurodivergent and disabled-led organisation supporting Neurodivergent adults across Thanet. This annex sets out the wider funding context behind our request to continue the Creative Connection Club (CCC) in Broadstairs, and why we are asking the Town Council for this support again rather than seeking funding elsewhere at this time.

1. Funding secured this year

Over the past year we have made significant progress in strengthening NDFT's core funding base. We were awarded £122,000+ from the National Lottery's Reaching Communities Fund, secured over three years, to sustain our regular social programme for Neurodivergent adults across Thanet. We were also awarded £8,000+ from Kent Community Foundation towards our internal operating costs – core running costs such as governance, compliance and organisational infrastructure, explicitly excluding delivery costs for individual programmes such as CCC and our social programmes.

Together, this funding gives NDFT a stable base for the first time, but it does not fund the Creative Connection Club. The creative workshops programme remains reliant on the kind of dedicated, programme-specific funding that Broadstairs Town Council has previously provided, and continues to need it if it is to run in 2026/27.

We reported to the Council on the pilot CCC programme in March 2026, and in response the Council indicated that a further application would be welcomed. This application is a direct response to that invitation, and reflects our confidence – based on the pilot's results – that this programme is worth continuing.

2. Why we are asking Broadstairs again, rather than elsewhere, right now

Securing the Reaching Communities grant is a major step for NDFT, but it also means the next few months are about implementation: setting up multi-year reporting, and using the stability it provides to properly resource our small team. From October, we will begin developing a dedicated funding strategy specifically for our creative programmes, including CCC – looking at trusts, foundations, Arts Council England, and relationships with other Thanet town councils as we grow our reach across the district.

We are not in a position to run that strategy work now, in parallel with everything else, but we will be within the next 6 months or so. Trying to plan this strategy now,

before we have settled a little, would be irresponsible and come with a risk of diluting our efforts. . Asking Broadstairs to fund this next round of CCC, as you have previously indicated you would welcome, lets us keep the programme running for the people who rely on it while we do that strategy work properly and build a more diverse funding base for future years – rather than approaching multiple funders on a rushed timescale this year and risking a weaker application to everyone, including you.

3. Why it matters now

2025-2026 has been a demanding year operationally. We completed a Director transition, recruited two additional freelance facilitators, while remaining a small core team of three Neurodivergent and Disabled Directors, overseeing all of NDFT's output, including programme delivery and training. Over the summer it was necessary to take a pause for a few months, to protect our Director and freelance facilitator team's capacity and wellbeing. We are through that now, with a stable team and, thanks to the Reaching Communities fund, a firmer financial footing (relating to core operational costs) than we have had before.

What we do not want is for our community to lose out because of that timing.

The pilot CCC programme had an 82.5% attendance rate and saw participants' self-reported confidence in creative expression rise from 4.5 to 7.6 out of 10 across a single session – participants have told us clearly that they want it to continue. Without this grant, the CCC would not be able to run in 2026/27. It would be a huge blow to our community and the work that we do if a programme they have told us they love would sit unavailable for a year while we build the funding strategy to sustain it long-term.

We are asking for this support one more time, on this specific programme, while we stabilise and work on the strategy – not as an ongoing assumption for continued programme funding in the future, but as the bridge that lets us grow into a more sustainable footing without the local Neurodivergent community missing out in the meantime.