



The Milestone Society

POLICY : GRANT FUNDING – THE LOCAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE

Between 2005 and 2012 the Society ran a Pump Priming Grant scheme to promote conservation work by members and others around the UK, and a number of projects were successfully supported.

In introducing a new Local Heritage Initiative [LHI] grant fund as from 01 April 2017, the aim is to continue that support within specific terms of reference as set out below, so that the Society's limited funds may best be used to promote valid projects, and at the same time to help lever funding from other bodies to aid milestone and waymarker conservation and interpretation.

1. Each project should contribute significantly to delivering the Society's Aim and Objectives, within the context of good financial management. These are listed in full in each issue of *Milestones & Waymarkers*.
2. The project must relate to the individual or group heritage contribution of milestones and waymarkers and can include not only conservation and restoration but wider interpretation, community engagement, education and promotion.
3. The project sponsor should make an application with a full financial breakdown of costs including sources of income and other community contribution(s) to be made to the project. Once approved, grants are not time-limited; however, retrospective grant applications or project top-ups (i.e. where work has already commenced) cannot be accepted once the project has been committed.
4. The Initiative has a starting fund allocation of £5,000 from available resources. A maximum of £500 as a Society cash contribution is set per project, the aim being leverage from other donors totalling (it is suggested) at least four times the requested amount, per project. As a minimum, the Society's funding contribution should at least be match-funded and grants will be conditional upon such matched funding being obtained.
5. There is no time limit to the life of the fund and for bids to it, provided funding is available. The Society via its executive committee does however reserve the right to withdraw the remaining fund resources at any time for whatever reason, with due adherence to funds already allocated. Funding will normally be withdrawn if there has been no expenditure on the project for any period of two years and the allocated monies returned to general funds. Ten significant projects might be supported should the maximum sum be approved in each case; more projects could be supported with lower allocations.
6. The project sponsor should satisfy all legal requirements by public authorities, including listed building consent where applicable. The Society's grant offer will not substitute for the responsibilities of others e.g. highway or local authorities, their contractual partners etc. including individuals. Funding support does not commit the Society to any contractual project responsibilities.

7. It is a requirement that the Society's conservation guidance is followed, and these are available on the Society's website at www.milestonesociety.co.uk
8. Decisions on applications will be made by the full executive committee (in or out of committee meetings) and will have regard to previous applications and the equitable geographical spread of applications around the UK (previous applicants may apply). The Hon Sec or Treasurer will inform the sponsor of the Committee's decision.
9. Acting as monitor, an independent person (the county representative, a committee member or another responsible person) must sign off the work verifying it as satisfactorily completed, including checking physical evidence. Details of the completion, sign-off and the other funding raised must be submitted to the Treasurer with the request for payment.
10. The project sponsor is encouraged to arrange and submit a report in a suitable format for use in either of the Society's publications (*Newsletter* or *Milestones & Waymarkers*) within a reasonable period of time upon project completion. The advice of the Editorial Panel is available on request.
11. There are no application forms and all enquiries and applications should in the first instance be addressed to the Hon Secretary whose contact details can be found on our website, or emailed to honsec@milestonesociety.co.uk
12. This procedure will be reviewed as required and at a minimum every three years.

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