

**2022/2023  
GRANT APPLICATION**

<b>Name of Organisation:</b> Kimpton Players
<b>Applicant's name and address:</b> Dermot McCarthy 16 Hampden Kimpton SG4 8QH
<b>Contact telephone number:</b> Mobile: 07831 097625 Landline: 01438 833067
<b>Applicants email address:</b> dermot@thekimptonplayers.co.uk
<b>Location of Organisation:</b> Kimpton – the Kimpton Players' Playhouse is in the Memorial Hall car park
<b>Nature of activity of Organisation and how it benefits the residents of Kimpton, Peter's Green and/or Blackmore End:</b>  The Kimpton Players (KP) is a successful amateur dramatic society in Kimpton, Herts. It was founded in 1943 and is a registered charity (No: 265243). In line with its governing document its aim is "TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF GENERAL EDUCATION IN RELATION TO ALL ASPECTS OF THE ART OF DRAMA, THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC APPRECIATION OF SUCH ART, AND TO BENEFIT CHARITIES SO FAR AS MAY BE CONSISTENT WITH THE SOCIETY'S COMMITMENTS."  The society produces 2-3 plays annually including a pantomime and an "Old Time Music hall". A proportion of the profits from these and other events are donated to local charities and other worthy causes in Kimpton & the surrounding areas of Hertfordshire. It has an excellent reputation for producing quality and entertaining productions. Its productions provide valuable drama training/experience for young people in Kimpton and the surrounding villages/towns.
<b>Membership number, if relevant, and % of those living in the parish:</b>  KP has 52 members – 18 live outside Kimpton but have generally either previously lived in the village or are involved in other organisations in Kimpton.
<b>Purpose for which grant will be used:</b>  Replacement of the KP Playhouse. The Playhouse is used for rehearsals, Junior Kimpton Player meetings, play readings, radio play recordings, social events and the storage of costume, props and scenery.  The current building was erected in the early 1970s. The fabric of the building has deteriorated leading to damp and squirrel infestation damaging the electrics. This, combined with asbestos in the roof cavity, and the deterioration of the foundations has made repair uneconomic. The building is virtually unusable and we are urgently seeking a replacement.

The work will entail the safe demolition and removal of the current Playhouse, any repairs necessary to the foundations and erecting the replacement building and fitting it out.

North Herts District Planning have indicated that full planning application approval is required. However, they say this can be expedited as it is non-residential.

After reviewing a number of options we have decided on a sectional concrete office building from the suppliers of the existing Playhouse. Their price is competitive and they will safely remove the existing building.

Besides low cost, time is a key factor. We ideally need to replace the building in 2023 to have something in place for Panto rehearsals starting in September. Although the overall cost is estimated to be £45,000 - £50,000, we have decided to split the project into two phases:

Phase 1 – Removal of the existing Playhouse, repairs to foundations, erecting the replacement building, installing basic electrics.

Phase 2 – Fitting out including: insulating walls and ceiling, completing electrics for both heating and lighting, cupboards for costumes, installing WC – plumbing/tiling, etc, installing basic kitchen facilities.

This phased approach realises the replacement building sooner and both simplifies and spreads fundraising as the estimates for phase 1 are firm.

At this time we are approaching the Parish Council for a grant for phase 1. The costs of phase 1 are:

Description	Cost
Planning Application	£494
Demolition/Removal of Playhouse	£3,369
Erection of Replacement Building	£18,958
Basic Electrics	£1,842
Contingency 10%	£2,431
Total	£27,094

The new building will provide basic rehearsal facilities and dry costume storage. It will also allow us to more accurately estimate the fitting out cost. This is estimated to be in the range of £15,000 to £20,000.

**Amount of grant requested:** £ 5,000

Total cost of project: £50,000

**Please give details of grants applied for or received from other bodies:**

£1,000 from North Herts District Council towards planning application fees. We also embarked on a series of local fund raising activities, including a renovation facebook page. To date we have raised an additional £1,631 with a series of further events planned.

Now we have a better understanding of the costs involved we are applying to a number of funders in the arts sector specialising in matching grants for theatre renovations. As an

established amateur dramatics society and a registered charity we are reasonably optimistic of obtaining a matching grant.

**Any other information that would help Kimpton Parish Council in considering your application:**

KP are part of Kimpton's rich arts culture and its productions add to Kimpton's full and varied schedule of events. KP's cast and attendees are from Kimpton and the surrounding towns and villages and fortifies Kimpton's reputation for the arts. The Junior Kimpton Players is a great initiative that has created generations of young actors from the Kimpton area.

The new playhouse will allow KP to restart this for the benefit of Kimpton's youth. We have also launched a new website <https://www.thekimptonplayers.co.uk> to attract new players, promote our productions and publicise KP's rich dramatic history. We are also investing more in promoting our events on social media.

**Do any of your members wish to address Kimpton Parish Council at the meeting when donations are considered:**

Yes, please. As before, we should like to present a short presentation.

**A copy of the last two year's full and detailed up-to-date accounts should accompany this application, where appropriate.**

Please see attached.

**How do you intend to maintain the financial viability of the organisations?**

As you can see from our accounts, KP is a financially stable, well-run charitable organisation with a Treasurer, whose productions make a modest profit. These profits, plus to member's subscriptions, cover our ongoing costs and out-of-pocket expenses. In regard to the Playhouse funding, KP have created a separate bank account to clearly track the income and expenditure for the Playhouse replacement.

Name: Dermot McCarthy

Signature:

Position Held: Kimpton Players committee member

Date: 15/2/2023

If awarded, Kimpton Parish Council will transfer the grant funding into the named bank account. Please provide the following information:

Account Name: THE KIMPTON PLAYERS – CHARITY NO:-265243

Bank account no: 00136383

Sort code: 30-93-90

Please return the completed form to:

Mrs C Helmn, Parish Clerk [clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk)

Parish Room, Kimpton Memorial Hall, Hall Lane, Kimpton, Herts SG4 8RD

**For Kimpton Parish Council use only:**

**Date Received:**

**Date Acknowledged:**

**Date of Meeting:**

**Minute:**

**Payment Made:**