



Please read the Grant Criteria document before you start your application process.

Application Reference (Office use only):		GR06/2425
<u>1: CONTACT DETAILS</u>		
Name of Organisation:	Mossley Old School Trust	
Address of Organisation:	122 Leek Road Congleton Cheshire CW12 3HX	
Name of Applicant:	Bryony Milbourne	
Position:	Centre Manager	
Telephone Number:		
Email address:	mossleyoldschool@gmail.com	
Website:	N/A	
Registration Number (If relevant)		
<u>2: ABOUT YOUR ORGANISATION</u>		
What type of organisation are you?	Charity (Community Building)	
Please tell us about your organisation, its aims and the work you undertake. (in less than 200 words)		
<p>Mossley Old School Trust was set up as a Charity in 1999 to preserve Mossley Old School building as a Community Centre to help residents of Congleton. It is the home of 1st Mossley Scout Group and groups such as a Dance School, Before and After School and Holiday Club, Keep Fit, Pilates and U3A classes. In addition, Casual Users such as children's parties also book.</p> <p>We have a 67% usage through the week and 29% weekend usage (increasing to 40% when a party is booked approximately monthly). This is currently made up of around 16 different groups and a total of approximately 550 Congleton based Users.</p> <p>The mortgage was fully paid in 2021 and we have always endeavoured to fix charges to allow for the running costs of a Victorian building plus build savings for larger maintenance projects. However, with increased utility prices, growing repair work and recent usage changes, the Trustees are conscious that hire charges may need to be increased.</p> <p>In addition, to attract and retain Users the building needs to be fit for purpose. In particular, we wish to retain our Dance School and the fitness classes who are a large percentage of our usage.</p>		

3: COST DETAILS/ RESOURCES/ TIMETABLE	
Project Title:	Main Hall Floor Repair
Project Objectives:	To repair the Main Hall floor by sanding and varnishing to eliminate slippery area and splinters whilst creating a long lasting aesthetically pleasing finish. (Please see Section 3.1 for User outline).
Brief Project Description:	<p>The project will include the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear the hall and prep to reduce any mess. • Patch any problem areas. • Sand the whole floor. • Clean the floor and room. • Varnish the whole floor. • Allow the floor to dry fully. • Carry out a deep clean.
Total Cost of Project	Approx £5,000 <i>3 quotes have been gathered and are attached.</i>
Total contribution sought:	£500 or any amount gratefully received.
Details of cost breakdown and budgets:	<i>Please see quotations attached – these detail the complete cost of the project however please ask for any more information as needed.</i>
What will the money be spent on?/ Resources needed:	<p>As a contribution to the total project. (Please see Section 1.7 for project description).</p> <p>Mossley Old School Trust aims to resource the project by finding the best contractor through assessing factors such as cost, time (to reduce disruption to Users), cleanliness (to reduce immediate mess), quality and long lasting results.</p>
Any ongoing costs:	No.
Details of confirmed match funding, include source Cash/Grant: In kind:	Mossley Old School Trust is aiming to fund a percentage of the project cost from its own reserves and apply for grant funding for a percentage.
Estimated timescale of project from start to finish:	Approx 3 – 5 days, dependant on contractor timescales and working around Users on site to minimise disruption.
4: POTENTIAL BENEFITS/ OUTPUTS	
What are the potential benefits/outputs to residents of Congleton	Mossley Old School Trust was set up as a Charity in 1999 to preserve Mossley Old School building as a Community Centre to help residents of Mossley and also the wider area of Congleton. It was previously (and still is) the home of 1 st Mossley Scout Group which caters for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. It is also used by additional regular groups such as a Dance School, Before and After School and Holiday Club, Keep Fit, Pilates, Baby Massage and various U3A classes. In addition to this, Casual Users such as children’s parties and training sessions also book.

Based on a 7am-9pm potential usage Mossley Old School Community Centre has a 67% usage through the week and 29% weekend usage (increasing to 40% when a party is booked approximately monthly). This is currently made up of around 16 different groups/classes and around 550 total Congleton based Users within these groups.

The Trust obtained a 15 year mortgage from Charity Bank to purchase the building from the Diocese of Chester at a favourable price with a covenant that it is to be used for educational purposes. The mortgage was fully paid in 2021 so the building is now owned by the Trust. The Trust hires out the building to the Users and, as a Charity, has always endeavoured to fix the charges to allow for the running costs of an old Victorian building plus extra to build up funds for larger maintenance projects. However, with the cost of increased utility prices (which have tripled during the winter months), growing repair work needed to the building and some recent changes in usage, the Trustees are conscious that hire charges may need to be increased which could cause problems for some of the User groups.

In addition, to attract and retain Users the building needs to be fit for purpose. In particular, we wish to retain our Dance School and the fitness classes who are a large percentage of our usage and are particularly affected by this project.

To this end the Trust is requesting financial help from the Town Council and other local grant awarding bodies to support this valuable community asset. Mossley Old School Trust will allocate some of its reserves to the project outlined below, but is conscious of the need to keep some reserves back for the aforementioned utility charges, general maintenance and for the possibility of losing income from a major user.

Mossley has a population of approx 11,000 which is around one third of the total population of Congleton at around 27,000 (with that number growing rapidly). Mossley Old School Community Centre is able to offer a space for hire to these individuals and is lucky to have two large halls with quality pine and oak flooring. The Back Hall remains in quality condition, however the last time the Main Hall floor was fully treated was over ten years ago, with only small patching jobs being carried out in between. Therefore, in this location there are now very worn patches and general wear and tear, with increasing reports of slippy areas and splintering wood fragments.

These floors have three purposes:

1. To be aesthetically pleasing, fit for purpose and safe to use.
2. To be suitable for the types of Users we hire to – specifically Dance and Keep Fit who need it to be non slip but with not too much friction, an element of bounce and no risk of splinters.
3. To be hard wearing to ensure value for money for the Trustee Committee and reduce the need to complete the project again in the near future.

	<p>Therefore, the aim of our project is to repair and fully sand the Main Hall Floor, followed by topping it with an appropriate varnish.</p> <p>The project will include the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear the hall and prep to reduce any mess. • Patch any problem areas. • Sand the whole floor. • Clean the floor and room. • Varnish the whole floor. • Allow the floor to dry fully. • Carry out a deep clean. <p>The key factors that resident Users in the area will benefit from will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased aesthetics of a newly repaired floor. • Reduced risk of splinters for those near the floor with bare hands and feet. • Reduced slips and falls within groups. • A hardwearing and long lasting solution rather than frequent User disruption by patching more regularly. <p><i>Current floor photos enclosed showing some highlighted problem areas.</i></p>
<p>Are there similar services/ projects provided in the area</p>	<p>Mossley has a population of approx 11,000 which is around one third of the total population of Congleton at around 27,000 (and growing rapidly).</p> <p>Within Mossley there is Mossley Old School Community Centre plus Mossley Village Hall and the Chappell Centre (both located across the road). Each offer different advantages and as one of our particular USP we are pleased to offer two large halls with high quality flooring installed specifically for dance requirements. We often have comments of the solid feel of the floor, flexibility and bounce, acoustics etc. However currently this is being diminished by the disrepair.</p> <p>The different facilities each venue offers attract different Users and, due to the large population in the area, ensures they all receive extensive usage. As such we work well as a local hub.</p> <p>There are no other venues in the Mossley area of Congleton. Additional similar local venues which have large open space and modern good quality flooring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruby’s Fund 1.3 miles • Masonic Hall 1.6 miles • St John’s Community Centre 2 miles • St Mary’s Parish Centre 2.2. miles • Astbury Village Hall 2.3 miles <p>Our Main Hall floor is considered below standard in relation to its current state when compared, although is still regarded as a superior quality dance floor when it is at its optimum.</p>
<p><u>5: EVALUATION</u></p>	

How will the project be evaluated and who will carry out the evaluation?	<p>The Trustees, alongside the Centre Manager, will evaluate the project success. This will be through the following main factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will be managed by the Centre Manager whilst liaising with the Dance School to ensure work meets need. • A list of floor requirements has been drawn up to supply to the contractors in line with the comments above. • Users have been asked for comments on the current state of the floor and comments will be obtained again after work has been completed to ensure satisfaction has been reached from their side. • Pictures will be taken before and after for a visual comparison. <p><i>Comments from Users enclosed to gain an insight into personal experiences.</i></p>
Describe how you will promote the Town Council in your project.	<p>Promotion will be in two forms – during and post project:</p> <p>During:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the project through information emails to all Users. • Ask Users to disseminate project information through to all their attendees (approx 550 in total) and via their own media channels. • Place posters on noticeboards within the Community Centre for visitors and Users to view. <p>Post Project: A before and after post on our Facebook page mentioning the grant allocation details with thanks.</p>
Please acknowledge you have read our Grant Application Criteria	<p>Please see the Policy on our Grants page on our website: Grants - Congleton Town Council (congleton-tc.gov.uk)</p> <p>I/we have read the policy: YES / NO</p>
Will you be attending the meeting to support your application	<p>Date will be provided by the RFO</p> <p>YES/NO (TBC)</p>

Declaration

- I am authorised to make this application on behalf of the above organisation.
- I understand and agree that the application and supporting documents will be presented on a public agenda, and that any private information will be redacted.
- I certify that the information contained in this application is correct. If the information in the application changes, I will inform Congleton Town Council as soon as possible.
- I give permission for Congleton Town Council to retain this information electronically. The information in this form will be used for the administration of grant applications.
- I understand that Congleton Town Council will use any personal information I have provided for the purposes described under the Data Protection Statement which can be found [Constitution - Congleton Town Council \(congleton-tc.gov.uk\)](http://congleton-tc.gov.uk)
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Signed:		Date:	27 th June 2024
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Please return your form and supporting documents to info@congleton-tc.gov.uk or post to RFO, Congleton Town Hall , Congleton Town Council,. High Street, Congleton , CW12 1BN