

# Thurston Parish Council

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## APPLICATION FOR A GRANT

*Before competing this form, please read carefully the attached document entitled Thurston Grant Awarding Policy. Copies of the form together with the **latest copy of examined accounts** must be submitted along with any supporting documentation requested.*

### **General information for applicants**

*It is Thurston Parish Council's intention (subject to budget restrictions and available resources) to support initiatives from local community groups and organisations. Priority will be given to applicants who have not previously received grants from Thurston Parish Council. The size of any grant awarded is at the discretion of the Parish Council but will not exceed £500 in any one application.*

*If you have any queries on the completion of this form please contact the Parish Clerk, Thurston Parish Council, New Green Centre, Thurston, IP31 3TG. Email: [clerk@thurstonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@thurstonparishcouncil.gov.uk)*

### **DETAILS OF YOUR ORGANISATION**

**Name of Organisation:** Gatehouse Caring in East Anglia

**Address:** Dettingen Way, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 3TU

**Contact Telephone No.:** 01284 754967

**Email:** [amanda@gatehouse.org.uk](mailto:amanda@gatehouse.org.uk)

**Registered Charity No.** 1154412

**If you are part of a larger organisation, enter its name:**.....

### **Principal aims and objectives:**

Gatehouse – Caring in East Anglia is a Registered Charity that since 1986 has provided services to the socially and financially disadvantaged in our local communities.

Our Vision - To successfully serve the needs of the community and maintain our high reputation as a charity.

Our Mission- To serve the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, by identifying and responding to needs not met by other organisations

The Charity has an annual budget in excess of £300,000.00

### **DETAILS OF GRANT REQUESTED - Explain your need for a grant with the likely number of beneficiaries, their age profiles and their location :**

Following consultations with Thurston Councillors, Stowmarket CAB and other independent support

workers. There has shown a need for delivery of Food Parcels to those most vulnerable in Thurston. Since 2012, Gatehouse has provided a foodbank from our building in BSE which provides around 40 parcels a week to vulnerable adults and families across the west Suffolk area and surrounding villages. We have agreed a referral system which Gatehouse currently uses and has proven to be successful. This would be used to ascertain that parcels are being issued to the correct people and that all other avenues of support have been offered. Currently Gatehouse tries to support people in Thurston, however they need to travel to Bury St Edmunds to access this, which sometimes is just not possible on their limited income and support structures. By obtaining this grant we hope to be able to improve the service to the parish of Thurston and build a more connected community in these difficult times during the cost of living crisis.

We envisage an estimated 10 Parcels a week will be needed to meet the need. Each of these parcels is equivalent to approx. £15

**Grant requested: £500**

**DETAILS OF OTHER GRANTS:**

**Received in the last two years: None**

**Currently applied for: £500**

**Please use this space for any significant information about your organisation not already supplied:**

Through the Homestore we Serve 4,000 customers a year Approximately 200 people a week. Demand for our Foodbank continues to escalate and we expect to provide 700 vulnerable people in St Edmundsbury access to affordable food and hygiene items a year

Our Homestore and elements of our Foodbank in reality often work in tandem as the gateway to our services: It is a good example of a 'Social Supermarket', Our work is not just to provide or sell cheap food but to help build more support and resilience to individuals and our wider community during this crisis. The social Supermarket has been a direct result of both the Covid Pandemic and also the cost of living Crisis. We have an increased amount of people accessing our services, who have never had financial issues before, they are often reluctant to ask for help and find it embarrassing to accept handouts.

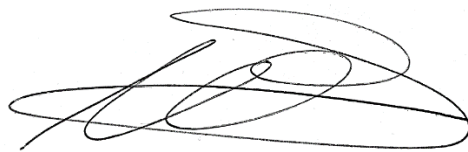
The Social Supermarket is an excellent way for them to keep their dignity by way of small financial donation and also a chance to build relationships and trust and therefore give access to help and services with a 'soft touch' approach, through the following:

- Addressing Loneliness by creating group activities.
  - Free services to help those marginalised by poverty.
  - Information sharing and warm handover process to local organisations to encourage engagement with health services.
  - Peer support using group emails and whatsapp groups for feedback and updates.
- and encouragement to engage using our other services such as the warm hub and community lunches.

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I certify that the foregoing replies are accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_



Office Held CEO

Date 18/7/23