

Thurston Parish Council

Parish Council Office
New Green Centre
New Green Avenue
Thurston IP31 3TG



Tel: 01359 232854
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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

DETAILS OF YOUR ORGANISATION

Name of Organisation: Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk

Address: 5 Milton Road South Stowmarket IP14 1EZ

Contact Telephone No.: 01449 742473

Email: manager@midsuffolcab.org.uk

Registered Charity No.: 1107152

If you are part of a larger organisation, enter its name: We are an independent charity who are members of the national Citizens Advice network.

Principal aims and objectives:

We provide free, confidential, independent and impartial advice face to face, on the telephone and online.

Our goal is to help everyone find a way forward, whatever problem they face.

DETAILS OF GRANT REQUESTED

Explain your need for a grant with the likely number of beneficiaries, their age profiles and their location:

Throughout the last year, Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk have continued to offer people in Thurston advice on vital issues such as debt, financial capability, energy, employment, housing, benefits, consumer rights, legal, family, health, education and arrange food parcels. Since the cost of living crisis this has become even more vital. We continue to provide this advice service by telephone, email and face to face.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk helped 53 people in Thurston with 479 issues in the last 12 months. The issues that we helped your parishioners with are shown in the following table:

Benefits & tax credits	137
Benefits Universal Credit	23
Charitable Support & Food Banks	40
Consumer goods & services	21
Debt	81
Education	1
Employment	7
Financial services & capability	53
Health & community care	7
Housing	28
Immigration & asylum	3
Legal	5
Other	4
Relationships & family	8
Tax	1
Travel & transport	3
Utilities & communications	57
Grand Total	479

Of those helped in the village, 63% were disabled or had a long term health condition. A wide variety of ages were helped, with the 25-29 age group being the most helped (at 14% of the total people helped in Thurston), however this was only by a 1% margin and many other age groups followed closely behind.

This summer, our Community Officer undertook a locality visit to Thurston, as there was no food bank delivery provision for the village, so the local community was feeling cut off from that support when needed. Usually if we have a client who is struggling financially, while we are arranging their longer term support (whether that's through a grant, benefits or financial management), we try to get them short term support too, such as a food parcel. This meant this kind of immediate support was not possible in Thurston. The locality visits were conducted face to face in the village.

This locality visit identified that an advice outreach was wanted and that the library provided a confidential, yet stigma free location for this service. Our Supported Access adviser held an outreach service on Wednesday mornings throughout August 2023. We advertised this with the school, the local newsletter and in the library. She completed a total of 10 appointments, and a variety of issues were spoken about during these sessions.

We are also delighted to have worked with you, the Thurston District Councillors and Gatehouse food bank to secure food bank provision for Thurston. Previously the nearest food bank was happy to supply a parcel, but the client would need to collect it, so the cost of the transport would make it impossible to collect/negate the amount the parcel had saved the client. We are delighted that the solution has now been arranged of the food bank will delivering the food parcels to you at Thurston Parish Council, so the provision is there for Thurston residents once more.

We will do everything we can to help your parishioners who are struggling to solve their problems with free, independent advice. With the right advice we can help prevent problems escalating into a crisis.

Just some of the positive feedback we have received from clients in the last year:
“My experience...was excellent and I am very thankful for the help and professional support.”
“...very helpful and I will always use their service if ever I need them .”
“The person I spoke to was knowledgeable, friendly and caring and put my mind at ease”

Grant requested: £500

DETAILS OF OTHER GRANTS

Received in the last two years 2022/23 £200, 2021/22 £1000

Currently applied for

We currently have applications submitted for local authority grants and charitable donations.

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

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

Signature of applicant Jasmine Last

Office Held Community Officer Date 23/11/23