

**CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH
PARISH COUNCIL**

**WARD ALLOWANCE
POLICY**

Adopted March 2025

Purpose of the Allowance

The Ward Allowance (WA) is funding approved each year by the Finance & General Purposes Committee (FGP) , which can be spent at the discretion of the Parish Councillors, each of whom have an allocated budget from this fund to spend in the Ward they represent.

The WDA has four key outcomes;

1. To support new community activity contributing to the Parishes vision.
2. To provide activities and amenities that improve the quality of residents lives.
3. To improve the connections and links between the Parish, Parish Councillors and the respective communities.
4. To assist small organisations and residents to develop themselves.

Process and Governance

Applications for the use of WA can be made by the proposing Councillor or Chair of FGP in advance of a FGP Committee meeting.

Residents can approach their Councillor(s) to put forward ideas that they feel meet the core outcomes, however applications can only be put forward by the Councillor of the Ward they represent. These may be ideas that come from the Councillor themselves, so long as they are supported by the community.

(Examples of where spend could be used are to support local sporting/health related activities, leaflets relating to a community initiative, room hire, stationary, bus shelters, bulbs/low maintenance flowers/planters and also things which could bring communities together to help run a project)

Requests cannot be approved retrospectively.

The request must be within the legal powers of spend that the Parish Council holds.

The request will be included on the published agenda of the FGP Committee meeting.

Decisions are minuted at the FGP Committee meeting and published online.

Only the Parish Officers can commission works. Councillors are not permitted to commission works directly.

What the allocation cannot be used for:

- Direct childcare services/activities that enable parents/carers to undertake paid work.
- Counselling or one-to-one mentoring services (with the exception of advocacy support).
- Services/activities provided to individuals or organisations not within the Ward boundary of the Councillor who makes the request, subject to mutual agreement with the relevant Ward Councillor.
- Newsletters or literature containing opinion or publicity of a political nature.
- Party political or direct religious activities.
- Projects related to buildings/assets linked to the proposing Councillor or where a Councillor holds a significant personal interest.
- Projects related to members of a Councillors family or friends.
- Initiatives apparently established for the purpose of providing employment for an individual, or with a view to developing a private business venture.
- Activities which hold an on-going revenue cost to the Parishes core budget.
- To support an organisational on-going costs.