



## **\*\* Guide to Lodge Support Funding \*\***

The Somerset Masonic Charity ( 'SMC' ) is keen to promote and support the charitable work of all Lodges across Somerset.

Funds are allocated each year to provide " Lodge Support Funding " ( 'LSF' ) whereby Lodges can apply to the SMC for an additional sum so as to increase the total amount raised for qualifying charitable donations.

To ensure fair distribution across the area, the SMC committee meets quarterly to consider applications and follows the criteria outlined below:

- Any Craft Lodge may make an application, through their Charity Steward, to the scheme once in any rolling 12 month period. Applications must be approved by the SMC **prior** to any commitment of an LSF grant being made to the charity.
- Preference will usually be given to locally based, non national, charities.
- The minimum Grant requested for a single charity should preferably not be less than £200. Those under £100 are not considered.
- A single Lodge application including more than one charity may be made, up to a maximum requested LSF total of £ 500.
- The committee is capped to offering a grant of 50% of the sum raised by a Lodge for individual or multiple charities, with an LSF maximum of £ 500.
- Thus, the maximum grant awarded to any one Lodge in a rolling 12 month period will be £500 but, at the discretion of the committee, this may in very exceptional circumstances be raised to £1000, in 50% proportion to the maximum of £2000 being raised by the Lodge.
- Should applications exceed the funding available, the committee will give priority to Lodges that have not previously made an application.
- The SMC committee reserves the right to refuse to support a request.
- The Lodge must withhold any presentation to their charity(ies) until notified of the decision of the committee, with the aim of making a joint presentation where practical and maximising the potential for publicity.
- Cheques, but ideally Bank Transfers, will only be made directly payable to the full, correct, name of the nominated charity. Misnamed or rejected payments can not, unfortunately, be made again.
- It is recommended that Lodges engage their Communications Officer for both local and Somerset wide [ where appropriate ] publicity.

All enquiries and applications must be made through the Lodge Charity Steward, who should then pass them to the SMC Administrator W Bro. Chris Crump at [✉ ChrisCrump4446PM@outlook.com](mailto:ChrisCrump4446PM@outlook.com) (NB there is no special form)