



## SUSSEX ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

# Funding policy

### Introduction

This policy sets out the Society's policy and procedure for assessing and granting applications for funding from external groups.

### Principles

Before awarding grants, SOS Council will always ensure that the Society has sufficient operating funds for known expenditure, with contingency for unexpected.

Subject to this condition being met, Council will consider applications for funding in the following three categories, which will be funded on a three-year rolling basis:

Fund	Annual allocation	
Species	£5,000	This fund supports projects that aim to help those species that the Society considers to be a priority in Sussex. The list of species is attached as Appendix 1. These are guided by SOS Scientific Committee's work alongside Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).
Habitats	£10,000	This funding is available for habitat purchase or improvement projects
Engagement	£5,000	Funding to improve access to birdwatching for all and includes funding for the SOS Young Birders Scheme.

In considering grant applications, priority will be given to local community projects.

For applications relating to Swifts, Swallows and Martins, you are encouraged to discuss with the SOS Swift and Hirundine Champions to ensure that the scheme is considered viable.

For most projects, we anticipate funding up to 50% of any request, but with discretion to fund smaller community projects (of up to £3,000 total) up to 100% with the expectation of some level of contribution from the applying group where possible.

SOS Council will consider collaboration with other funders to part-fund a project.

Where we agree to applications that require part-funding from other partners, we will only release funds once we have confirmation that all the funding has been secured.

SOS Council retains the discretion to consider major funding requests or opportunities outside of this policy, in exceptional circumstances and where the funding meets our charitable objectives.

### **How to apply for funding**

All requests for funding should be made using the application form available on our website.

### **How funding applications are assessed and agreed or declined**

Once the SOS Treasurer has received an application it will be circulated to SOS Council members for consideration.

In most cases applications will be circulated and discussed via email, however where there is a need for further discussion it may be necessary to discuss at one of the SOS Council meetings that take place five times a year.

In some instances, further information may need to be requested from the applicant.

If a majority of Council members approve a request, the Treasurer or another Council member will notify the applicant and explain the arrangements for providing the funding, with any conditions that have been agreed.

If a request is not approved, feedback will be given, and we may be able to suggest alternative routes for funding.

### **Monitoring and evaluation of grant funding**

Once funding is agreed, periodical updates should be given to SOS Council via a named contact, with a schedule to be agreed in alignment with the project timescales. This may also include accommodating site visits for SOS representatives where appropriate.

For larger grants, a representative of the recipient organisation will be asked to give a short presentation (5-10 minutes) at the SOS annual conference on the difference that the SOS funding has made for their work.

## **Policy review**

This policy will be reviewed annually by SOS Council.

Signed

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Date

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Print name

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Chair of Council

The Sussex Ornithological Society is a Registered Charity No. 256936

## **Appendix 1 – SOS Priority Species**

1. Dark-bellied Brent Goose
2. Bittern
3. Lapwing
4. Ringed Plover
5. Redshank
6. Stone-curlew
7. Grey Partridge
8. Marsh Harrier
9. White-tailed Eagle
10. Eurasian Honey-buzzard
11. Barn Owl
12. Kittiwake
13. Mediterranean Gull
14. Sandwich Tern
15. Little Tern
16. Swift
17. Nightjar
18. House Martin
19. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
20. Cuckoo
21. Turtle Dove
22. Nightingale
23. Wheatear
24. Dartford Warbler
25. Grasshopper Warbler

26. Tree Pipit
27. Spotted Flycatcher
28. Starling
29. Hawfinch
30. Tree Sparrow
31. House Sparrow
32. Marsh Tit
33. Bearded Tit
34. Corn Bunting