



West Somerset Railway Association

Stations and Infrastructure Projects Grants Policy & Process

- 1. Purpose:** The West Somerset Railway Association seeks to support projects anywhere on the West Somerset Railway. This document is to help Station Masters and others formulate applications.
- 2. Applications for Grants** should include:
 - A full description of the project for which assistance is sought (photographs and diagrams may be helpful in explaining the project)
 - A statement of the total costs of the project
 - How the project will be financed, including how much is sought from the Association
 - When during the year the funding will be needed
 - A statement of how the project meets the funding guidelines set out below.
- 3. Funding Guidelines**

The Association regards some aspects of the maintenance of stations and infrastructure as properly the responsibility of the WSR plc. These include safety matters such as the condition of platform edges and the basic stability of buildings. Successful applications will be for projects which enhance the heritage aspect of the railway.
- 4.** For example, if lighting required renewal at a station, the Association would regard the provision of a safe and proper power supply, cabling and basic light fittings as a matter for the WSR plc. The additional costs of providing replica or original cast GWR lamp standards and lanterns would be suitable items for the station to make an application for assistance to the Association.
- 5. Successful Applications** will:
 - Enhance the Great Western Railway character of the station. Advice on this is available from the West Somerset Steam Railway Trust.
 - Enhance or restore the heritage aspect of the station or structure.
 - Enhance visitor facilities or experiences at the station.
 - Enhance volunteer facilities at the station.
 - Enhance links with the local community.
 - Include an element of fundraising by the station itself. The Association is keen to encourage match funding but recognises that stations' abilities to raise funds will vary considerably.
- 6. When should proposals be submitted?**

The Association's financial year is the calendar year. Proposals should normally be submitted no later than 30th September for consideration at the November Board budget meeting. It may be that only provisional acceptance of a project can be given until the income of the Association is known during the coming year. Projects may also be approved in principle and await funding.
- 7.** Requests for emergency or exceptional assistance will of course be considered outside these timescales, but must be accompanied with justification that a matter needs to be dealt with outside the normal process.