

Report to: Meeting of the Trustees of the Gilstrap & WE Knight Charities –
9 March 2026

Clerk to the Trustees: To be confirmed

Lead Officer: Helen Brandham, Democratic Services Officer

Report Summary	
Report Title	Application for Grant Funding
Purpose of Report	For the Trustees to consider the following application made to the Gilstrap Charity for grant funding to support the Gathering of the North Ltd event in Sherwood Forest
Recommendations	That the Board of Trustees consider and determine the application received from Gathering of the North Limited.

1.0 Background

1.1 In 2017, the Trustee Board refreshed and approved a funding criteria for grant aid support from the Gilstrap Charity. The Charity's Scheme has been amended a number of times in recent years, firstly when Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) built a library in Newark (thereby obviating the need for the original use of the Gilstrap Building as a library) and secondly when the Gilstrap building had been leased to NCC for use as the Registrar's office. However, whilst the objectives have been reviewed over the years, the original concept has been reaffirmed with emphasis on education and promoting knowledge of the history of Newark.

1.2 The current approved criteria is as follows:

2.1.1 Preference will be given to funding applications which promote education and understanding of historic buildings within Newark and the history of Newark generally to reflect the original Trust purposes.

2.1.2 Funding applications will be required to demonstrate a direct benefit to the community of Newark or a section/s of that community (eg projects involving local schools).

2.1.3 Applicants will be required to provide full details of any match funding or third party funding.

2.1.4 Applications should, where possible, demonstrate sustainable benefits.

1.3 It should be noted that the area of benefit for the Charity, whilst previously defined as the area of the former borough of Newark, was amended when the Scheme was last reviewed in 2013 to cover the parish of Newark.

1.4 A copy of the background information that is included on the Charity's website concerning how potential grant applications will be considered is attached to this report as **Appendix A**. Applicants are requested to complete a pro-forma application form that gives full details of their project, its objectives, budget and other funding secured.

2.0 Application Received

2.1 An application has been received from Gathering of the North Ltd. Further information is detailed in the written application which is attached as **Appendix B** to this report.

2.2 The application seeks a total of £9000 in grant funding to support a three day jousting event as part of a wider event to be held between the 23rd and 25th May 2026 at Sherwood Forest in Edwinstowe. The event is a heritage event showcasing medieval history through authentic re-enactments and immersive experiences. The event is also funded through sponsorship and pitch fees, contribution from the RSPB and from the events team.

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Financial Implications

Currently, £475,808 is available to support future projects or grant applications subject to any other funding decisions made during the meeting.

Legal Implications

The Board is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report; it acts as Trustee to the Charity on behalf of the Council and its remit includes making operational decisions. It is for the Board to be satisfied that the application meets the criteria for award of funding and whether awarding the grant is in the best interests of the Charity considering its objectives ('The object of the charity is the general benefit of the inhabitants of [Newark] in such charitable ways for the public benefit as the Trustee thinks fit').

The Board must act in the best interests of the Charity as distinct from the best interests of Newark & Sherwood District Council or any other body when making decisions.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.