



# West Somerset Railway Association

The Railway Station, Bishops Lydeard, TAUNTON TA4 3BX

[www.wsra.org.uk](http://www.wsra.org.uk)

## WSR Stations and Infrastructure Projects - Grants Policy and Process

1. Purpose: The West Somerset Railway Association supports heritage projects anywhere on the West Somerset Railway. This document is to help Station Masters and other Team Leaders to 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 WSRA.
  - When the funding will be needed.
  - A statement of how the project meets the funding guidelines set out below.
3. Funding Guidelines: The WSRA 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 aspects of the railway. For example, if lighting required renewal at a station, the WSRA would regard the provision of a safe and proper power supply, cabling and basic light fittings and 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 WSRA.
4. Successful Applications will:
  - Enhance the Great Western character of the station. Advice on this is available from the WSSRT.
  - Enhance or restore the heritage aspect of the station or structure.
  - Enhance visitor facilities at the station.
  - Enhance volunteer facilities at the station.
  - Enhance links with the local community.
  - Include an element of fundraising by the station or group. The WSRA is keen to encourage match funding but recognises that the group's abilities to raise funds will vary considerably.
5. Funds will only be supplied on receipt of invoices. These can be paid directly by the group and then re-imbursed, but it is likely to be more beneficial for the WSRA to pay invoices directly.
6. When to submit your bid: Funding bids are accepted at any time. However, the WSRA's financial year is 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> March and each year an amount is set aside for funding small projects on the railway. When this is exhausted, there may not be any further funds available until the next financial year. Requests for emergency or exceptional assistance will be considered regardless, but full justification for the urgency will be required.

Policy Author	PCW, revised JAG March 2020
Date confirmed by WSRA Board	
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