



**Citizens Advice Winchester District**

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29 March 2023

Dear Mr Gibbs

**Grant request from Citizens Advice Winchester District**

Local advice charity, Citizens Advice Winchester District would like to ask Tichborne Parish Council for a grant of £300 in Financial Year 23/24 to help us deliver benefits advice.

Welfare benefits are there to support people in need. They are a lifeline for people who can't work due to an illness, disability or a long-term health condition, or because they need to care for a loved one. They support people in work who are struggling to make ends meet – helping to keep a roof over their heads or pay their everyday bills.

The welfare system however is inherently complicated and negotiating your way around it can be a challenge even for the most capable. As a result, our advisers spend a lot of time helping someone understand what they might be entitled to and gathering the right evidence to make an application.

Support with benefits has always been our top issue but the cost-of-living crisis has meant even more people are needing welfare support to make ends meet. We've already supported almost two thousand people with a benefits issue since April 2022 which represents almost one in two of our clients.

To deliver good, effective benefits advice we need to provide regular benefits training to our volunteer advisers and provide access to up-to-date reference materials and external support. Money received from Tichborne Parish Council would help us to fund this training and wider support.

Over the past twelve months, 96 people from the Upper Meon Valley have sought help from Citizens Advice, many of whom have needed help with a benefits issue.

We are enormously grateful to Tichborne Parish Council for their support over recent years and would be delighted if they were able to continue their support.

With very best wishes,

*Sue Campbell*

**Dr Sue Campbell**

Chief Officer, Citizens Advice Winchester District  
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