

7 Valentine Drive
Burgess Hill
West Sussex
RH15 8UE



Dear Sir, Madam

Burgess Hill Bonfire Night is a fantastic event for the town. Thousands of people come and line the streets, businesses are thriving and it's a great visual spectacle to watch. All provided free of charge and organised by a group of volunteers Burgess Hill Bonfire society (BHBS).

BHBS volunteers annually organise the Bonfire celebrations, procession, bonfire and fireworks held on the last Saturday in September. In addition to Bonfire Night, BHBS assists the Town Council with festivals, road closures, remembrance Sunday, lighting of the town beacon and the Christmas light switch on. We also support other local organisations.

As you can see from the attached schedule, costs have increased significantly since 2019. The statutory costs to safely run our night means an increase in cost for marshals, medics, insurance and road closures along with regular servicing of our fire extinguishers and operating facilities.

Our volunteers have limited resources to recover these price increases through the voluntary work undertaken through the events we support and instigate in the local community. This is why we are seeking an increase in the grant.

This year we had thousands of spectators, a torch lit procession made up of 1500 people from visiting societies, local community groups and bands. The sizable number of individuals coming together to take part in our Bonfire Night brings substantial revenue to the businesses.

Burgess Hill Bonfire Night encourages local business to increase operating hours, staffing and some even operate outside hospitality. Local businesses have reported a substantial increase in trading for an average Saturday night.

BHBS have struggled to financially cover the event over the last few years as reserves have depleted. We run the risk of being unable to run the event as our future funding may not cover the costs. BHBS hope you can see why it is important we request the increase in the annual grant which will benefit the town.

BHBS are requesting an annual grant of £7300.00 to cover some of the statutory costs of Burgess Hill Bonfire Night. The total costs to for this year's event was approximately £13,422.00. BHBS envisage this to increase in 2025.

Thank you for continued support and the society looks forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,