

## Context

The Belsize Society (BelSoc) is a membership Amenity Society charity. The major source of its resources is membership subscriptions and associated gift aid. The subscription is set at a level intended to cover the expenses of the society, which is operated entirely by volunteers, including a financial reserve to cover unexpected contingencies. BelSoc is not a grant-giving charity but, as an activity ancillary to its charitable purposes, and if BelSoc's financial resources rise above the levels required for its expenses and reserves, it has been the Society's practice from time to time to make donations to purposes that are in accordance with BelSoc's general aims. Donations are given at the sole discretion of the committee and Trustees, in line with the Society's charitable objectives, and neither previous donations nor this statement of guidelines, nor anything else, should be taken as a commitment to donate in future. BelSoc's general policy in relation to donations is set out below.

## The financing of donations.

Donations may be funded from

- The residue of subscription and gift aid income
- Funds channelled through BelSoc for the benefit of the community or as a memorial - for example, funds donated by film companies in recognition of the disturbance caused by filming.

In addition, BelSoc may encourage members to make individual donations to a charity in the course of events, for example, by taking up a collection during the Carol Singing that it organises.

## Destinations of donations

Funds channelled through the society for specific purposes will be devoted to those purposes - for example to plant a memorial tree.

Donations may be made to any body, organisation or purpose which is in general accord with BelSoc's purposes and aims: they shall not be restricted to other registered charities.

Donations will be made for purposes that have a direct impact on the geographical area which BelSoc specifies in its constitution as its area of interest. Where the recipient of the donation also operates in a wider area (for example as a national charity) the donation will be made on this condition.

The Trustees will aim to spread the donations out amongst purposes and organisations, both in any single year and across the years, and to respond flexibly to needs in the local area as they arise.

The Trustees will, through the BelSoc Newsletter, annually seek members' advice on purposes and/or organisations for which donations might be made.

Donations may be committed for any specific purpose on a regular annual basis, so as to assist recipients with their planning. Any such commitment will not normally exceed three years, and be subject always to the conditions that this commitment will be reviewed annually by the Trustees and that BelSoc retain sufficient residual income to cover the donation.

## Amounts of donations

Any one donation in any one year will not normally be less than £50 or more than £1,000.

## Operation of the policy.

One member of the committee shall, in consultation with the Treasurer, be responsible for the operation of the policy. The Committee and Trustees will take a decision annually, usually in November, on the amount and destinations of donations, if any, for the then current financial year. The Trustees will retain the discretion to make donations decisions at other times in the event of a specific and urgent local need arising.