

**Decision Session – Executive Member for
Environment**

17 September 2018

Report of the Assistant Director of Communities
and Equalities

**Forgotten Corners - fund towards transformation of neglected and
unloved green spaces in York**

Summary

1. An Executive decision made on 21 June created a fund of £100,000 to improve forgotten corners within the City of York. Improvement would involve putting areas of land in good order, making them accessible to residents and creating landscapes which would require minimal ongoing maintenance.
2. The fund was promoted to communities across York. Thirty expressions of interest were received from ten wards within York.
3. A formal evaluation of projects was conducted which scored all projects received.
4. This paper proposes that the funding is awarded to the highest scoring projects which result in an accessible and cleaner green space and are deliverable in the timescale.
Each project is expected to meet the below criteria:
 - a. offering good value for money;
 - b. providing lasting improvements to an area;
 - c. is deliverable by March 2019;
 - d. engages residents, encouraging them to volunteer in green spaces in the city;
 - e. is centred round previously unmanaged/ uncared for area;
 - f. is of benefit to a large number of people;
 - g. does not have ongoing maintenance liabilities.

Recommendations

5. That funding requested for projects listed in **Table 1** is agreed. Projects in **Table 1** are listed in order of highest to lowest score against the criteria. This approach exhausts the available funding.

Background

6. On the 21st June 2018 the Executive agreed that a one off Fund was established towards transformation of neglected green parts of the city.
7. The Fund was set at £100,000 and was advertised to community groups, charities and other organisations who were asked to identify a neglected corner of the city they wished to improve. The City of York Council Environment and Community Officers offered to support to groups which had not previously applied for grant funding to build capacity within these groups.
8. Projects seeking financial support from the Fund should:
 - a. seek to enhance public open space for the benefit of York residents and its environment;
 - b. seek to improve the appearance of the space, enhance its biodiversity and accessibility to members of the public;
 - c. involve community volunteers in the improvement and maintenance of the space;
 - d. produce a project plan outlining how the space could be maintained in a sustainable way without further funding from the City of York Council.
9. A project team defined the criteria, assessed applicant eligibility and invited expressions of interest in the fund.
10. The Project Team received expressions of interest which were then assessed and ranked against the Fund criteria.

Consultation

11. The Fund, its objectives and the opportunity to submit an expression of interest was advertised by means of a press release, Ward Team distribution lists, York CVS, Minster FM and third party news bulletins, for example Social Vision .

Projects list

12. The table below lists organisations recommended for funding, a summary of each project and the amount of grant requested. Agreement is sought to fully fund the highest scoring projects and part-fund the lowest scoring projects (featured in italics) until the fund is exhausted.

Table 1

Delivery organisation	Project	Amount
Alma Grove Community Garden	Creation of a new raised bed in an untended area of the community garden and installation of sets to protect bed	£728
Ascot Way Friends Group	Creation of a new shared garden by residents of the block	£4200
Green Lane Growers YACIO	Improvements to create a new community area and improve access for groups with disabilities	£18,000
Redfearn Community Group	Building of planters in Wellington Street to green an area near to bollards	£1096
Friends of Danesmead Wood	New footway to improve accessibility for those with mobility issues	£3420
Holgate Methodist Church	Creation of a new community garden on previously unused outside space	£2500
Benenden Healthcare/Community Environment Team	Refresh of the Siding Garden including clearance of undergrowth and improvements to landscaping.	£5000
St Hilda's Church	Creation of a new community garden bringing previously unmaintained space into community use.	£10000
Friends of Clifton Backies	Improvements to the entry points to the area including improvements to footways and accessible gateways.	£7000

Dodsworth Avenue RA	Tree planting on a patch of land close to a new development	£500
Volunteer Tree Wardens	Baile Hill scrub clearance and tree works and establishment of new volunteer group to maintain space	£5000
Community Environment Team	St Georges Place – renewing the planting in communal areas	£1000
Community Environment Team	Knavesmire Rose Garden – renewal of planting and landscaping improvements	£1500
Community Environment Team	Bootham Rest Garden Improvements – repaving and re- turfing the area including improved accessibility for people with limited mobility	£3800
Community Environment Team	Lords Mayor’s walk corner re-landscaping. Improvement to first green space passed by visitors to the city arriving by coach	£4995
Churches Conservation Trust	Holy Trinity Goodramgate – tree works in the grave yard	£600
Clifton Green Primary School	Clifton Wood Pond and habitat creation in partnership with The Conservation Volunteer Trust of a previously unused and inaccessible area.	£9610
Naburn Parish Council	Undergrowth clearance and new planting in front of a community building	£3000
York Bike Belles	Mural creation on the Foss Islands Pathway	£2960
Clifton Residents Association	Rejuvenating a grass bank facing local shops in partnership with the traders	£250
Clifton Residents Association	Bulbs and lavender planting Kingsway North	£250
Millennium Wood	Woodland maintenance and skills development by Blueberry Academy	£6200

<i>York Explore</i>	<i>Development and improvement to the lawn area</i>	<i>£4563</i>
<i>Cambridge Street Flats</i>	<i>Planters and shared garden</i>	<i>£4000</i>
<i>Nunnery Lane Residents Association</i>	<i>Keith Chapman Memorial Garden creation</i>	<i>£2000</i>
Total		£102,172

13. The table below lists projects not recommended for funding in result of achieving too low score against the criteria.

Table 2

Delivery organisation	Project	Amount
Friends of Melrosegate Field	Fencing and picnic benches installed.	£14294

14. The table below lists projects not recommended for funding due to not meeting the Fund criteria.

Table 3

Delivery organisation	Project	Amount
Chill in the Community	Delivery of 'forest school' style sessions to young people in a woodland area	£3216
Cornerstone Methodist	Improvements to outside lawn area and creation of parking places	£6600
York Theatre Trust	Patio and garden refurbishment	Part fund request of up to £50,000

15. Organisations will be required to fully deliver projects by end of March 2019 and to report back by the 30th April 2019 on project delivery.

Council Plan

16. Transforming green parts of the city into cleaner, more accessible and sustainable spaces align with a prosperous city for all. Investment in green spaces allows creation of better flora and

fauna habitats as well as attractive green amenities for residents and visitors alike.

Implications

17. **Financial** - there are no financial implications beyond the previously agreed budget. Funding is released to organisations on the understanding that ongoing maintenance costs associated with the project will be funded from alternative sources.
18. **Human Resources (HR)** - Some of the projects will be led by Environment and Community Officers within their day to day capacity therefore there are no human resource implications.
19. **Equalities** – A criteria of the fund was that Forgotten Corners should be made more accessible to communities in York. Many of the projects proposed for funding improve the accessibility of green spaces to those with mobility issues. All projects involve volunteers in delivery of the project, engaging people from many communities within the City.
20. **Legal** – All projects recommended for funding are either on the land owned by the City of York Council, or have the landowner agreement therefore there are no legal implications.
21. **Crime and Disorder** - There are no crime and disorder implications
22. **Information Technology (IT)** - There are no information technology implications
23. **Property** - There are no property implications
24. **Other** -There are no other implications

25. Risk Management

In delivering projects through funding community organisations, there is a risk that an organisation may not have the capacity to deliver. Environment and Community Officers will support successful applicants in delivery of their projects to mitigate risks of project not reaching completion.

Contact Details

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**Report
Approved**



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