

Health and Wellbeing projects and activities FUNDING APPLICATION

1. Applicant:

Name	Mr Eamon McClelland - Resident Engagement Officer (REO)
Organisation	Resident Engagement Team, Wiltshire Council Housing
Address	Churchfields Depot, Stephenson Rd, Salisbury SP2 7NP
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2. Amount of funding required from the Area Board:

£0 - £1000	
£1001 - £5000	£3,180
Over £5000 (please note – our grants will not normally exceed £5000)	

3. Are you applying on behalf of a Parish Council?

Yes	
No	✓

4. If yes, please state why this project cannot be funded from the Parish Precept?

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5. Project title?

South West Sheltered Gardening Clubs

6. Project summary: (100 words maximum)

This project will help the residents of 6 sheltered housing schemes to plan and manage their gardens. The process will be aided by Foragers Farm (a social enterprise company) who will lend both gardening expertise and assistance with heavy tasks. The members have the added value of a social gathering in each scheme as well as having reasons to engage with other gardening clubs. Foragers Farm will help the REO to develop opportunities for competitions, visits to other clubs, garden shows and seed and plant exchange days. The project aims to improve the outlook of tenants in their own homes but to broaden connections and remove isolation within each scheme. Linking gardening to feeling valued within each community.
Scheme addresses: Donhead St Mary, Tisbury, Zeals, Fovant, Wilton and Mere

7. What is the Post Code of the place where your project is taking place?

Area codes :BA12, SP2 & SP7

8. Please insert a tick against the themes which best describe your project:

Intergenerational

✓ Older people support / activities

✓ Carers support / activities

✓ Promoting physical and mental wellbeing

✓ Combating social isolation

✓ Promoting cohesive / resilient communities

Arts, craft and culture

✓ Safer communities

Heritage, history and architecture

✓ Inclusion, diversity and community spirit

✓ Environment, recycling and green initiatives

✓ Sport, play and recreation

Transport

Technology and digital literacy

Other, please specify

9. About your project

Please tell us about your project (a strong application will address all of the following):

(a) How does your project support local needs and priorities?

The establishment of gardening clubs has several objectives. Primarily the idea is to help residents of the council's sheltered housing schemes re-establish a connection with the environment around their homes. As only a few feel able to do this kind of work it is clearly a sensible approach to engage someone who could help manage the physically demanding challenges as well as create agreement with residents about the overall aspect of their garden. As Wiltshire Council's contractors no longer maintain shrubbery or planting within the schemes these are areas which have become neglected. Tenants have been feeling as if there is no one who cares how their environment around their homes appears. Some have tried to employ a gardener from time to time or gotten some help from family and friends to try to maintain a tidy and welcoming appearance where they live. This unfortunately only creates a hit and miss appearance and a temporary fix.

One problem with residents working individually in small plots outside each of their properties is that this creates a piecemeal look to the overall scheme. There has been little or no collaboration or planning between the residents. With Foragers Farm helping to engage residents in planning the garden layout and encouraging collaborative effort this project helps to overcome this problem.

Foragers Farm has a well-established working connection with the Community Payback programme. Wiltshire Council and Foragers Farm have previously teamed up to deliver some really useful land clearance and rejuvenation projects in the county. Where our residents need to reshape the communal garden and to move heavy items or dig over fresh plots this could be done by those working through community payback. Those offenders are helped to see the world differently when they can make such a difference to the lives of elderly and disabled people.

(b) How many older people/carers to do you expect to benefit from your project?

There are 160 older residents in the 7 schemes around the SW area. Many have family and friends who will enjoy being involved or simply spending time in an improved garden

(c) How will you encourage volunteering and community involvement?

In bringing in a social enterprise business to establish and organise the first year of the gardening clubs we feel that the aims of social integration, reduction of isolation and loneliness as well as healthy living are achievable. We don't feel that the current resources of the council and local voluntary efforts will succeed without this added expertise and aid. As mentioned above we do not restrict sheltered housing schemes to residents only but ask that they become interactive with their community. This is to be encouraged and many already share facilities with community organisations and neighbours. We will of course encourage volunteer helpers if possible. In Mere and Zeals there has been greatly positive interworking with Seeds4Success who organise teenagers to do volunteering in their community. They have helped clear difficult plots and removed rubbish from homes for our elderly residents. We hope to encourage more local people to join in activities at each scheme.

Definition of Social Enterprise (from Social Enterprise UK)

We define social enterprises as businesses that:

- Have a clear social and/or environmental mission set out in their governing documents
- Generate the majority of their income through trade
- Reinvest the majority of their profits

- Are autonomous of the state
- Are majority controlled in the interests of the social mission
- Are accountable and transparent

Social enterprises are businesses that are changing the world for the better. Like traditional businesses they aim to make a profit but it's what they do with their profits that sets them apart – reinvesting or donating them to create positive social change. Social enterprises create employment and reinvest their profits back into their business or the local community. This allows them to tackle social problems, improve people's life chances, provide training and employment opportunities for those furthest from the market, support communities and help the environment.

Social enterprises exist in nearly every sector from consumer goods to healthcare, community energy to creative agencies, restaurants to facilities management. Well known examples include The Big Issue, Divine Chocolate and the Eden Project but there are over 100,000 social enterprises throughout the country contributing £60 billion to the economy and employing two million people.

They're creating jobs and opportunities for those most marginalised from the workforce, transforming the communities they work in and making the Sustainable Development Goals a reality.

(d) How will you ensure your project is accessible to everyone (for example: people living with a disability or on low incomes, or vulnerable, or socially isolated etc.)?

Our Sheltered Housing covers all strata of society. It is particularly for those who find it difficult to manage living in their own homes, that sheltered housing was established. However there is no reason that this type of housing scheme should be seen as catering for those who are dependent on state services. It is with precisely the reverse in mind that we wish to encourage independence of body and mind by developing the gardening clubs project. The gardens will aim to become more wheelchair and sensory accessible as making better pathways between scented plants and building raised planters for easy working is a key element of the changes intended.

(e) How will you work with other community partners?

We are already working with Foragers Farm on small scale projects both within sheltered housing and general community housing areas. We continue to work with local companies, local voluntary sector groups as well as charitable organisations for the benefit of our elderly residents. As explained in 9(a) above the SW Gardening Clubs project is hoping to begin linking many of the clubs in such a way that they begin to see themselves as part of a larger whole. If successful this should lead to engaging with local travel companies, other plant and seed providers and many volunteering bodies to help establish a better social outlook for residents. Visits to show gardens, flower and plant shows and hosting open garden days are all possible with a more connected group. See photo appendix of local garden creation work .

10. Safeguarding

Please tell us about how you will protect and safeguard vulnerable people in your project (You must address all of the following):

- Please provide evidence of your commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of older/vulnerable people and their carers.
- How do you make sure staff and volunteers understand their safeguarding responsibilities?
- Who in your organisation is ultimately responsible for safeguarding?

All council employees are given training and are required to adhere to the policy and guidance of the Safeguarding vulnerable Children & Adults policy. Mandatory online courses on all aspects of safeguarding are given annually to all staff. Wiltshire council as part of the Wiltshire Safeguarding Adults Board will continuously review their policies and promote best practice for all staff in contact with children and vulnerable adults. See support documents at: <file:///P:\Resident%20Engagement\Participation%20resources\WSAB-Policy-and-Procedures-safeguarding-adults-at-risk-in-Wiltshire-March-2017.docx>

Foragers Farm works regularly with young people and adults in a supervisory capacity. The SE company requirement is for all staff and employees to adhere to the policy on safeguarding. Policy and agreement document: <P:\Resident Engagement\Sheltered Schemes and Forum\Gardens and green space\Safeguarding Policy - Foragers Farm.doc>

11. Monitoring your project.

How will you know if your project has been successful?

As the lead on Resident Engagement for Sheltered Housing, I maintain a regular contact with all residents. This involves a meeting at each scheme at least every two months with frequent other gatherings for different clubs and events. We correspond daily with residents on various matters. This all leads to a reasonable picture of life in each scheme area. Changes are noticeable and recorded within the Wiltshire Council housing data system. We also undertake a STAR survey which includes questions about how our residents feel about our services, how responsive we are and whether they feel valued or not. Changes such as the Garden Clubs project would make will contribute greatly to the improvement of outlook of residents and the community they are in. When the clubs have been active around 6mths to a year we will run a small survey amongst the members and the schemes as a whole to gauge how successful they have been and what residents feel they have contributed to their lives if at all.

12. If your project will continue after the Wiltshire Council funding runs out, how will you continue to fund it?

The project will continue to seek funding as it grows but will have some small funding from the residents themselves. Most schemes already hold coffee mornings and games sessions where they contribute small amounts which add up to help fund charities in Wiltshire, trips out and suchlike. The Gardening Clubs in Salisbury are not long established and are increasing in number each with a small account built up in this way. It is felt that this contribution greatly helps develop residents' ownership of the clubs.

The Resident Engagement Team will help the clubs to jointly bid for further funding as they grow through the My Community Network.

13. If this application forms part of a larger project (eg. building of new village hall), please state what this project is and approximately how much the overall project will cost

This is not part of another project

14. Finance

(a) Either - Your Organisations Finance

Your latest accounts: Month: Year:

Total Income:

Total Expenditure :

Surplus/deficit :

Free reserves currently held:

(money not committed to other projects/operating costs)

Why can't you fund this project from your reserves?

(b) Or - We are a small community group and do not have annual accounts or it is our first year (please tick if this applies to you)

This is for small groups or residents who are not yet acting as a community group but hope to get established. There are no accounts.

(c) Please detail your project finance (if your organisation reclaims VAT please exclude VAT from the project costs)

Planned project costs		Planned income	
6 gardening clubs seed and plants, compost etc. funding for 1 year	£780	Self-funding from each club at average £20 per month over clubs in last 6mths of 1 st year =£840	£720
Foragers Farm involvement with planning, advice and active working with 6 schemes over 10 months (60 visits @ £30 each)	£1800		
Removal of waste charges Materials to build composters Recycling of old materials approx.£80 per scheme	£480		
Replacement planters & paths Buy materials & build raised planters in most schemes	£840		
Total	£3180	Total	£720

15. DECLARATION

Supporting information - Please confirm that the following documents will be available to inspect upon request (You DO NOT need to send these documents to us):

Quotes:

- I will make available on request 1 quote for individual project costs over £500 & 2 quotes for project costs over £1000 (Individual project costs are listed in the expenditure section above)

Project/Business Plan:

- For projects over £50,000: I will make available on request a **project or business plan** (including estimates) for projects where the **total project cost** (as declared in the financial section above) exceeds £50,000 (tick only when total project cost exceeds £50,000).

Accounts:

- I will make available on request the organisation's **latest accounts**

Constitution:

- I will make available on request the organisation's Constitution/Terms of Reference etc.

Policies and procedures:

- I will make available on request the necessary and relevant policies and procedures such as Child Protection, Safeguarding Adults, Public Liability Insurance, Access audit, Health & Safety and Environmental assessments.

Other supporting information (Tick where appropriate, for some project these will not be applicable):

- I will make available on request evidence of ownership of buildings/land
- I will make available on request the relevant planning permission for the project.
- I will make available on request any other form of licence or approval for this project has been received prior to submission of this grant application.

And finally...

- I confirm that the information on this form is correct, any award received will be spent on the activities specified.