



Performance Reward Grant Scheme

APPLICATION FORM

To be returned to:

wiltshirelaa@wiltshire.gov.uk

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| Area Board | <i>Chippenham Area Board</i> | | |
| Form submitted by (contact for all queries) | <i>Wilts & Berks Canal Trust</i> | | |
| Name of initiative | <i>Environmental enhancement of the canal corridor at Pewsham</i> | | |
| Brief Description of Initiative | <i>Following the dredging and re-watering of a 1200 metre stretch of the Wilts and Berks Canal at Pewsham, we wish to enhance this area for the local community and for wildlife. We will install interpretation boards explaining the heritage of the canal site covering the 3 locks still to be restored with dry dock, saw pit and cottage, put railings around the restored 18th/19th Century Spillweir, provide extra benches for walkers, bird and bat boxes to encourage nesting and plant a wildflower meadow of about an acre in a field running down to the river from the canal.</i> | | |
| Please put a cross against the ambition(s) that this initiative will support *It is only necessary to identify those ambitions on which you feel your bid will make a significant impact. | Building resilient communities | | x |
| | Improving affordable housing | | |
| | Lives not services | | x |
| | Supporting economic growth | | |
| | Safer communities | | |
| | Protecting the environment | | x |
| | Action for Wiltshire – combating the recession | | |
| | Improving outcomes for Children and young people | | x |
| Amount of funding sought | <i>£8412</i> | | |
| What will this money be spent on? | <i>Interpretation Boards -</i> | <i>£5000</i> | <i>Capital</i> |
| | <i>Railings inc fitting</i> | <i>£ 900</i> | <i>Capital</i> |
| | <i>Benches Inc delivery 3 x 190.70</i> | <i>£ 572</i> | <i>Capital</i> |
| | <i>Bird Boxes 20 x £15</i> | <i>£ 300</i> | <i>Capital</i> |
| | <i>Owl Boxes 2 x £85</i> | <i>£ 170</i> | <i>Capital</i> |
| | <i>Bat Boxes 18 x £15</i> | <i>£ 270</i> | <i>Capital</i> |
| | <i>Wildflower seed</i> | <i>£ 700</i> | <i>Revenue</i> |
| | <i>Administration/Volunteer support</i> | <i>£500</i> | <i>Revenue</i> |
| Is planning permission required? Yes/No | <i>No</i> | | |

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| Have quotes been obtained? Yes/No | <i>Quotes are being obtained for some items and support being sought from wildlife experts as to positioning of the bat/bird boxes and the sowing of the wild flower seed</i> |
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Note: Bids will only be considered if they help us to achieve our ambitions in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire. It is important that initiatives have a positive local impact, and that we are able to show success. In this section you are being asked to provide information about how your project contributes, and how you will measure that success. The level of improvement we expect to see will be proportional to the level of the bid: i.e. the more funding required, the greater the level of impact and improvement that will be necessary.

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| Please describe how your initiative will support the ambition(s) indicated above, and summarise the action that will be taken | <p><i>Building Resilient Communities</i></p> <p><i>The interpretation boards will give visitors an understanding of the heritage of this site. The Wilts and Berks Canal opened 200 years ago this year and at Pewsham there were 3 locks, a dry dock, a saw pit, workshop and lock cottage. It is hoped to restore all these in the near future, not only for a new navigation, but also to provide an educational resource for the local community to demonstrate the 18th/19th century way of life and the heritage skills used in building and maintaining the canal. Heritage is often overlooked as a resource for resilience, but it is a way that we can reconnect to the past whilst reinventing and renewing for the future. These assets are valuable to the community and it is hoped that a sense of ownership and pride will develop.</i></p> <p><i>The 18th/19th century spillweir was restored with the help of a grant of £4292 from Chippenham Area Board. The railings, that we would like to install, will protect the public whilst walking or cycling past and will be carefully chosen to match the period.</i></p> <p><i>We already have a number of dedicated local volunteers who give their time but it is hoped that this initiative will encourage more locals to come and join us after they see what is being achieved. Volunteers have a chance to learn new skills, such as bricklaying, dumper driving, maintenance tasks and fundraising, and to work with a group of similar minded people. This helps to build up their confidence and esteem and enjoy healthy exercise.</i></p> <p><u><i>Working together with other Wiltshire organisations:</i></u> <i>we are working with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and if possible local birdwatchers on this project. Wiltshire College is one of our partners in the Wilts & Berks Canal Partnership and they will help with practical work that is mutually beneficial to both organisations. We are sure that the students from Lackham College will give support on assessing the number of species of insects and birds at the site now, and again after the meadow is planted and boxes provided.</i></p> |
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Lives not services

It is hoped that the ambition to enable local people to improve their long term health and well being can be met by these improvements and that the number of adults participating in exercise will increase. Walking and cycling in the countryside is very good for one's health, leaving most people fitter, happier and less stressed.

The additional benches, the boxes for birds and bats and the wild flower meadow will make a visit to this canal and towpath a pleasant relaxing experience for all ages and may foster new interests and friendships for many.

Protecting the environment

In this The International Year of Biodiversity, we would like to increase the number of bird and insect species that live by the canal at Pewsham, thus enhancing the environment for visitors and preserving our fast vanishing flora and fauna.

The UK has lost 97% of its traditional wildflower meadows and this is an opportunity to plant out a meadow of approximately one acre with wildflower seed. It should attract a large insect population, as there can be up to 50 species in one square metre in a wild meadow. It is vital that we act to preserve this genetic resource that we have. In turn, the insects will provide the food for increased species of birds. We wish to put up a number of bird and bat boxes to encourage nesting.

The recent dredging has opened up a 2 kilometre length of standing water at Pewsham. We should see an increase in waterfowl moving in and it will create a green corridor for wildlife to move from habitat to habitat.

Improving Outcomes for Children and Young people

Children already visit this site when walking or cycling with their families and it is hoped that there will be more to interest them. Youth groups from Chippenham and Melksham, such as the Sea Cadets, Air Cadets, Army Cadets and Girl Guides already visit this site on our annual sponsored walk and Melksham Air Cadets excavated the remains of the lock cottage. We hope that more young people will be inspired by this environment and will want to learn more about the history of this unique canal site.

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| What makes this initiative a local priority (e.g. evidence from research and local support) | <i>There has been a lot of media support in the local newspapers, radio and television for all aspects of this canal restoration. We also have a local website that attracts many visitors. We have also carried out some surveys on the towpath at Pewsham and the two most recent from last year are attached. We talk to the public at our display stands at local events and whilst giving boat trips locally and support from all events is overwhelmingly positive.</i> |
| How will you know you have been successful? | <i>We will survey the visitors, we and the students at Lackham will attempt to assess the different bird species on a before and after basis and will check on improvement in insect life after the wild flower meadow is planted.</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will you measure the impact? (may have more than one measure) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Appreciation from the general public and increased numbers of walkers and cyclists, measured by counting and surveying visitors to the site</i> <i>2. The usage by birds and bats of their boxes.</i> <i>3. Assessing the insect activity in the meadow.</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is your improvement target (s), and when do you expect to achieve this/these? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. 25% increase in visitor numbers each year</i> <i>2. 50% boxes occupied in the first year</i> <i>3. 100% increase in insect population when the meadow is in flower.</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will you ensure that the improvement continues after the end of the initiative? <i>(this is one-off funding)</i> | <p><i>As far as the wildflower meadow is concerned, each year when it is cut, the "hay" which contains seeds for the flowers can be spread on other areas around the site, such as between the canal and towpath, thus increasing the acreage of flowers.</i></p> <p><i>The bird boxes can be checked and cleaned each year by the volunteers and replaced if damaged.</i></p> <p><i>Restoration work on the canal in this area will continue for several years and in turn will attract more visitors with more activities being carried out.</i></p> |
| Who will benefit from this initiative? | <i>This site is on a permissive footpath and we know from surveys that at weekends we have up to 200 people a day using the towpath at Pewsham. It is easily reached on foot from Chippenham and visitors come from other local towns as well. The path is wide enough for pushchairs and disabled tricycles.</i> |
| Confirm no unfunded commitments from this initiative | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. I confirm that there will be no unfunded financial commitments arising from this initiative</i> |
| Will ongoing maintenance of | <i>Local volunteers who already have regular work parties at this site will carry out any maintenance required. This will mainly be</i> |

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| premises/equipment be necessary? | <i>cutting of the wild flower meadow at the appropriate time of year.</i> |
| What are the key risks to success and how will these be managed? | <i>The key risk is vandalism. The boards will be made of a very secure material, the benches will be of a style used already at the site and are quite robust. The bird and bat boxes will mostly be placed in trees on the opposite side of the canal to the towpath so that visitors will be able to observe but not tamper with them.</i> |
| Who will manage the initiative | |

Signed:

Chairman of Area Board

Dated:

NB: It is the responsibility of the Area Board to ensure that:

- **bids are robust and well-founded**
- **public money is spent appropriately and in accordance with the details of the bid and with any conditions placed on approval by the PRG Panel**
- **the initiatives are managed well to achieve the benefits and that performance improvement is reported**