

Neighbourhood Portion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Bath Grant Application

Project name:

Bath Parks Activator Programme (BPAP)

Organisation:

Your Park Bristol and Bath

Project location:

Locality or Ward which will benefit from this:

Target start date:

September 2022

Target completion date:

September 2023

Have you or your organisation previously applied for funding from Neighbourhood Portion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Bath?

No

Description of project:

The Bath Parks Activator Programme (BPAP) would improve the city's green infrastructure at scale during the Climate and Ecological Emergencies, by providing pump-prime investment in community managed green spaces. Specifically, we seek funding to enhance 18 parks across Bath City for nature where we would create, enhance and maintain natural habitats with the community. A grant over two years would provide the resource required to make a permanent difference to Bath's green infrastructure and community health and wellbeing.

A 0.8 FTE Bath Park Activator would organise and host regular community gardening sessions in nine parks without active Friends of Groups. Specific capital works would include wildflower meadows, trees, hedgerows and nature ponds.

In nine additional parks which do have active volunteer groups, our Activator and Parks Officer would support volunteers to improve and maintain the spaces by providing hands-on services alongside the capital needed, something they cannot achieve without Your Park due to insurance and/or funding constraints.

To ensure joined-up working and sustainable impact at scale we would support, and grow volunteering in parks by:

1. Developing and testing parks Management Plans with BANES Council Parks Department (BCPD) and Friends of Groups (FoG), enabling the community to jointly manage parks more easily after our intervention.
2. Supporting emerging FoG, those at crucial stages in their development or struggling which will encourage sustainable human resource and infrastructure.
3. Launching an annual FoG survey to understand volunteering, perceptions and relationships with BCPD to highlight areas for development.
4. Commissioning a consultation into residents' views and needs around 10 parks, and inform the charity and BCPD's strategy.

The ultimate outcome is to reintroduce sustainable natural habitats to Bath's green spaces at scale, boost the City's biodiversity and invest in the infrastructure and resource needed to sustain natural habitats permanently. This will in turn improve community health and wellbeing through increased access to and time spent in higher quality parks.

Reasons for supporting this project:

There is a need for cleaner air and improved carbon absorption during the Climate and Ecological Emergencies, and despite the Clean Air Zone, three areas of the City still exceed the EU and UK NO₂ concentrations limit value. Parks provide an opportunity to further improve air quality throughout the City.

Improving parks is important for residents who would use green infrastructure more as a result, especially those living in areas of deprivation and/or with health needs: one in four adults and one in five young people experienced mental distress for the first time during the pandemic (Mind, 2021). The World Health Organisation states that using urban green spaces can improve mental health. Defra estimates that the NHS could save £2.1 billion per year if everyone had regular access to parks.

But less than 1% of people living in social housing use and benefit from parks (Commission for the Build Environment, 2021). Twerton for example, is within the top 10% most deprived areas of England. In Twerton, over 23% of people live in purpose-built blocks of flats with limited outdoor space. Over double the amount of people compared to B&NES as a whole are in very bad health, are long term unemployed, have never been employed, are carers, long-term sick or disabled.

During a cost of living crisis, parks will provide Bath's residents with free, beneficial venues to improve wellbeing, as we saw during lockdowns. Surveys undertaken by BCPD consistently find that residents want more nature in parks and a strong body of international research indicates that people are more likely to use green spaces if they are clean and well maintained. Budget pressures within the Council now mean that there is less resource to litter pick in parks and to lead nature enhancement projects and volunteers are struggling to fill this gap. Volunteers often lack the technical skills to design and run nature enhancement projects and groups tell us that they need to attract new members to support their activities. However, Bath's

parks and people are reliant on our charity and dedicated volunteers.

We have been heavily consulting volunteers; we conducted research into FoG's needs, held an awards ceremony and awarded three BANES Groups with a small grant through our Love Your Park Community Fund. We also have a good working relationship with BCPD which provides intelligence about residents' needs and opportunities. We learnt that the vast majority of FoGs are not constituted or do not have a bank account so therefore not eligible for CIL or other grant funding. Of those which are, their funding is ceasing for example in Sydney Gardens. Many FoGs are reliant on Crowdfunding which is difficult during the cost of living crisis.

After a recent redundancy, there is no longer any resource within the Council to support park volunteers, who are Bath residents. We are aware of a disconnect between the charitable organisations in the area, and between volunteers working in parks, and the Council. Without supporting volunteers and facilitating joined-up working, difference at scale will not be achieved.

BCPD not longer has a dedicated role to support community activity in parks therefore without this Programme, groups may cease to operate or not secure funds and resources needed, putting Bath's parks at risk of deterioration at a crucial point: during the Climate and Ecological Emergencies.

[Is this a new project or does this project link into an existing project?](#)

After successfully piloting the Activator Programme in Brickfields Park and Norfolk Crescent, we would roll-out BPAP across the City. Therefore this project will consolidate and scale-up our Activator and volunteer support programmes.

The budget is based upon 'pump priming' in year one, then gradually stepping back and encouraging volunteers to take over maintenance by the end of the grant period in year two.

In year one, 22% of the funding would be used on capital items required to enhance 18 green spaces across Bath, all of which provide an opportunity to relieve pressure caused by developments and increased resident numbers. Costs include seeds, bulbs and plants; tools; signage; a shelter for bad weather and a phone with high quality camera to document changes at each site. A further 20% of the required capital value in year one has been secured in matched funding.

58% would be allocated to the revenue resources required to create new habitats and support others to do so, in turn securing sustainable human resource. The two key revenue costs are attributed to i) a 0.8 FTE Park Activator who would provide practical conservation and gardening services, including supervision of power tools and ii) a 0.4 FTE Parks Officer who would support FoGs with internal management and sustainability through multiple visits and tailored training sessions.

We have included Full Cost Recovery and a contingency of 5% in year one. Any surplus would be carried forward to year two if required. In year two, 25% of the grant would fund 100% of the capital costs required which are lower because we aim for FoGs to be more sustainable and less reliant on us versus year one, plus key capital items would have been purchased in year one such as the shelter and tools. 62%

of the grant would be spent on Park Activator revenue costs including in-park gardening services, with support tailing-off towards September 2024. We have not requested costs for the Parks Officer, management time, travel and overheads in year two because we will seek additional funding for this expenditure during 2023. We will also seek sustainable funding for the in-park Activator and other associated costs so we can continue to enhance spaces in Bath.

Project milestones and targets:

Consultations

Start date	End date	Milestone	Lead
1 Sep 2022	30 Jan 2023	Consultation with FoGs and residents to develop site plans – when to hold sessions, where to plant meadows/plants/trees/ponds etc in 23 and 24	Parks Officer & Park Activator
1 Sep 2022	30 Jan 2023	Launch an annual survey to FoG with all Groups in BANES completing it, to determine additional in-park support needs in 23 and 24.	Parks Officer
1 Jan 2023	30 Jan 2023	Plans for all 23 and 24 sites finalised and confirmed	Parks Officer & Park Activator
1 Oct 2023	30 Jan 2024	Consultation with residents living near 10 parks in partnership with BCPD and FoGs to determine future infrastructure development needs	Parks Officer & Park Activator
1 Jan 2024	1 Apr 2024	Monitoring survey results and first year evaluation	Parks Officer

Park enhancement

Start date	End date	Milestone	Lead
1 Mar 2023	30 Sep 2023	Nature habitat enhancements, pond restorations/introductions taking place in parks	Park Activator

		twice per week on rotation in nine park	
1 Mar 2023	30 Sep 2023	Nature habitat enhancements, pond restorations/introductions promoted and taking place twice per week on rotation in nine parks	Park Activator
1 Sep 2022	30 Sep 2024	Practical support days provided to FoGs when needed including planting, pruning, scything or supervising the use of power tools	Park Activator

Sustainable resource

Start date	End date	Milestone	Lead
1 Sep 2022	1 Jun 2023	Supporting FoGs with organising and hosting community gardening sessions	Park Activator
1 Sep 2022	30 Sep 2024	At least three emerging FoGs supported	Parks Officer & Park Activator
1 Feb 2023	30 Sep 2024	500 Bath residents joined a habitat creation session, including those living in developed buildings	N/A

Shared management plans

Start date	End date	Milestone	Lead
1 Dec 2022	31 Mar 2023	Prepare draft process for agreeing and approving	Parks Officer & Park Activator

		shared management plans with FoGs	
1 Apr 2023	1 Sept 2023	Management plan process tested with 3 FoGs	Parks Officer & Park Activator
1 Sep 2022	30 Sep 2023	Finalise shared management plans with BCPD and FoGs	Parks Officer & Park Activator
1 Oct 2023	N/A	Shared management plans launched and in use	Parks Officer & Park Activator

If planning permission is required for this project has it been granted?

We have permission to work in Bath's parks through Memorandum of Understanding and the sites stated have been approved and recommended by the Parks Department.

How does the project address the specific impacts of the new developments from which the funding has been generated?

With the project working across the city, all of the parks involved are close to new developments or are destination parks that new residents in the Bath Enterprise Zone and Warminster Road developments will travel to use (e.g. Alexandra Park, Sydney Gardens). Each development is/will result in increased residents, travel, health and wellbeing needs and air pollution.

Enhancing the proposed green infrastructure sites will improve biodiversity and complement the Clean Air Zone with nature-based climate solutions which increase carbon sequestration and offset emissions.

Wells Road, Walcot Parade and Dorchester Street exceed the EU and UK NO₂ concentrations limit value of 40 micrograms per cubic metre of air ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). Planting new shrubs and trees in Widcombe, Alexandra Park, Beechen Cliff and Magdalen Gardens, Hedgemoat Park, Camden Crescent and Green Park we could see these rates reduce.

Some larger, otherwise barren parks in the outskirts such as Southdown, Twerton and Whiteway present a good opportunity to absorb carbon through tree, shrub and hedge planting, an opportunity which without Your Park, would not be maximised because of limited volunteer resource. These sites will also see much more use from residents traveling from developments into the City Centre, such as from Sulis Down, Bloomfield Park and Mulberry Park.

Introducing wildflower meadows and natural habitats means parks' grass will only need to be cut once per year (compared to six to seven times per year) saving more

than 88lbs of CO2 per cut. In some parks this cut would be replaced by scything, eliminating carbon emissions from cutting altogether.

Recent consultations on Bath Bike Park revealed most people were excited by the new facility, but concerns were raised about the compact location of the site, traffic, parking, air quality, the movement of wildlife and the potential for damage to habitats. Once Bath Bike Park opens, more local residents and tourists will walk into the City via Widcombe to reach transport links, or visit attractions including parks. By introducing natural habitats to nearby green spaces, we will not only achieve in cleaner air, but make the City more welcoming. Taking pride in beautiful and beneficial green spaces will bolster BANES' reputation as leaders in developing community cohesion and taking environmental action.

Furthermore, Bath's green spaces not only provide environmentally beneficial natural infrastructure, but also health and wellbeing benefits. This is important because there are pockets of deprivation in Bath which contain large green spaces such as in Twerton which are often poorly used because of limited facilities. We have experience in engaging with these hard-to-reach communities and would expand our learning across the city to ensure we include as many residents as possible, not just those who are already involved in climate action.

Natural England reported that being in nature can help reduce stress, anxiety, and depression. People taking part in gardening sessions alongside our Activator will benefit through the Five Ways to Wellbeing:

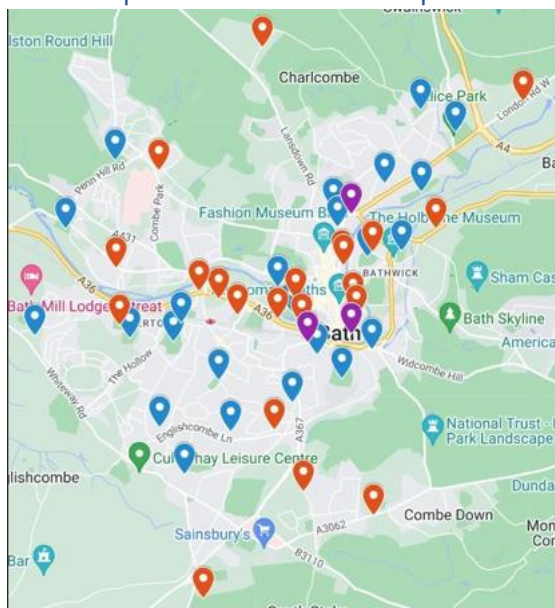
- **Connect:** People socialise and meet others. After taking part in our pilots, 94% of people feel able to connect with others, 80% feel they now belong to their community, 63% say they have opportunities to meet others, 63% say they feel close to others and 35% are now spending more time with family or friends.
- **Be active:** Community gardening and outdoor exercise enables people to be active. Due to its active nature, sessions can help tackle obesity in the UK and offer health benefits such as a lower blood pressure and decreased muscle tension. NHS Forest found that 46% of people who received green prescriptions lost weight.
- **Take notice:** Conservation activities enable people to be present and mindful, whether they are conscious of the mindfulness practice or not.
- **Keep learning:** We will encourage residents to try something new and volunteers will take part in training.
- **Give:** We will empower residents to give back to their community. Supporting volunteers will enable them to give more time to parks and people.

We also anticipate a reduction or elimination of anti-social behaviour within the parks due to increased feelings of ownership. In turn, this will increase the likelihood of more people using the spaces. Addressing the inequalities that exist in access to parks will also support under-represented groups to engage with Bristol and Bath's climate and ecological emergencies. We can target residents living in developments and invite them to organised community gardening sessions and as more residents and visitors notice the 'rewilded' areas, they will be inspired to take action at home.

Temporary signage (similar to that used for Let's Get Buzzing) at each site will enable people to tap or scan a QR code and learn more about species, plant care, steps they can take, upcoming sessions and/or donate so we can enhance and sustain more Bath sites in future.

“The project will help deliver on the Council’s climate and ecological emergencies. Improving biodiversity in parks is leading the Council’s response to the ecological emergency and many of these projects will build on and develop the successful Lets’ Get Buzzing campaign.” Paul Pearce, Team Leader Parks Projects

How does the project provide links to the locality in the area where development has taken place?



Key:

Proposed enhanced sites are in blue

Developments are in orange

Areas not meeting EU and UK NO2 concentrations limit value are in purple

[View the map online](#)

Nearby developments	Site	Proposed work through BPAP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> London Road West Holbourne Park Henrietta Gardens Granville Road 	Alice Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore the pond Improve wildlife habitats in the nature garden
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bloomfield Park Bath Quays Sulis Down Bath Bike Park Mulberry Park 	Bloomfield Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise community gardening - wildflower meadow and tree planting Support FoG with becoming sustainable

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twerton Park • Roseberry Place • Transport Depot • Bath Press 	Brickfields Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to consult young people and the community • Install new facilities for young people in the park in response to consultations - seating as stage one • Aim to establish a FoG • Maintain wildflower meadows and pond
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bath Quays • Green Park Station West • Sydenham Park 	Green Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance and maintain the planted meadow • Work with the Bath Riverline Project to grow volunteering and deliver practical site improvements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henrietta Gardens • Walcot Yard • Cattle Market 	Sydney Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue community gardening sessions on second Sunday of every month when funding ends in August to sustain the space • Support FoG with becoming sustainable – they have expressed a need for human resource and support with funding • Plant and maintain Georgian styled garden flower beds on either side of the Loggia with FoG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sulis Downs • Bloomfield Park • Bath Bike Park • Bath Quays 	Alexandra Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and maintain a new permanent meadow at the Park entrance • Support FoG with becoming sustainable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henrietta Gardens • Walcot Yard • Cattle Market • Granville Road 	Camden Crescent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the FoG with expert advice on habitat management • Consult the community on improvements - seek funding for additional works if required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henrietta Gardens • Walcot Yard • Cattle Market • London Road West 	Henrietta Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help FoG design and install a new filtration system for the pond

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve wildlife habitats in the pond and the surrounding Memorial Garden through new planting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bloomfield Park Twerton Park Sulis Downs Bath Bike Park 	Hillcrest Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host community gardening sessions - wildflower meadows, trees Build nature pond
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twerton Park Bloomfield Park Roseberry Place Bath Press Transport Depot 	Innox Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support FoG to host regular community gardening sessions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holbourne Park London Road West Henrietta Gardens 	Kensington Meadows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support FoG to host regular community gardening sessions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bloomfield Park Bath Quays Sulis Down Bath Bike Park Mulberry Park 	Moorlands Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dig and plant a new pond
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walcot Yard Henrietta Gardens Cattle Market Holbourne Park London Road West Granville Road 	Hedgemead Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FoG have expressed a need for human resource Organise public volunteering days (re-stocking Vegmead, diversifying the meadow and completing the sustainable planting scheme at the entrance from Lansdown Lane) Help FoG attract new members for future sustainability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bloomfield Park Bath Quays Sulis Down Bath Bike Park Mulberry Park 	Beechen Cliff and Magdalen Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host community gardening sessions - wildflower meadows, trees
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hartwell Weston Mews 	Newbridge Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable the new FoG to improve access and provide more welcoming entrances into the park. Help them design new accessible gates that provide security for dogs and children but meet accessibility standards

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install new fencing to replace the dilapidated chainlink fencing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bloomfield Park • Bath Quays • Sulis Down • Bath Bike Park • Mulberry Park 	Moorfields Sandpits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-design the teen shelter to reduce anti-social behaviour and attract more young people to use the park respectfully, and in turn more people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weston Mews 	Weston Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce a new outline management plan for the site which captures aspirations for future improvements • Residents' consultation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manvers Street • Terrace Walk • Bath Quays • Bath Bike Park 	Widcombe Association and Crescent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-plant the entrance to Widcombe High Street and other key locations. The verges at the entrance to Widcombe High Street have been neglected for years, and the Association has done a great job of cutting back and clearing weeds, bramble and dead shrubs and trees. The group of volunteers now needs some professional guidance and mentoring to help re-stock the planting and be able to maintain the areas going forward • Install a litter bin to help with littering
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Granville Road • London Road West 	Larkhall Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents' consultation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bloomfield Park • Bath Quays • Sulis Down • Bath Bike Park • Mulberry Park 	Rush Hill Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents' consultation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Granville Road • London Road West • Holbourne Park • Henrietta Gardens 	Kensington Gardens	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twerton Park • Bloomfield Park 	Linear Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents' consultation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roseberry Place • Bath Press • Transport Depot 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twerton Park • Bloomfield Park • Roseberry Place • Bath Press • Transport Depot 	Tanners' Walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents' consultation

Please provide evidence which shows how the community has been listened to and what support exists for your project:

Our pilots provided an excellent insight into the community's needs both at city-wide- and ward-levels. Community views differ per ward but one thing all communities have in common, is the hunger to be involved in the decision process from the start. Being able to choose which flowers are planted, or whether a bench is installed for example, provides the community with a voice and control over their park. In-turn this enables them to feel a sense of ownership so they continue to engage, use and look after the space.

From consulting with residents, we have learned that in order for a city-wide Programme to be successful, we need to be entirely led by the community before starting work; a 'one-size- fits-all' approach would not be sustainable or successful. Therefore once funding is secured, the Activator and Officer would open-up discussions with residents, organisations and any existing volunteers who know their locality the best. Together we would choose specific bulbs, trees, plugs, seeds and plants, locations and community gardening session frequency and formats.

Community Consultations

- 85% of people feel that visiting a park is important for their health and wellbeing.
- 93% support suggestions for helping to tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergencies with many being willing to help create and care for a new nature area.
- 65% of teenaged females would not visit a Park alone.

Supporting statement from East Twerton resident

"Your park is such an amazing organisation. We love to see the park being transformed from scary place with complicated gates to enter, into family welcoming area filled with activities and happy people. The charity is doing so much for its improvement (new easier gates, new benches, removed unnecessary fences, planted trees, flowers, making pond and much more). Everyone is so enthusiastic and passionate about their work. We love Sundays where we enjoy planting trees or planting flowers, building pond or watching the wildlife and building a large bug hotel. They organised amazing family Sunday which was an excellent day out for whole

our family. Everything was very well organised and we were leaving after whole day with very happy soul. It is magical to be so close to our home and still in beautiful nature. I am glad this place is transforming into great park. All the informations and activities are very well advertised, so nice to know what is coming up. Thank you so much for your hard work!" Pavla

Google and digital feedback



Joe Clayton
Local Guide · 15 reviews



★★★★★ 3 days ago NEW

Basket ball pitch, small MTB jumps, great for dog walking and playing football. With a great view



Like



Share



Tom Fieldhouse
Local Guide · 110 reviews



★★★★★ a month ago

Very well maintained. Football, basketball and playground equipment. Lovely preched fence being built, with sapling trees planted. Superb for kids and dog walking. There are many eco-friendly projects here, that the community have voted for.



Beautiful World
Local Guide · 23 reviews



★★★★★ 5 months ago

Lovely, quiet, well mantained playground with zip wire, handball and netball court, football goals on the field and free wellbeing activities from March 2022.

Supporting reference from BCPD Team Leader

Bath and North East Somerset Council's Parks Team has been working closely with Your Park Bristol and Bath since 2020 to help deliver the Council's core objectives of giving people a bigger say, focusing on prevention (through supporting the health benefits provide by parks) and helping address the climate and ecological emergencies. Supporting more volunteering in our parks, and improving the way that we engage with our customers is critical to the ability of the Council to deliver these objectives.

At the same time as there is a massive upsurge in interest from the public in improving parks, our aspirations are becoming more and more difficult to achieve because of the budget pressures facing the Council. The Parks Team's volunteer co-ordinator post was recently made redundant to help meet financial pressures so without the Bath Park Activator Programme, there would be no resource to support the city's dedicated parks volunteers and we seriously risk losing them. This would be devastating for Bath's green spaces which rely on charities and volunteers.

Your Park recently worked with the local community at Brickfields to transform the space: planting nearly 600 trees, wildflower meadows and building a nature pond.

Their role as an independent charity means that they can far more effectively attract volunteers, third sector and corporate partners than the Council can alone and wherever they work they are able to significantly magnify the investment in spaces through funding.

Bath and North East Somerset Council's Parks Team strongly supports this application for funding, as a key part of a partnership approach that is needed to improve and effectively manage our parks and open spaces without which we will be unable to deliver on our central objective of improving people's lives.

Paul Pearce
Team Leader Parks Projects
Bath and North East Somerset Council Royal Victoria Park Nursery Marlborough Lane
Bath BA1 2LZ

Telephone: 01225 394041 Email:Paul_Pearce@bathnes.gov.uk

Volunteer feedback – support requirements (verbatim)

- Communication between groups and the Council.
- Having a robust action plan. Maybe a standard template could be created for all groups to use which outlined short and long term goals.
- More human resource.
- Regular litter picking events and more bins.
- Liaising with other local groups.
- Decaying Infrastructure.
- Social media training.
- Someone to supervise or use our power tools as we cannot due to insurance and the council can't train us.
- Training for scything and woodland management.
- Community engagement.
- Tool storage container.
- We would like First Aid training that is specifically designed for habitat management type work.

- Need to remove the waste with a mechanical grabber and support for our group (with advice, publicity materials, surveillance and enforcement) in an awareness campaign against fly-tipping, littering and dog fouling.
- Two of the three Interpretation Boards have become illegible, and the content needs to be updated.
- Ideally we would like funding to pay for an audit of what is currently planted, a 5-year plan to be drawn up, and provide stock and tools required.
- Habitat restoration (continue with this when possible), paths and litter (bins emptied more frequently and volunteer litter picking).
- I think it's quite hard to keep on top of the overall maintenance of Sydney Gardens, particularly in the spring and summer months.
- It would make life easier for the Friends' committee if they had more autonomy over the decisions for improvements or repairs, and to have regular input of expertise and/or funding to help the Friends maintain the high standard enjoyed by the all the people who use the park.
- A shift in attitudes, thinking and behaviour is needed to change community values. A top down approach is needed.
- For the park, how to attract more wildlife, how to deal with ash dieback and ensure good tree and hedgerow coverage, how to maintain paths.
- Recreating the cohesion we had before lockdowns.
- The friends group are working hard to increase habitat for wildlife. The skill we are missing is scything.
- Doing tasks such as meadow seeding.
- We are planning to start a community garden in the park so it would be great if we get training related to that. The park also has quite a lot of land that is not really used for anything at the moment, where more plants and trees could be planted in order to improve the wildlife in the park.
- Getting the bushes and memorial garden under control and revealing the variety of plants.
- Raising awareness of the critical decline of insects.
- Council has introduced new training requirements for using any power tool equipment, but said training is impossible to access at the moment.
- Budget for plants and materials.
- Getting funding for plants and a mural - can't sort out getting a bank account to even apply for funding.
- Some footpaths that have been formed by footfall need to be addressed as they becoming quite dangerous after periods of rain. Need bodies and access to some kind of hard-core of some description.
- Keeping the park safe and clean. Keeping the homeless from camping there and defecating in the park. The pond and pump are working now but we need to keep the pumps in working order throughout the winter. We need a couple more benches. We need to remove the unsightly dog poo bins and remove the labels on the rubbish bins.
- Upkeep and repair of structures such as pond as these require monetary investment.
- Not being able to gather collectively to do planting and horticultural voluntary work
- Sustainability of the group - we are generally a young group made of students, graduates and families of young children - keeping the group going

means constantly having to refresh it with new volunteers and supporting them to build their personal investment in the garden and its aims.

- Training to know how the council works.
- How to grow and care for wildflowers.
- Fundraising, recruiting younger volunteers, working with diverse communities.
- Dealing with parks department/council.
- Improving parks in general for wildlife; improving signage already in parks (often ugly and unnecessary); health and safety/first aider training.
- Improving our space for wildlife.
- Powertool training (particularly strimmers & blowers).
- Deterring littering & fly tipping.
- The park is gradually changing into muddy tracks between seas of Brambles and invasive weed like Himalayan Balsam as the parks department no longer seem to cut the grass. We can only do so much and as we can't use power tools it is hard to see a way forward.

Volunteer/residents' needs – shared by redundant BCPD post

- Friends of Alexandra Park – ticking along as usual
- Friends of Bloomfield Green – some concern neighbours will not like concession near top hedge, looking to improve noticeboards
- Friends of Camden Meadow – starting to link more with Friends of Hedgemoor, will bring goats on site every few weeks to keep scrub down in top area, have been encouraged by us to look at gradually reducing the amount of laurel overtaking parts of the site.
- Friends of Hedgemoor Park – usual regular gardening sessions, ongoing frustration of Margaret Hill entrance being blocked, keep asking to use part of fallen Holm Oak to make a table/seating despite being told we wish to leave it for habitat, have taken over Vegmoor and plan to tidy it up while keeping most of what is there.
- Friends of Henrietta Park – want to upgrade the pond pump system and need help to maintain the pond, usual regular gardening sessions, planted a tree for jubilee, working with us to make better use of compound to recycle some green waste on site. Keen to develop Garden of Remembrance.
- Friends of Hillcrest Park – quite quiet but keeping an eye on the site.
- Friends of Innox Park – not sure they really exist now things have gone quiet since the project to improve the site. Need support.
- Friends of Kensington Meadows – Planning to litter pick more often and keen to improve the noticeboards & start making better use of them.
- Friends of Moorlands Park – committee in a state of flux at this moment. People are moving away & stepping down as Chair/Deputy. There has been an election. Cllr Jess David is also involved with the group. Past experience from couple of them who neighbour the park is that they are quite adverse to almost any changes for fear of disruption or intrusion to gardens. Need help to ensure the wider community are included and represented in order to have a balanced view.
- Friends of Sandpits Park – Only 2 or 3 people but want help to find funds to improve the site. Present interest is two-fold: i) to freshen up the shelter to

make it more welcoming again and ii) to replace old surfacing around swings etc as it is rough & easy to trip on. This will be a more costly job.

- Friends of Sydney Gardens – active with gardening sessions and tours etc.
- Friends of Widcombe Crescent – active with helping the site look lovely and be better used. They seem to have had great success as local residents use it much more now and it looks more interesting. They've just made staked stick piles, and a wildflower area. They would like to cut back, or cut down, a couple of small, ailing hawthorns that don't appear to be in good health.
- New - Friends of Newbridge Park – have only just got going and are in the process of creating a constitution and committee etc. However, with ward Cllr support they have already refreshed 3 old benches with new wood & asked the neighbouring petrol station to repair a section of the fence. They are also keen to refresh the fence line along Brassmill Lane. With just a bit of nurture I think this group might make a real difference to the feel of the site.
- Potential new group – Friends of Weston Rec – Want to plant trees and need advice on how to encourage volunteers along.

RadioBath press

How Your Park Bristol and Bath is tackling the litter crisis...by tackling loneliness
Parks and green spaces have become more precious than ever over the past three years. People have relied on these spaces to meet their loved ones (bearing in mind social distancing), exercise, and get that much-needed fresh air. Having the chance to get outside and see people, even those that you don't know, has been a saving grace for many. At a time when loneliness has been rife, it is often the smallest interactions that mean the most.

While this has been beneficial in terms of the popularity and upkeep of these parks, it has had a more concerning knock-on effect. According to Keep Britain Tidy, over 2 million pieces of litter are dropped and promptly forgotten about in the UK every day. Far from being the ideal and pristine green havens from the stress of urban life, our parks are often filled with litter, negatively affecting the delicate ecosystems that call these places home and making the parks less attractive to visitors.

People should know there are active things that they can do to support our parks, rather than just relying on the council to empty the bins.

To combat this, an organisation called Your Park Bristol and Bath has collaborated with Wessex Water to set up a litter pick station, based in Bath's Alice Park. Inspired by similar schemes put into place to tackle the ever-worrying plastic issue on the coast, the station's 'Guardians', the owners of the Alice Park café, encourage people to take just 2 minutes out of their day to make a difference. With litter picking equipment readily available, it is easier than ever to contribute to the clean-up of these somewhat sacred communal areas.

For CEO of the charity, Charlee Bennett, these stations are about more than just the practical effort of litter picking. Instead, it is about building a sense of community amongst park lovers and even those that just want to get involved.

“We know that everybody has a connection to their local green space...we want to foster that sense of belonging and inclusion”.

In our time-pressed and stressful lives, it can be hard to find the time to get out and give back to both nature and each other. Keeping these precious locations free from litter, while also getting to know new people that you otherwise wouldn't get the chance to meet, is so important.

The project must show that it either supports the development of the relevant area by funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure, or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on the area:

BPAP will:

1. Complement Bath's Clean Air Zone with nature based climate solutions.
2. Bolster Bath's reputation as a leader in climate and community action.
3. Provide improved green infrastructure which will provide increasing resident numbers with more opportunities to improve health and wellbeing in the shadow of COVID-19, the cost of living crisis and conflict which are pushing more people into poverty and poor health. It will reduce depression, anxiety, feelings of isolation and loneliness in residents, especially those living in disadvantaged wards, students, refugees, single parents and people with mental and physical health problems.
4. Create a thriving and sustainable charity/volunteer community which works together to improve parks and community life
5. Improve understanding of the communities' needs, opportunities and the benefits of Bath's parks and people.

Total cost of project:

Year one: £72,994

Year two: £56,454

Amount of funding sought from Neighbourhood Portion of CIL Fund:

Year one: £55,714

Year two: £34,292

Does this project benefit from any source of matched funding?

Yes, we have secured 32% (£23,250) in matched funds for year one.

Additional Funds which have already been agreed:

Source	Amount
B&NES Parks Department – due in August	£16,000
Avon Gardens Trust – Received towards wildlife ponds	£3,250
RSA Climate Change Fund - Received	£2,500

Prince Charles' Foundation – due June	£1,500
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Funds which have been applied for but are awaiting a decision:

Source	Amount
PF Charitable Trust	£10,000
Trevor Osborne Charitable Trust	£5,000
AJH Ashby Will Trust	£2,500
Hamamelis Trust	£3,000
Rhododendron Trust	£1,500
CLA Charitable Trust - Decision due July	£5,000

Volunteering hours:

0

Breakdown of the costs for the delivery of this project:

Category	Cost	Description	Year 1 budget	Year 1 CIL request	Year 2 budget	Year 2 CIL request
Revenue - Travel and subsistence	Travel to/from sites	0.45ppm	£1,000	£500	£750	£0
Revenue - Supporting FoGs	Parks Officer	0.4FTE £28k	£11,200	£11,200	£11,536	£0
Revenue - Capital work staff time	B&NES Activator	0.8FTE £26k	£20,800	£10,400	£21,424	£21,424
Revenue - Management	CEO Management	0.1FTE allocation of time	£4,500	£4,500	£4,635	£4,635
Revenue - Staff overheads	NI and Pensions	12% + 6%	£6,750	£5,750	£6,767	£6,767
Total revenue			£37,500	£32,170	£38,345	£21,424
Capital - equipment	Activator uniform	Jacket, t-shirt, boots, trousers	£600	£0	£0	£0

Capital - equipment	Phone with 4k camera	To document changes	£300	£300	£0	£0
Capital - resources	Design	2 days at £300pd - signage and resources	£600	£600	£0	£0
Capital - resources	Printing	Volunteer resources	£2,500	£500	£1,000	£1,000
Capital - resources	Seeds, plants, bulbs, trees, building resources	Based on previous costs for ponds and planting	£8,000	£1,250	£5,000	£5,000
Capital - equipment	Equipment & tools	Scythes, trowels, loppers, spades, etc	£2,600	£600	£500	£500
Capital - equipment	Signage printing/fabrication	Temp banners - each park plus boards	£5,000	£5,000	£2,000	£2,000
Capital - equipment	Wet weather shelter	Inflatable, branded	£1,500	£1,500	£0	£0
Total capital			£21,100	£9,750	£8,500	£8,500
Overheads	FCR including insurance and utilities	One month overheads yr 1, 2.5 weeks yr 2	£7,243	£7,243	£4,368	£4,368
Contingency	5% - contingency		£6,551	£6,551	£5,241	£0
Total FCR and contingency			£13,794	£13,794	£9,609	£4,368
Total			££72,394	£55,714	£56,454	£34,292

Year one matched funding allocation

Category	Cost	Description	BCPD pledge	Prince Charles' Foundation	Avon Gardens Trust	RSA Climate Change
Revenue - Travel and subsistence	Travel to/from sites	0.45ppm	£500	£0	£0	£0
Revenue - Supporting FoGs	Parks Officer	0.4FTE £28k	£0	£0	£0	£0
Revenue - Capital work staff time	B&NES Activator	0.8FTE £26k	£10,400	£0	£0	£0
Revenue - Management	CEO Management	0.1FTE allocation of time	£0	£0	£0	£0
Revenue - Staff overheads	NI and Pensions	12% + 6%	£1,000	£0	£0	£0
Total revenue			£11,900	£0	£0	£0
Capital - equipment	Activator uniform	Jacket, t-shirt, boots, trousers	£600	£0	£0	£0
Capital - equipment	Phone with 4k camera	To document changes	£0	£0	£0	£0
Capital - resources	Design	2 days at £300pd - signage and resources	£0	£0	£0	£0
Capital - resources	Printing	Volunteer resources	£500	£1,500	£0	£0
Capital - resources	Seeds, plants, bulbs, trees, building resources	Based on previous costs for ponds and planting	£1,000	£0	£3,250	£2,500
Capital - equipment	Equipment & tools	Scythes, trowels, loppers, spades, etc	£2,000	£0	£0	£0

Capital - equipment	Signage printing/fabrication	Temp banners - each park plus boards	£0	£0	£0	£0
Capital - equipment	Wet weather shelter	Inflatable, branded	£0	£0	£0	£0
Total capital			£4,100	£1,500	£3,250	£2,500
Overheads	FCR including insurance and utilities	One month overheads yr 1, 2.5 weeks yr 2	£0	£0	£0	£0
Contingency	5% - contingency		£0	£0	£0	£0
Total FCR and contingency			£0	£0	£0	£0
Total			£16,000	£1,500	£3,250	£2,500