

Spelthorne Borough Council

Requests for Funding from the
Green Initiatives Fund



Prior to making this application, please consider carefully the criteria below to the make sure you meet and evidence meeting the criteria below. If you do not meet the criteria your application will not progress to the Climate Change Working Group and Environment Sustainability Committee for consideration. If you require any further assistance with completing this form or would like to receive the form and guidance in an alternative format, please ask.

Your project must meet at least one of the following criteria:

The project ...

- a) Contributes to meeting the Council's climate change targets of meeting net zero in the Council estate or the wider Spelthorne community.
- b) Provides opportunities to create and support carbon sink initiatives within the Borough, including landscaping and more tree planting.
- c) Contributes towards reducing the carbon footprint of the Council's estate and the Borough as a whole.
- d) Develops opportunities to improve facilities for walking and cycling in the Borough to help reduce car use.
- e) Encourages more sustainable travel.
- f) Improves and encourages waste prevention and recycling.
- g) Meets Spelthorne Borough Council's objectives for the Environment in the Corporate Plan and complies with at least one of our key objectives.
- h) Contributes to developing opportunities for larger projects which address 'green' priorities within the Corporate Plan.

Applicants must ...

- i) Belong to an organisation that can prove financial stability over a period of time and not have any existing large balances not allocated.
- j) Not apply for multiple elements of financial support for the same objective. (Unless you are specifically requesting match funding.)
- k) Have clearly defined outcomes and deliverables for the funding requested.
- l) Address how they will monitor key performance indicators towards their goals and demonstrate how they have been successful in achieving them.

Contact details

Name and position	Andi Roy – Biodiversity Officer
Organisation	Spelthorne BC
Charity CIO number (if applicable)	n/a
Address of organisation	Council Depot, Kingston Rd, Ashford, TW15 3SE
Location services will be provided or project will take place	Greenfields Recreation Ground, Ashford Rd, TW18 1RR
Contact phone	01784 446415
Contact email	a.roy@spelthorne.gov.uk

Your Project

Please provide information to clearly demonstrate what you wish to achieve with the funding you are applying for and how you will measure success.

Please provide as much detail as possible here including who are your stakeholders, where and how the funding will be spent. Please detail the importance of this and why you believe this funding will contribute positively to mitigating or adapting to climate change. Please refer to our Corporate Plan and aims and detail which one/s your proposal supports.

You can also submit additional information to support your application by email.

Considerations	Response
Aims and Project Objectives Corporate Priority Alignment	This project aims to purchase wildflower seeds from a UK grower and sow these throughout the existing uncut area of Greenfield recreation ground to establish a species-rich sward with a diverse range of pollen, nectar and foodplant sources which will benefit wildlife and provide a visually pleasing open space for the public. Greenfield Rec is divided into two parts by a pinch point. The north-western area, adjacent to Bucklands Primary School, has been unmanaged for many years and receives no maintenance from the parks team except for path mowing. Whilst non-intervention brings its own benefits for wildlife, the sward is dominated by grasses which swamp the growth of most other plant life and have resulted in a distinctly deprived

	<p>flora with only occasional flowers. Introducing a simple annual or biannual mowing regime would improve the diversity of plants growing in the area but, given the remoteness of the park from any areas of natural species-rich grassland, the opportunities for new plant species to arrive by natural means are extremely limited so manually introducing flowering plants via seed will speed this process considerably.</p>
<p>Business justification provided and options considered including.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Benefits, Deliverables & Objectives - High Level Financials & ROI in terms of carbon savings, wellbeing benefits, reduction in pollution, seed corn funding 	<p>All public bodies have a duty under the Environment Act 2021 to conserve and enhance biodiversity in their areas. Improving the ecological value of our parks will provide evidence that we are taking this duty seriously. There will be additional benefits to public wellbeing through improvements to the visual appeal of the area, which is currently simply long tussocky grass with occasional tall weeds. Ongoing management of the park will consist of either one or two haycuts each year, which will be included in the standard maintenance carried out by the parks team across the Spelthorne estate. Once the meadow is established, Spelthorne BC will be able to take brush harvested seed from this area to sow in other parks across the estate without needing to purchase seed each time, meaning cost savings will be achieved in the long term.</p>
<p>How will you measure success?</p>	<p>Success will be measured in the mid- and late-summer of the year of sowing by the Biodiversity Officer, who will assess the cover of flowering plants in the area sown and take a count of the species which have flowered from the seed mix purchased.</p>
<p>Indicative Timeframes</p>	<p>Seed purchased: immediately following the granting of funds Seeds sown: spring 2023 Seed germination/percentage cover assessed: June and August 2023</p>
<p>Risks</p>	<p>Not all sown species may thrive in the specific soil conditions of the park. However, the costs of analysing the soil and ordering a bespoke mix of species outweigh the costs of using this more general seed mix. The original flail/mowing of the area will make it look untidy and could lead to complaints but this will only be the case for a month before the meadow grasses and flowers regrow, and will</p>

	be minimised by the use of signage explaining the process.
Stakeholder Identification	Spelthorne Borough Council – Neighbourhood Services
Roles & Responsibilities	Biodiversity Officer: source seeds and direct management by parks team Parks team: carry out ground preparation and ongoing haycutting of the field
Communication Plan	Temporary signs will be placed around the park upon the commencement of works, explaining what is being done and why, and what the expected outcome will be
Amount of funding applied for from Spelthorne	£7,400 Cost for 40kg wildflower seed necessary for the area being sown
Funding agreed from elsewhere	None
Please identify where services will be delivered	Greenfield Recreation Ground, Ashford Road, TW18 1RR
How have you identified the need for carbon reduction or environmental improvements?	Across the Spelthorne BC parks estate, only four parks have an established wildflower section and these total just 0.7 hectares, which is a tiny percentage of our overall estate. Greenfield park is our largest area of unmanaged grassland (2.6ha) so this would be a large increase over existing wildflower meadow within the borough, and can act as an example for further expansion of wildlife-friendly management to our parks and open spaces.

Reviewing the application

Once applications have been received, they will be reviewed to ensure that they meet the criteria.

Where applicants do not meet the criteria, they will be told that their application cannot be taken further and signposted to other potential financial support available for what you are trying to achieve.

If it is obvious that an error has been made and crucial information has mistakenly been omitted, and where we are able, we will endeavour to contact you to give you the opportunity to provide the missing information.

It is important to note that unfortunately meeting the criteria does not guarantee you will receive funding from the Green Initiatives Fund. Applications received and those evidencing that they meet our criteria will be considered by the Climate

Change Working Group who will then recommend those to go to the Environment and Sustainability Committee for formal approval.

In exceptional cases we may ask you for further information or clarification during the Climate Change Working Group's consideration of your application. The Environment and Sustainability Committee has the final say. We are required to follow this process as we are using public money and need to follow due process.

The final decision and payment

The Climate Change Working Group may decide to recommend to the Environment and Sustainability Committee:

- a) That your organisation gets awarded the full amount applied for.
- b) That your organisations receive an award for a lower amount than applied for.
- c) That your organisation has been unsuccessful for the current year.

Contact details S.Muirhead s.muirhead@spelthorne.gov.uk

Appendix 1 For Non-Council Organisations the following will also be required

Financial status:

Please provide your last set of audited accounts and preferably, where possible, for the previous year. Please note that these will be treated in the **strictest confidence**, but we need to be reassured that your organisation is financially able to deliver what you are applying for. If you are unable to provide audited accounts, please contact us as a matter of urgency to discuss what you can provide and when. They can be sent securely by email or attached to the electronic application form.

Please provide details of all funding that you have applied for, for the year 2022-2023. Please include any applications you have made for funding that remain pending, along with those refused, agreed, or agreed in part. In addition, if you have been advised that an offer of match funding has been made please include that in the table below.

Other grant or applications for financial assistance for the year 2022-2023

Organisation applied for, for funding	Reason for application to Green Initiatives Fund	Application amount	Current status of application

The Aims of your organisation:

It is extremely helpful for the Committee to know about your organisation. How, why and when it was set up and for what purpose. What are your key objectives and how have these changed?

When was your organisation set up?	
If you have charity status when was it awarded?	
Why was your organisation created?	
What are you aiming to achieve?	
How do you measure success generally?	