

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	Tim Snook
Organisation	Spelthorne Borough Council
Charity CIO number (if applicable)	
Address of organisation	
Location services will be provided or project will take place	Staines Park
Contact phone	
Contact email	

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
<p>Aims and Project Objectives</p> <p>Corporate Priority Alignment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase the resilience of Sweeps Ditch from flooding and water loss. • To increase the level of biodiversity in the Sweeps Ditch and safeguard against biodiversity decline. • To maintain our responsibility as riparian owners in managing and maintaining the Ditch. <p>Alignment to the corporate priority for the environment, and climate change strategy key action 'Adaptation', key task 71.</p>
<p>Business justification provided and options considered including.</p>	<p>The works will encompass the creation a pond within the Staines Park section of the Sweeps Ditch, and the installation of 2 underwater sills designed to retain water at times of low water flow.</p>

- Benefits, Deliverables & Objectives
- High Level Financials & ROI in terms of carbon savings, wellbeing benefits, reduction in pollution, seed corn funding

The proposed pond will be located on the east side of the park, where Sweeps Ditch meanders south (see red circle in below maps).

Staines Park Location:



Location of proposed pond within Staines Park:



Further detailed outline of proposed pond:



The proposed pond will act as both a flood alleviation mechanism and drought resilience mechanism. Additionally, it will be designed with the target of increasing biodiversity and aiding nature recovery within the area whilst also acting as a carbon sink.

Further proposed works include the addition of two sills within Sweeps Ditch in Staines Park. One is proposed to be located on the north-western side of the park, the other in the south-eastern section. They will act as “dams” so that when water levels drop below certain levels in the event of pump failure, catastrophic water loss will be prevented so providing a refuge for fish etc.

Staines Park is categorised as a ‘priority flood area’. Therefore, flood management is of high importance given the location of Staines Park relative to the surrounding urban areas. Any works that can be conducted to aid in alleviating flooding risk to residents is necessary. This view is supported by Surrey County Council’s flooding team.

Spelthorne Borough Council have a riparian responsibility for this section of Sweeps Ditch as Staines Park is council-owned. Therefore, from a legal and maintenance standpoint, SBC have a duty to act in managing Sweeps Ditch.

	<p>Additionally, the Sweeps Ditch is classified by the Environment Agency as being ‘Main River’. Therefore, as part of the greater associated project works in collaboration with Surrey County Council, a flood risk activity permit will need to be obtained.</p> <p>With the ever-increasing intensity and frequency of adverse weather events brought about by climate change, any management that can alleviate the worst of these impacts must be taken to reduce climate change-related losses. Additionally, the financial investment in conducting the works will outweigh the potential financial implications associated with increasing flood risk.</p> <p>Further to adaptation measures, ponds such as the proposed development are known to sequester significant amounts of carbon relative to other carbon sinks such as forests or grasslands.</p> <p>Following the catastrophic loss of flow in Sweeps Ditch in June 2022, it became apparent that there was a thriving ecosystem within the watercourse, including European Eels. There have also been incidental reports of Great Crested Newts within the existing pond in Staines Park, although the population size or continuing occupation have not been confirmed by follow-up surveys. For this reason, any proposed flood alleviation measures will have to take account of the potential impacts and benefits for biodiversity in their design.</p> <p>It can be expected that wildlife from Sweeps Ditch will colonise the new pond and use it as a refuge in the case of low water levels in the watercourse itself. Alongside the flood alleviation potential of a new waterbody, the creation of a new pond will expand habitat with the associated benefits to wildlife and therefore contribute towards meeting the Council’s enhanced duty under the Environment Act to take specific, reportable measures to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the areas under our control.</p> <p>Maintenance of the sills and pond will be undertaken through the use of the sustainability and flooding budget, monitored by the Sustainability Officer. Additionally, any ongoing maintenance surrounding the planned biodiversity features will be included as part of the biodiversity budget and monitored by the Biodiversity Officer.</p>
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<p>How will you measure success?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To assess biodiversity gain, a percentage plant cover calculation for the length of the ditch will be conducted before the works commence and during the growing season in the year following completion of the works. Additionally, a similar assessment can be made of water plants and species within the pond. - A renewed flood risk assessment, conducted by Surrey CC - If the pump were to fail again, and if water is retained in sections where work is completed, it can be judged a success.
<p>Indicative Timeframes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ground works expected to be conducted in autumn/winter 2023, so do not disrupt spawning cycles or habitats at critical stages for biodiversity conservation - Planting will take place at the first opportunity following completion of the ground works, likely in April 2024.
<p>Risks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disruption of great crested newt habitat (to be mitigated by surveying for GCN presence and, if confirmed, the work programme to be designed to avoid disturbance) - Failure of plants to thrive. In this case, an investigation will be carried out by a qualified ecologist to identify the cause and their recommendations followed when replanting is attempted. - As there will be an increased body of water, the risk accident involving water increases. To mitigate this, a warning sign will be placed at the location, and a life ring will be considered.
<p>Stakeholder Identification</p>	<p>Already consulted, and supportive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spelthorne Borough Council - Surrey County Council - Environment Agency - Staines Park residents' association <p>To be consulted after approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Riparian owners surrounding Staines Park <p>Awaiting response, will provide update at E&S:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fields in trust

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<p>Roles & Responsibilities</p>	<p>Both the Sustainability Officer and the Biodiversity Officer will oversee the project through both the planning and implementation stage. They will work with Surrey County Council’s flooding team to ensure success as a flood alleviation measure.</p> <p>The biodiversity officer will be responsible for ensuring local biodiversity is minimally impacted.</p> <p>The Sustainability Officer will be responsible for liaising with key stakeholders and communication. To work with the Staines Park volunteers to help with the scheme and long-term monitoring as they have shown keen interest in looking after current wildflower areas and the existing pond.</p>
<p>Communication Plan</p>	<p>The communications strategy will be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To send letters explaining the proposed works to all associated residents that have houses which back onto Staines Park, particularly within the proposed section of the works and to ask for feedback on the proposals. Then to inform them of the proposed work at least one month in advance. The work has already been outlined to the Staines Park Residents Association. • A meeting will be held to explain the plans which will be open to all residents to attend. • Planting will be advertised as a community event to encourage residents/groups/schools to get involved.
<p>Amount of funding applied for from Spelthorne</p>	<p>£8,000.</p> <p>This will fund the purchase of pond, stream and marginal plants of UK provenance from a reputable supplier for the new pond and also for stretches of the ditch as it runs through the park. This has been requested by SPRA previously.</p>
<p>Funding agreed from elsewhere</p>	<p>£20,000 (Final amount TBC)</p> <p>Surrey County Council have agreed to fund the majority of the works given it is a flood alleviation project and will provide further biodiversity value to the area. These funds have been provisionally agreed at ~£20,000 but are dependent upon quotes to guide the actual amount. The first initial quote received is £17,000.</p>

Please identify where services will be delivered	Staines Park, Staines
How have you identified the need for carbon reduction or environmental improvements?	The need for works has been based on the recent event of catastrophic failure of the Sweeps Ditch pump that led to water loss throughout the ditch for a number of days. The requirement therefore is to ensure key habitat in ditch is retained in the event of a catastrophic pump failure. Additionally, the ongoing need to respond to potential food risk, biodiversity decline and climate change (mitigation and adaptation).

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.

Appendix 1

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

Appendix 1

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?	