

Ward Community Fund Proposal Form

Please read the **Guide to the Ward Community Fund** before you fill in this form

Then complete Section 1: Budget Proposal.

If you are proposing to deliver the project yourself, please complete Section 2: Delivery agency as well. We can help you with this or do it for you – see who to contact in the **Guide to the Ward Community Fund**.

Continue or separate sheets if you need to, or expand the boxes if you are filling in the form electronically.

Section 1: Budget Proposal

1. Name of Ward

Beaumont Leys

2. Title of proposal

Environmental Improvements to Beaumont Lodge Grounds and Neighbouring Nature Garden

3. Name of group or person making the proposal

Beaumont Lodge Neighbours Association and Local Residents, assisted by Parks Services (Area 1)

4. Short description of proposal. Please include information on **how the money will be spent, who will benefit, when they will benefit, and how we will know when the proposal has been successful**.

It is important that your answer to this question is clear, because we will only pay the costs when we can see evidence that the outcomes you describe here have been achieved. You can provide further details in your supporting information if you want to.

Project Background

The local community (through Beaumont Lodge Neighbourhood Association) have secured a lease over the Beaumont Lodge outbuilding (the old barn / former 'Vietnamese Centre'). This facility will be opened up to the community early 2009. The surrounding grounds are in a very poor, overgrown state, occasionally subject to vandalism and anti social behaviour.

In 2007 Parks Services, on behalf of the local community, submitted a proposal to the Area Committee that, among other things, sort to reinstate the Lodge Gardens (Appendix 1). Support letters from the Beaumont Lodge Neighbourhood Association and Friends of Bennion Pools Nature Area accompanied the application. Unfortunately the application arrived too late for

consideration by the Area Ward Committee, and the project lapsed.

In the interim, however, some of the components of the initial funding request have been undertaken by Parks Services, in association with the local Friends of Groups and conservation volunteers. The Friends of Bennion Pools have also secured a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery, and Parks Services.

In partnership with the local community and schools, Parks Services are currently undertaking improvements to the neighbouring Beaumont Lodge Nature Garden. This has involved the cutting back of vegetation, planting of trees, bulbs and wildflowers.

The future use of the main Lodge building is currently under review.

Project Proposal

Working with local residents, schools and volunteer groups it is proposed to (a) re-instate and improve the grounds surrounding the Beaumont Lodge Community Centre, and (b) further improve the (neighbouring) Beaumont Lodge Neighbourhood Garden through:

(a) Beaumont Lodge Community Centre Grounds

- ◆ Establishment of a new herb garden
- ◆ Establishment of small, enclosed orchard / nature area
- ◆ Planting of new specimen trees befitting of historic lodge and grounds
- ◆ Installation of appropriate signage boards
- ◆ Provision of a seat
- ◆ Provision of bird / bat boxes

(b) Beaumont Lodge Nature Garden

- ◆ Provision of wildflowers & shrubs
- ◆ Provision of bird boxes

Project Justification and Benefits

Environmental improvements (as proposed) will benefit local residents and schools, users of the Community Centre, Beaumont Lodge, the existing Shopping Centre, and the local wildlife. It will also benefit visitors generally (to the nearby Bennion Pools Nature Area and Castle Hill Country Park) – Indeed, the proposals complement recent and/or planned works for neighbouring parks and green spaces.

A pleasant, attractive garden setting adds considerably to the value of the historic lodge as a centre for community, learning and enterprise.

In short, what is presently an under-utilised, to some extent neglected and occasionally abused space might be transferred into an attractive community asset.

Likewise, recent improvement works to the Beaumont Lodge Nature Garden have made this visually prominent site more attractive and safe – The site

being next to a much-used walkway (the Black Pad'), and regularly used as a short cut by people accessing the shops. Further planting, and provision of bird boxes, would further enhance this site for people and wildlife. It would also allow concerned local residents to be actively involved in further improvement works, and feel that they have a real say in the on-going conservation, development and improvement of their parks and green spaces.

Partnership Working & Educational Linkage

In all instances Park Services seek to maximise the involvement of the local community, including the local schools and conservation volunteers. It is envisioned, for example, that local primary children will be involved in the planting of trees, shrubs, wildflowers and pubs. We would also undertake a 'Community Works' day. Once complete, both projects would provide a valuable outdoor education resource, complementing the provisions being installed at nearby Bennion Pools Nature Area & Castle Hill Country Park.

Health & Safety Issues / Reduce Crime & Disorder

As noted, recent works at Beaumont Lodge Nature Garden have improved this particular site from a public safety point of view (through improved site lines, removal of glass etc. – Refer photo(s), attached). The garden area attached to the community centre building / Beaumont Lodge is currently in a deplorable state (largely due to disuse and vandalism – photos attached). While Parks have requested Property Services to make safe derelict wall and fencing, the removal of thorns, excessive vegetation and rubbish is a pre-requisite to the opening of Community Centre building. Improved vegetation management, new plantings, fencing and provision of gate (to proposed orchard area) send a clear signal to the local community that this area/facility is safe, pleasant and well-managed. Hopefully a well-managed, well-used facility will deter, or at least reduce incidence of ASB too.

Site Presentation & Promotion

Parks Services have also produced a basic A4 leaflet entitled 'Beaumont Lodge & Nature Garden'. This could be put on the LCC / Parks website & be distributed locally. Signage proposed for the site would highlight natural and cultural heritage of area. Education packs will eventually prepared for the schools.

5. Have you provided supporting information?

Tick if yes

6. What is the total cost to the Community Meeting?

7. How have you estimated or calculated the cost? Please show each item of expenditure and say whether it is an estimate or an actual cost.

| Item | Cost £ | Estimate or actual cost? |
|--|--------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Beaumont Lodge Community Centre Grounds</i> | | |
| Ground clearance & preparation for planting & | 288 * | Estimate |

| | | |
|---|-------|----------|
| person x 4hrs x£8p/h (average community participation) | | |
| Specimen Trees, stake & ties x3 £100 | 300 * | Estimate |
| Fruit Trees, stake & ties x6 £20 | 120 * | Estimate |
| New Gate (materials) | 170 | Estimate |
| In kind contribution labour costs 4hrs x £10 | 40 * | Estimate |
| New Herbs (30 varieties) | 200 | Estimate |
| In kind contribution labour (plant) 2hrs x 2 persons @ £8 p/h | 32 * | Estimate |
| New Fence (materials –8m) | 300 | Estimate |
| In kind contribution 2 persons x 4hrs @ £10 p/h | 80 * | Estimate |
| New Seat | 260 | Estimate |
| In kind contribution (installation) | 10 * | Estimate |
| New Information Board | 500 | Estimate |
| In kind contribution | 10 * | Estimate |
| Sub Total | 1430 | Estimate |
| Sub Total (in kind contribution) | 880* | Estimate |
| <i>Beaumont Lodge Nature Garden</i> | | |
| Wildflower plugs & shrubs | 200 | Estimate |
| In kind contribution | 10 * | Estimate |
| Bird & Bat boxes | 10 | Estimate |
| In kind contribution (installation) | 10 * | Estimate |
| Sub Total | 210 | Estimate |
| Sub Total (in kind contribution) | 20 * | Estimate |
| Total Cost | 1640 | |
| Total Cost (in kind contribution) * | 900 * | |

8. Have you tried to get funding for this project from anywhere else, either in the Council or from another organisation? If so, please give details

Yes. An earlier application to Abbey Beaumont Leys Ward Committee (Parks Services 18/10/2007 – Appended. Original letters of support for project forwarded to Members Services 2007).

Funds for all trees, stakes and ties are being sought through LCC 10,000 Trees Project.

Property Services have been requested to demolish/make safe the dilapidated wall, and remove the (dangerous) metal fencing to the rear of the 'garden area' / vandalised wall.

9. Who proposed the project? Please provide contact details.

| | |
|--|---|
| Name of contact person | Local residents / Beaumont Lodge Neighbours C/- Stuart Marbrook |
| Your position in organisation or group | Area Parks Manager (Area 1) |

| | |
|--|---|
| Name of organisation or group | Park Services |
| Address Park House Abbey Park Abbey Park Road Leicester City Council LE4 5AQ | |
| Phone number 222 1000 | Email Stuart.marbrook@leicester.gov.uk |

Section 2: Delivery agency (this could be a single person, group of people or a group or organisation)

10. Who will deliver the project? Please provide contact details.

| | |
|--|--|
| Name of contact person | Stefan Cabaniuk / Denise Jarvis |
| Your position in organisation or group | Parks Officer / Senior Parks Officer |
| Name of organisation or group | Parks Services |
| Address As above. | |
| Project to be delivered in association with Beaumont Lodge Neighbourhood Association, Local residents & Schools. | |
| Phone number(s): 2333024 (SC) / 2333028 (DJ) | Email: Stefan.cabaniuk@leicester.gov.uk Denise.Jarvis@leicester.gov.uk |

11. Declaration

I have read the *Guide to the Ward Community Fund* and I accept the arrangements described in that guide. I confirm that the information I have given on this form is true. I will inform the council immediately if any of the information I have given on the form changes.

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| Name | Stuart Marbrook |
| Signature | |
| Date | 28 November 2008 |

Please send this completed form back to:

Bhawna Arya, Member Support Team, 2nd Floor, Town Hall, Leicester City Council, LEICESTER, LE1 9BG.

Fax No: 0116 229 8827