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## Neighbourhood Portion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Bath

### GRANT APPLICATION FORM Round 15, September 2023.

#### SECTION 1: APPLICANT

##### 1) Contact Details:

Name:	Jacky Wilkinson
Organisation:	B&NES Allotments Association.
Address:	
Phone number:	07969785929
E-mail address:	Jackywilkinson99@gmail.com

##### 2) Project Details:

2.1 Have you or your organisation previously applied for funding from Neighbourhood Portion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Bath
<b>No.</b>
2.2 Please provide a clear description of your project proposal – including your outcomes and objectives (maximum 300 words)
<b>Water-my-Plot.</b> The B&NES Allotments Association (AA) has over 600 members and is a democratically run not-for-profit organisation.

**This project aims to contribute to tackling the climate and biodiversity emergencies by promoting sustainable water use and regenerative gardening techniques, primarily across the Council's 1,210 allotment plots.**

**It has the support of the Councils Parks and Green Spaces officers.**

We aim to reduce mains-water use and water waste on all plots by providing an accessible, efficient and sustainable water system for every allotment in B&NES, maximising rain water storage and natural water supplies where ever possible. We will promote regenerative organic gardening techniques to maximise water retention, carbon storage and healthy soils. We also aim to provide access to reliable, accessible supplies of mulches and organic composts to all plots in order to reduce the need to water.

### 2.3 Reasons for supporting this project (maximum 300 words)

**As the climate changes, we are all being affected by water shortages and changing growth patterns. We recognise the need to change the way we do things. Water, the amount of it, the quality of it, and the availability of it, has been identified in a 2022 survey of our members as a key barrier to more efficient and sustainable growing. We will focus on practical projects on sites to deliver fair, efficient and sparing use of water. This will be supported by a series of talks and promotional events.**

**Allotments are an important contributor to urban biodiversity, as well as being a source of locally grown food. We believe that allotments should be at the vanguard of changing and adapting growing and gardening techniques.**

**Our sites have strong community links. Our partners will include: Avon Wildlife Trust, Bath Organic Group, The Natural History Consortium, The Urban Garden, Timebank Plus, Transition Bath, Wessex Water, Bath City Farm and of course, individual gardeners and growers across B&NES and B&NES Parks.**

### 2.4 Is this a new project or does this project link into an existing project? (Include a breakdown of how you plan to allocate the funding)

**This is a new project.**

**The project will be phased over three years and will be focussed on:**

- 1. Water collection and storage. Rain-water harvesting (individual and communal), improved access to existing supplies, innovative use of natural sources (springs, streams).**
- 2. Reduce water usage on allotments by promoting and adopting regenerative growing techniques, new species trials, composting trials.**
- 3. Promoting biodiversity on allotments. By introducing wildlife water enhancements, regenerative growing.**

#### **Year 1. £14,000**

- 1. Increase rain water harvesting capacity on all sites by arranging purchase of water butts and associated hardware and assisting with their installation.**
- 2. Provide communal larger scale rain water harvesting installations on three sites distributed across the city.**

3. Improve existing supply systems on two sites.
4. Set up a trial showcase “lo-water” regenerative allotment plot.
5. Design the research and carry out base-line assessment of current growing practice.
6. Commence research for the trial supported by Sarah Ayling and Neil Phillips, co-authors of *Allotments of the Future: Building Resilience to Climate Change*, a report commissioned by UWE.
7. Carry out feasibility studies for the innovative installations.
8. Facilitate a series of talks and/or practical demonstrations (2 in the first year) open to all growers and gardeners across B&NES.
9. Apply for permissions/licences where identified.
10. Apply for further grants.
11. Carry out interim review of project and identify revisions for Year 2.

**Year 2. £15,000**

1. Continue to increase individual rain water harvesting.
2. Provide communal rain water harvesting on two further sites.
3. Improve existing supplies on a further 3 sites.
4. Develop and install 2 innovative projects, including one off-grid solar powered source.
5. Provide wildlife water features on 2 sites.
6. Continue to provide a series of talks and practical demonstrations with key partners (4 in year 2).
7. Continue trials of regenerative gardening, new drought resistant types of plants and mulching.
8. Hold one large scale public event, and participate in two other events.
9. Carry out interim review of project and identify revisions for Year 3.

**Year 3. £13,500.**

1. Continue roll out of individual rain water harvesting systems.
2. Continue roll out of communal systems.
3. Continue roll out of innovative projects.
4. Collate and present data collected from trials.
5. Evaluate impact of project on water usage and growing practices across all allotments.
6. Hold one event.
7. Publish results on local and National media.

2.5 Target Start Date	Winter 2023/24	2.6 Target Completion Date	Winter 25/26
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**2.7 What milestones and targets have you included in the delivery of this project?**

1. Optimum capacity rain-water harvesting on all sites.(Year 1+5%, Year 2 15%, Year 25%).
2. Installation of a water system at Lyncombe Vale site (which has no mains water at present).
3. Significantly improved access to existing water systems on 5 sites.
4. Wildlife water projects on 2 sites.
5. Seven public events (over three years) carried out.( reaching at least 500 people).
6. Research published and widely disseminated including to all Council allotment holders in B&NES, public bodies and partners.

7. Provision of evidence (through the research, baseline assessment and monitoring) that there has been a change in growing practices and water usage on Council allotment sites in Bath.

2.8 If planning permission is required for this project has it been granted?  
If Yes - please include the dates and reference numbers for these permissions.

Planning permission is not expected to be required for most of the installations. Certain extraction licenses may be necessary, but this cannot be quantified until the installation is designed.

2.9 Are there any planned changes that will have an effect on the premises or location where your project is to be located?"

The project will be spread over a number of locations. These are not expected to be affected by any planned changes.

2.10 Are there any planned changes in circumstances to your organisations operation that we should be aware of?"

No.

### 3) Criteria

- 3.1 How does the project address the specific impacts of the new developments from which the funding has been generated? (You may consider this on a ward basis, a locality basis, or a city-wide basis.)

The CIL rate has been devised, amongst other things, to ensure that the impacts of the additional population on Green Infrastructure (which includes allotments) is mitigated throughout the city. The standards for GI are set out in the adopted Green Spaces Strategy. There is a significant unmet demand for allotments with a long waiting list with over 500 people in all areas, often with a two year wait.

This project will contribute to the quality and capacity of food growing on existing sites spread out around the city. It will also encourage the better understanding of the impacts of climate and biodiversity emergencies on how we do things at grass roots level, which aligns with the Councils priorities.

The project will make a contribution to the effective use of a limited natural resource in the City, which is under pressure from additional development. This contribution would be an important one in terms of encouraging water-awareness and the importance of sustainable approaches to growing local food and gardening with climate change in mind.

- 3.2 How does the project provide links to the locality in the area where development has taken place? (If your project has city wide impact you will need to demonstrate how the broader community in the city will benefit)

The project will be carried in several allotment sites in different locations. There are 1,210 allotment plots within these sites and many are run by more than one person. That's just the tip of the iceberg - plotholders are linked to their friends, families and wider communities. Allotment sites also host a number of other activities such as Mind (at Monksdale), communal orchards and joint ventures (poultry, bees etc). Surpluses are given to local organisations through Crop-Drop including – Three Ways School, Oasis, Mercy in Action Pantries, Youth Connect SW and others. It's a large and diverse community.

Through the talks and demonstration plots, in a very down-to-earth ways we will give our local communities access to knowledge about how to change the way they grow and garden in the light of climate changes.

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

The AA carried a survey of all the sites in Bath through our network of site representatives. We have identified some significant shortfalls in the quality and capacity of the plots and top of the list was the access to water. The project has been introduced and discussed at the 2022 AGM and at a further meeting of site representatives, one attended by Sarah Ayling (UWE). An initial call for projects generated a good response with some sites already aiming to set up communal rainwater harvesting installations. The interest in regenerative (organic) gardening is growing nationally and goes hand in hand with soil conservation, carbon capture and the efficient use of water.

We have already discussed partnerships with Bath City Farm, Wessex Water, The urban Garden, Avon Wildlife Trust, The Natural History Consortium, Bath Organic Group and Transition Bath.

3.4 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.

**Important Note:**

**This section is the key test that must be met for neighbourhood CIL funding to be allocated.**

**You will need provide an explanation of whether this project relates to infrastructure or to something else that is concerned with addressing the demands arising from development**

**An explanation is needed to show of how this project supports development of the area of in planning terms**

To be fully sustainable housing developments should be supported by appropriate high quality infrastructure. The Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is designed to provide the additional infrastructure needs generated by the new residents, including Green Infrastructure, such as parks, play space and allotments. The existing allotments provision is failing to satisfy the increasing demands placed upon them and the quality of the sites is in decline due to pressures on Local Authority spending. This is coupled with the wide spread concern about climate change and in particular concern by individuals about how they can help combat the impacts at a local level.

The project aims to contribute to improve the quality and capacity of the local food growing Green Infrastructure, for the most part held in the Council's portfolio, and to empower individuals through better understanding of how saving water, nurturing soils and regenerative growing techniques can help reduce carbon emissions, and tackle biodiversity losses.

This project will positively support the fundamental aim of the planning system which is to provide sustainable development. Currently new housing developments are failing to provide adequate local food growing infrastructure due to high site values. Sites for local food growing within the City boundary are not realistically available, so improvement and intensification of the existing infrastructure has to be seriously considered.

**4) Project Contact Details:**

Contact details for the project (if different to person completing the form)	J. Wilkinson . Jackywilkinson99@gmail.com
Project Name	Water-my-Plot. <b>(WmP).</b>
Project Location	At least 7 B&NES allotment sites in Bath.
Locality or Ward which will benefit from this project	Several wards.

**5) Funding:**

5.1 Total Cost of Project:	£55,200 over 3 years.
5.2 Amount of funding sought from Neighbourhood Portion of CIL Fund:	£39,500 over 3 years. Year 1: 17,400 Year 2: 15,700 Year 3: 6,400
5.3 Does this project benefit from any source of matched funding? (Include below the sources, dates funds agreed/expected and the amounts)	<p>£3,000 in match funding. Sources: B&amp;NES AA small grants Year 1; £3,000. (agreed) Year 2: £2,000. Year 3: £1,000.</p> <p>Bids to be made to: <b>Wessex Water</b>. (Environment Fund is closed until Jan24.) WW Environment Fund £2,000. (Lyncombe Vale) WW Community Fund £2,000. (Innox Park with City Farm). <b>National Lottery Community Fund</b> £1,000 (Events) <b>RHS</b> £1,000 (Plant and mulching trials).</p> <p><b>Individual plot-holders</b> contributions of at least 20% of costs towards materials. (Discount for Universal Credit recipients).</p>
5.3.1 Volunteering Hours:	300 (over 3 years) for committee and administration. Further hours, but difficult to quantify, by individual ploholders.
5.3.2 Additional Funds which have already been agreed:	B&NES AA: £3,000
5.3.3 Funds which have been applied for but are awaiting a decision:	None as yet

			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
1. Individual rain water harvesting, Including ploholder contribution (20%)	50 units @ £70	£4,200	20 units £1,680	20 units £1,680	10 units £840

