

Love Wildlife Competition – February 2023

Summary of eligible entries

	Organisation name	Type or org	Amount	Project Summary
1	St Mary's Primary School	Forest school	£200	Develop Forest School
2	Isebrook School	SEN school	£200	Enhance Woodland and Wetland Ecosystems
3	Southfield School for Girls	School	£1,000	Develop school pond
4	Grow Wild	Community Interest Company	£1,000	Clean up River Ise
5	Bishop Stopford School	School	£200	Develop outdoor space
6	Ise Valley Scout Group	Scouts	£200	Develop wildlife garden
7	Kettering Park Junior Academy	School	£1,000	Support Eco Club activity
8	The Green Patch (Managed by Groundwork Northamptonshire)	Charity	£1,000	Build a hedgehog highway
9	William Street Community Garden	Community or Voluntary Group	£1,000	Develop the community garden
10	Southend Allotment Association	Community or Voluntary Group	£200	Develop nesting bird habitats
11	Southend Allotment Association	Community or Voluntary Group	£200	Create night garden for moths and bats
12	C2C Social Action	Charity	£1,000	Create a horticultural therapy space

1: St Mary's Primary School

Fuller street
Kettering
NN16 0JH

£200

Please indicate your organisation's main role and purpose :

I am the Forest School leader

Please describe the project, indicating how it improves habitats for wildlife, promotes biodiversity and the wider benefit it brings to the community. :

It is a small patch of land, which was once part of the park. It is a beautiful area, with 6 well established trees that are home to birds. We have lots of brambles which help the visiting wildlife. Also we are lucky to be a nesting site for ladybirds.

What exactly will the funds pay for? :

We want to have an area for bees and others to visit. We would also like to invest in a mud kitchen, a hammock and anything that will encourage local wildlife to visit.

When will the activity happen? :

Once the weather is better we plan to get the child to plant some plants to encourage the wildlife.

2: Isebrook School

Isebrook school, Eastleigh Road ,Kettering,NN15 6PT
£200

Please indicate your organisation's main role and purpose :

teaching people with special education needs to become the best they possibly can.
To train hortic students to work in horticulture and environmental industries.

Please describe the project, indicating the costs involved, how it improves habitats for wildlife, promotes biodiversity and the wider benefit it brings to the community. :

We are situated on the border between a woodland ecosystem and a wetland ecosystem we see our project as a bridge between the two. We wish to create habitats where we can encourage butterflies that will forage both habitats. Build places for amphibians to over winter above the flood zone to provide a food source for butterflies and other insects. To build hedge hog dens to encourage them to breed and with the increase in biodiversity be able to sustain a viable population. To make feed and watering stations for woodland birds as well as nesting sites for water fowl (they often breed on this site anyway).

Most of the work will be done and designed for the students but we would like to work with local wildlife agency's to make sure we are growing species that are native to our area . We would like to reintroduce plants that are now rare in this area that were once common.

We would like to install owl and bird boxes to give much needed nest sites for small as well as larger birds then our students could study them. Our site is close to a river and is one of the few areas around here you can see bats . we would like to install bat boxes and with the wild flower areas we are planning we are sure to attract insects for them to feed on. Our site is badger and fox friendly we would like to look at ways we could make it deer friendly as well. Our work with the superbloom project last year created large areas or nectar rich corn flowers bringing insects in to feed we would like to continue with that.

What exactly will the funds pay for? :

We would look at the funds making deer gateways bird and bat boxes nesting platforms for redkite. Supplies of area appropriate wild flower seeds clearance and disposal of any materials found that are detrimental to the environment. Materials and equipment to enable our students to study the wildlife. binoculars books spotters guides may be even a cameras so we can film what goes on at night in the wildlife area.

When will the activity happen? :

We are already starting to clear the area and will plant seeds in the next month.

3: Southfield School for Girls

Southfield School
Lewis Road
Kettering
Northamptonshire
NN15 6HE

£1,000

Please indicate your organisation's main role and purpose :

School (state maintained) The main role of this organization is as a place of education.

Please describe the project, indicating the costs involved, how it improves habitats for wildlife, promotes biodiversity and the wider benefit it brings to the community. :

Our project, led by Eco Club students, is to develop a school pond at Southfield School. Our students are following the Eco Schools initiative and devising different environmental projects. The group were successful last year in gaining the Green Flag status for our school. One of the projects that they want to focus on this year is around Biodiversity. We do not have a pond and we feel it would be a great benefit for local wildlife and will increase biodiversity. It will also allow us to study habitats and the biodiversity, as part of our learning. With the removed soil, we will create a butterfly bank. The soil will be sculpted into a mound, and planted with various wildflower seeds. We are bidding for a £1000 grant, as this will not only include the purchase of the pond liner and pond plants, but the mini-digger hire to dig the pond and also the fencing around it, to make sure it is safe. It will be located in a quieter area of the school grounds, which has various trees and some established habitats. The addition of an aquatic habitat will attract different insects and also provide a water source for other wildlife. Our Geographers and Scientists will be able to learn more about biodiversity as well. I have spoken with staff from those curriculum areas and they are excited about creating such learning opportunities, which will benefit our community through education.

What exactly will the funds pay for? :

The funding will pay for a pond liner (approximately £60 from RSPB), pond plants (approximately £60 from Fish and Pond Centre) and also a mini-digger hire (approximately £200 from JW Clark). Our site staff will be able to provide the labour at no additional cost. Funding would also pay for fencing around the pond, to make it safe (anticipated to be approximately £300). We would also need 1 tonne bag of sand, to line the pond (approximately £70 from JW Clark). We would also need some large stones / rocks around the edge of the pond (approximately £250 from JW Clark). Finally, some wildflower seeds will be needed to create the butterfly bank (1kg for approximately £60 from Boston Seeds).

When will the activity happen? :

Depending on when we find out if we are successful with our project bid, the pond could be created by our Estates staff around Easter-time, and ideally during the school holidays, to limit any noise from machinery. Eco Club students can then develop the pond, in the summer term, by finishing it off and planting the pond plants. The pond could then be utilised in learning opportunities in Science and Geography.

4: Grow Wild

10 Market St, Kettering NN16 0AH
Community Interest Company

£1,000

Please indicate your organisation's main role and purpose :

To support people with disabilities, Neuro diversity and mental health to access nature and outdoor activities by supporting contribution to local green spaces and environmental projects

Please describe the project, indicating the costs involved, how it improves habitats for wildlife, promotes biodiversity and the wider benefit it brings to the community. :

The River Ise in Kettering has become heavily polluted with rubbish and debris, affecting the habitats of the wildlife that rely on the river. To address this issue, we propose a project to clean up the river and improve the habitats of the wildlife that call it home.

The project will begin with a community-led clean-up event, involving local volunteers, to remove rubbish and debris from the river and its banks. The cost of equipment and supplies for the clean-up event is estimated at £500, including gloves, rubbish bags, and other necessary cleaning equipment.

To further improve habitats for wildlife, we will install a series of nesting boxes for birds and bat boxes in nearby trees. This will create new homes for local wildlife and help promote biodiversity in the area. The cost of materials and installation for the nesting boxes and bat boxes is estimated at £250.

The wider benefits of this project to the community are numerous. The clean-up event will bring together local residents to work towards a common goal, promoting a sense of community and civic pride. The project will also improve the aesthetic value of the river and its surroundings, making it a more attractive destination for local residents and visitors. By promoting biodiversity and improving habitats for wildlife, the project will also help to preserve the natural heritage of the area, benefiting future generations.

In summary, our River Ise clean-up project will involve a community-led clean-up event, installation of nesting and bat boxes, and tree planting and wildflowers. The total cost of the project is estimated at £950, leaving £50 for contingency purposes. This project will help to improve the habitats of the wildlife that rely on the river, promote biodiversity, and provide wider benefits to the community.

What exactly will the funds pay for? :

Equipment to clean river that includes waters bin hoops litter pickers and material to build bat and bird boxes and wildflower seeds

When will the activity happen? :

This will take place late spring early summer, with flow up events throughout the year

5: Bishop Stopford School

The Headlands
Kettering
NN15 6BJ
£200

Please indicate your organisation's main role and purpose :

Bishop Stopford is one of the largest secondary schools in Kettering. Consequently we can make a huge impact " both through projects on site, and in educating our students on the impact they can have on the environment around them. We desire that every student should realise his or her unique potential, and empower them to make change themselves. Our curriculum nurtures and challenges, prioritises individual worth and social cohesion and fosters independence and interdependence. Through both the taught and wider curriculum,

such as environmental projects like these, we provide the foundation for future success, developing both depth and breadth

Please describe the project, indicating the costs involved, how it improves habitats for wildlife, promotes biodiversity and the wider benefit it brings to the community. :

The vision is to create an outdoor space for the school, which will promote biodiversity, bring back the bees and encourage the birds whilst equally providing a sensory Garden of Reflection. We have selected an area of the school site which will lend itself well to this project and our hope is to plant trees in November as the area develops. We would like to plant many flowers including lavender, create a large herb planter (for the herbs to be used by The Olive Grove school canteen), make 3 large bucket ponds, create a seating area and have bird feeders and upcycled homemade wind chimes. We have some community days coming up in the summer where we plan to do all the building and planting, and our on-site team have agreed to make us some herb planters from pallets.

An Eco Group already exists within the school that meets every Thursday so we hope to engage this group with the upkeep and development of this project. We see this as just a beginning. We also have a year 12 student very keen to start a horticulture club in September 23. I am keen for the students to 'own' the project and see this as something they have created and invested in. We are submitting our application following a focus group of year 7 and 8 students. These students had lots of ideas for future projects including hanging planters and a beehive! We will see!

As school chaplain, I am keen for the school to have a space to escape the noise and to be outside with nature. I believe that this will provide benefits for mental, spiritual and emotional health, as well as the amazing improvements this will make for local biodiversity.

What exactly will the funds pay for? :

- . Herbs - £10 for 3 plants. £10 per herb, and 5 herbs out of this selection, whichever are in stock at the time = £50 (mint, rosemary, chives, parsley, sage, dill, lemon balm, thyme, marjoram)
- . Large lavender plants - £9.99 x2 = £20
- . Bird feed - 13KG pack £21.50 (Mixed bird seed from Vine House Farm)
- . 3 bucket ponds - £40
- . Pond weed - £40
- . Perennial flowers - £20 - a mix of flowers ready to plant and some seeds to grow on
- . Compost - 3 bags for £10. 6 bags total = £20
- . Materials to make bird feeders - jute string £3.99, Coccoina Natural glue £4.50, paint? - Approximately £10, most of the materials will be upcycled.

Please note I have resubmitted this application having sought advice and on finding out more exact information regarding costings and materials. We have decided to take out the application for seating as we recognise this is something that could be created in house as a separate project.

When will the activity happen? :

The school has a unique opportunity to undertake this project in the form of a new Activities Week in June 2023. Two days have been allocated to year 8 students to be involved in community projects. This a project to benefit the school community as a whole and will take place on Monday 26th and Wednesday 28th June. This will be the start of the project which will then become a longer-term vision.

6 Ise Valley Scout Group

Grantown Close on Ise Lodge, Kettering

£200

Please indicate your organisation's main role and purpose :

The Ise Valley Scout Group are a group of approx 100 young people aged 6 to 16 based on the Ise Lodge in Kettering. We strive to bring the fun, friendship and adventure of Scouting to as many young people as possible in the local area and enhance our local area with community projects and activities.

Please describe the project, indicating the costs involved, how it improves habitats for wildlife, promotes biodiversity and the wider benefit it brings to the community. :

Our garden area at our hut, which is next to a public footpath and visible to passers by, needs some love! We would like to make it a more wildlife friendly place by planting some low maintenance bee and butterfly friendly perennials in our flower beds, build some bird and bat boxes for our well established trees and some big hotels and create a bird feeding station. As a group the Young people and their families would be involved in creating the project and then maintaining it for future generations. We are located close to the river Ise and know there are many insects, birds, animals and butterflies locally but at the moment our garden is not very attractive to them. During our community events such as our May Fair local people will be able to visit the garden as well as enjoy it when walking past and benefit from the increase in wildlife it will bring. The space is also used by various community groups such as playgroups. Our aim would be for the Young people to carry out as much of the work as possible, building the bird and bat boxes and bug hotels, planting and maintaining the perennials and making and regularly maintains bird feeders. We often have family work party days where our members, their families, and the wider community are invited to help us in the garden and having more infrastructure would likely increase engagement and encourage more volunteers.

What exactly will the funds pay for? :

DIY bat and bird boxes to be built by Young people and installed on site.
Low maintenance bee & butterfly friendly perennial plants and compost for flower beds.
A bird feeding station with different feeders and various bird seed & feed.
Resources to create our own bug hotels such as wood, logs, bamboo canes.
Gardening tools as necessary.
Maybe some fruit trees to screen off the neighbours garden in a wildlife friendly way.

When will the activity happen? :

Depending on when funds received but preferably during the summer months with a "grand opening" once finished for families and the community- we'll send you an invite- we make great cakes!

7 Kettering Park Junior Academy

Kettering Park Infant Academy, Wood Street , Kettering NN16 9SE
£1000

Please indicate your organisation's main role and purpose : Kettering Park Junior Academy is a junior school with over 300 KS2 pupils

Please describe the project, indicating the costs involved, how it improves habitats for wildlife, promotes biodiversity and the wider benefit it brings to the community. :

As a school we have been working closely with Cllr Emily Fedorowycz to improve the local environment. We are hoping to plant wild flowers in the park opposite the school to encourage insects. We are also going to set up a weekly Eco after school club - this will mean that pupils will be able to plant in the school gardens and create habitats for insects. We are also going to use the school council to promote looking after the local community and promoting biodiversity through a series of child led assemblies. We are also going to organise child led litter picks in the park opposite the school.

What exactly will the funds pay for? :

We would use the funds to support and promote our school Eco club and buy resources to support their work both in and out of school. Planting materials, gardening tools, litter pickers, science equipment for pupils to explore the new green areas that they produce. Some bird boxes/ houses.

When will the activity happen? :

The project will be ongoing throughout the rest of the academic year. The Eco club launched in Summer term.

8 The Green Patch (Managed by Groundwork Northamptonshire)

The Business Exchange, Rockingham Rd Unit 3
£1,000

Please indicate your organisation's main role and purpose :

The Green Patch is an award winning community garden project nestled in the heart of England, hosting volunteer days, children's clubs, education sessions and family events. The Green patch has been established on a 2.5 acre site by the River Ise in Kettering, Northamptonshire. It features a community garden with four large polytunnels, beehives, a health and wellbeing garden, grass paddock, free play areas, a wildlife orchard and wildlife ponds. There are ducks, chickens, rabbits, and....a cat.

Please describe the project, indicating the costs involved, how it improves habitats for wildlife, promotes biodiversity and the wider benefit it brings to the community. : :

Our idea is to encourage a hedgehog highway and improve public education around hedgehogs along the River Ise Valley for the section of the River Ise that runs through Kettering.

Hedgehog populations in the UK have rapidly diminished over the last 50 years. After several reported sightings along the River Ise we know there is a population in Kettering that we can support.

The River Ise is a wonderful nature corridor that runs through Kettering. The Green Patch is perfectly situated alongside the River Ise in such a way as to provide support to Hedgehog populations. We have seen three hedgehogs over the last year and with more support there could be many more living safely in the River Ise Valley.

The Green Patch has one hedgehog house (built by children from the local community) and with this funding we would like to add two more houses to the Green Patch in our wildlife areas. We would involve local community members and schools in the construction so there is a community building and educational element to implementing the housings.

We would build a third house to give away to local residents or local group to place along the valley and look after.

We would like to create a high quality educational brochure and poster for distribution to local residents and allotment sites along the River Ise and across Kettering as a whole via

local environmental groups social media, including the Kettering Council social media feeds. Educational materials would encourage creating gaps in fences, removal of slug pellets and netting to allow safe foraging highways.

We think this could be a beautiful example of a community coming together to care for local wildlife.

What exactly will the funds pay for? :

3 hedgehog houses: £550

Hedgehog housings would be built out of preserved timber and buried under a sod mounds with painted signs to indicate their function.

Amount includes costs of liaising with local schools and volunteers in order to make it a community-wide project.

Poster and brochure research, writing and design: £350 Posters and brochures would include details about Hedgehog lifecycle, current status and challenges for Hedgehog populations, and ways in which we can help them in our gardens.

We would include Kettering Council logos to indicate it was a council funded program.

Poster and brochure printing and distribution: £100.00

When will the activity happen? :

May-July 2023

9: William Street Community Garden

48 William Street, William Street, Kettering NN16 9RR

£1,000

Please indicate your organisation's main role and purpose :

Our main objective is to create an organic garden for our community to grow together, wellbeing and learning are our primary focus. Located in All Saints Church. Open to all residents of Kettering to raise awareness of the value of growing your own food and flowers without the use of chemicals. Raising awareness of wider ecological issues to show how maintaining biodiversity and attracting wildlife is vital for healthy crops and supporting people with the current cost of living. We aim to run workshops and educational activities that will benefit our community in Kettering.

Please describe the project, indicating the costs involved, how it improves habitats for wildlife, promotes biodiversity and the wider benefit it brings to the community. :

The William Street Community Garden was established to continue the community spirit that happened in William Street during the 2020 lockdown. Working with All Saints Church, members of William Street are building the community garden with the intention of encouraging the wider Kettering residents to join in. We will work with the residents, other community groups, councils, schools and local businesses to learn and grow food organically and lead more sustainable lives. All of these will support people with their wellbeing.

The benefits to the wider community will be in creating a safe outdoor space where they can meet with other people. Engage in moderate physical activity and learn about ecological issues.

Children will be encouraged to join in and we already have a visit by Bishop Stortford School planned in June. They will learn more about where food comes from and identify crops, flowers, insects and animals as easily as they do Pokemon.

As well as growing vegetables we will also plant companion flowers to attract bees, butterflies, insects and vertebrates. Compost bins, bug hotels hedgehog houses and bird baths will be built to again encourage wildlife either directly or providing food source.

in the future we would like to build a butterfly bank, which will attract more diversity biodiversity as well as butterflies.

With the growing of crops, planting of companion and wild flowers, building of structures for wildlife we believe will have a 'biodiversity hub' within the centre of our town.

Encouraging an inclusive community to meet outdoors and support each other we will improve mental and physical health.

Children's environmental learning will improve through organised activities.

So far, through community fundraising and grants we have raised £1,500 which is being spent on Phase 1 growing vegetables. Further costs are ongoing.

What exactly will the funds pay for? :

Building a Bug mansion Estimate cost £300. This will be a solid structure as we need to think about health and safety in the Church grounds, the internal compartments will be filled by children with twigs, logs, terracotta pots and bound bamboo and reeds. We are looking to have this built by June in time for the already arranged visit of Bishop Stortford School. The bug hotel will be built to encourage various invertebrates, bees and insects. Children will be asked to monitor activity and learn more about the inhabitants.

- Compost Bins Estimate Costs £417 for 3. To boost microorganisms & worm population, keeping the organic soil healthy. Another great source of mini beast for children to learn about. Will also encourage birds to feed on the mini beasts. Compost bins will help in teaching the community and children how food and garden waste can be reused to create more food growth. This will impact on the amount of waste that the community sends to landfill.

- Hedgehog Houses £60. The garden is an ideal place to create a Hedgehog Highway with its close proximity to the Pleasure Park. The houses will provide food and safe shelter for the hedgehogs.

- RSPB Ceramic Bird Bath £40

- Rain Dishes £14.99 for 3

- National Trust Water Dish £9.99

All of the above are to provide a water source for insects and birds the garden.

- Herbs £50. These will consist of Marjoram, Mint, Fennel, Chives, Rosemary, Sage, Parsley, Thyme and Hysop, encouraging bees and other pollinators.

- a wall of plants and climbers for Butterflies and the pollinators eg Verbena Bonariensis cost £100

- Various books and posters for the children to identify and monitor the mini beast and wildlife. Estimate £100 Existing funds cover will overspend

When will the activity happen? :

The garden has already started. In November we planted 1,500 Spring bulbs inside the south perimeter fence of the church. These are now shooting and will soon flower. We have already began to sow and grow organic flowers and vegetables that will only benefit from a biodiverse environment.

Raised beds planters have been bought and will be built in March for vegetables, flowers and herbs.

As soon as we received the prize fund we will begin purchasing and building the structures.

The bug hotels will be ready for the visit of Bishop Stortford school in June.

10: Southend Allotment Association

9 Thomas Road

Kettering

NN15 6HD

£200

Please indicate your organisation's main role and purpose :

We manage the allotments off Whiteford Drive on behalf of KTC and our tenants.

Please describe the project, indicating the costs involved, how it improves habitats for wildlife, promotes biodiversity and the wider benefit it brings to the community. :

Enhance the nesting of garden birds within the allotments thus raising biodiversity.

Encouraging insectivores will hopefully benefit their natural predation of insects harmful to the vegetables being grown.

There is an increasing diversity of songbirds which has the additional benefit to the local residents as it has been proven that listening to their song and engaging with nature is good for mental health. I also aim to get the young children of our plot holders to adopt a box and paint it in the corresponding colours ie brown/red for a robin box and get them with their parent to install at their plot or nearby . I hope this will engage the young plot holders in the project. I aim to put up a gazebo in the school holiday and with their guardians have a painting session. I will produce a fact sheet with info about their bird and the benefits of them to the environment.

I am asking for money to buy wood, hinges and paint.

What exactly will the funds pay for? :

2 sheets of marine ply (@ £50 each) (8 boxes per sheet) 16 hinges (£1.5 each pack), (Nails £2), Insect friendly sealant (£17), Range of Acrylic colour pain various colours 12 pack (£30) pack of 30 brushes (£5) . Any remainder (price of wood varies) to be spent on printing of factsheets and bird food to scatter near each nestbox.

Myself my son and one other plothead will make the boxes and seal them prior to the children painting them and this part only with supervision from their guardian. This will only be open to children of the plotheaders. (As a teacher I do have a DBS but it would be safer to have parental supervision).

I will then topcoat the boxes.

Any woodworking tools will be provided by myself. All the birdboxes to be installed by adults but only at heights below those requiring ladders.

I have already downloaded RSPB plans/ guidelines for the 3 varieties of boxes.

When will the activity happen? :

As soon as funds are available (if successful) I will build the boxes at weekends. The painting would be on a day in the school holidays on site at the gardens and then install the boxes as soon as they are dry.

It is too late really to catch the birds this season as they should be in place by FEB. The factsheet will include a simple ID guide so it is hoped the children will continue to use this while they visit the allotments.

11: Southend Allotment Association

9 Thomas Road

Kettering

NN15 6HD

£200

Please indicate your organisation's main role and purpose :

We manage Southend allotments on behalf of KTC

Please describe the project, indicating the costs involved, how it improves habitats for wildlife, promotes biodiversity and the wider benefit it brings to the community. :

The Night Garden:

Butterfly Moth and Bat enrichment programme. To build a butterfly bank to enrich the flora which attracts butterflies and moths, which in turn are food for bats. Banks will be dug by plottolders in suitable locations within the allotment. I would like to bid for the seeds to start this. There are already bats which forage in the evenings. There are many butterflies moths and bees in our allotment. "weed" Buddlea trees will be transplanted by the plottolders to the rear of the butterfly bar. It is hoped that this will enrich the biodiversity. Many of the plants that encourage bats prey also attract beneficial insects that will scavenge on insects that are harmful to vegetables. They also release scent in the evenings that local residents will enjoy. Bat boxes will be placed in the trees near to the bats foraging routes. I am also requesting funds for these boxes and it is cheaper to buy than to make them. I am also asking to fund the purchase of alternate slug deterrent. The use of metaldehyde slug pellets is cheap but kills other insects and birds. I would like to purchase a stock of an alternative (Shell On Earth) to support the growth of the seeds. I would then introduce a swapage scheme where plottolders bring an old pellet pot and fill for the same price as the toxic version. (this would create a sustainable supply). So hopefully this integrated approach will enrich biodiversity but also help with the mental health of plottolders and local residents.

What exactly will the funds pay for? :

National Trust Glamis Bat Boxes (@£9.99) x 10
Bees and butterfly seed mix 250g (£49.99)x1 Bat mix wildflower seed bombs 3 pack (@£9)
18 Litre bags of "Sarah Raven Shell on Earth" bags (@£ 18.95)x2

When will the activity happen? :

I have already surveyed the best areas for this, using the bat detector to survey the bats foraging route/ and a south facing aspect (As per meeting Toller Meeting Rooms Butterfly Talk 22/2/23).

We have buddlea trees as weeds on the allotment to transport.

As soon as funds are ready the seeds will be planted and plottolders will help erect the bat boxes along their route but also on plottolders sheds.

Any leftover seeds will be scattered along the Whiteford Drive verge that KTC are maintaining as a bee bar.

12: C2C Social Action

Kettering Women's Centre
1 Meadow Road
Kettering
NN16 8TL
£1,000

Please indicate your organisation's main role and purpose :

C2C SocialAction support, inspire and motivate women experiencing social disadvantage due to history of offending, domestic abuse, drug/alcohol dependence or mental health issues.

We work with some of the most vulnerable women in society, who often experience social isolation due to multiple complex needs. Many are victims of crime and have experienced childhood trauma, domestic violence, or both.

A criminal record, history of addiction, homelessness and lack of self-confidence and self-belief means that few of our women believe they would be given another chance. In our experience, addressing the causes stands the best chance of ending the cycle of reoffending.

Please describe the project, indicating the costs involved, how it improves habitats for wildlife, promotes biodiversity and the wider benefit it brings to the community. :

In June 2022, Kettering Women's Centre moved from Rockingham Road Baptist Church to its new home at Meadow Road. This afforded us to offer support to our service users 5 days a week instead of 2, but unfortunately, this meant we had to leave the much-loved garden behind. For some of our women, the garden was a place of safety and peace. Currently, our outside space is a concrete yard.

If we were fortunate to gain the funds needed, we would love to transform the area into an environment where the women again, feel safe and peaceful. We would achieve this by providing opportunities for the women to grow plants, fruit and vegetables as well as encourage wildlife with the support of our Horticultural Therapists from our Northampton Allotment project. We aim to do this in as much of an environmentally friendly way as possible, by only using recycled tools and materials. By doing this, the women would see how viable it would be for them to replicate at home. We would facilitate sessions where the women can acquire or demonstrate skills to build planters, herb and butterfly gardens, bird boxes and feeders, bee and bug hotels and hedgehog houses. All the while, improving their mental health and wellbeing.

Eventually, through gaining these new skills, we hope to encourage the women to expand on their experiences and become involved with Groundworks or develop their own outside spaces.

What exactly will the funds pay for? :

The costs incurred would be for all the materials, equipment and tools needed to build the planters and wildlife environments, including soil. Gardening gloves and overalls for each of the women. We would also like to offer a sheltered area for therapeutic 1-1 meetings and as these need to be confidential, a summer house would be the ideal facility, this would also be used for group wellbeing sessions when the weather does not permit for this to take place in the open. In addition to this, we would need a lockable shed to house all the tools and equipment.

When will the activity happen? :

We aim to begin transforming the concrete backyard during the spring of 2023. By the summer, we would like the space to be functioning 5 days a week, offering a variety of therapeutic activities for our service users. With the support of our Horticultural Practitioner, we will continuously look at ways to expand and encourage the plant and animal life in the space we have available.
