

Neighbourhood Fund proposals - Area Committee 21st September 2023**Application No. 1**

Funding Source	Neighbourhood Fund
Name of Project	Washington 60 Design Challenge
Lead Organisation	MOBIE

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total NF Application
£30,000		£30,000

ALL PROJECT DETAIL TAKEN VERBATIM FROM APPLICATIONS**Project Description:**

MOBIE (George Clarke's Educational charity - www.mobie.org.uk) inspires young people with future living and home design competitions and challenges, 14 to date. George having been born and raised in Washington is keen to celebrate the town's 60th anniversary with a student design challenge open to ALL schools in Washington. The design brief will be to design a 21st Century version of the homes and spaces that made Washington special in the '60's and '70's. Students will be asked to design, innovative, sustainable, housing designs of varying sizes and types around a courtyard area on the Residential Development Land allocated by Sunderland CC at James Steel Park in Washington. The challenge and supporting events will be led by George Clarke and his MOBIE Head of Education. The design brief and challenge details and launch will be held in the town (date and venue tbc) in October with a closing date for entries in June 2024. There will be an awards and presentation event hosted by George Clarke in July as a part of the 60th anniversary celebrations. We will showcase an exhibition of the student design submissions and showcase their site history research and presentations. As a part of the background research, local young students will be helped to conduct interviews with older residents to recollect the early days of the new town and produce a film/video of these interviews. MOBIE with the support of some of their university design students will engage with as many schools as possible to hold workshops, design masterclasses and practical sessions to help them with this project. We will also provide a 'tool-belt' of supporting material for their teachers. These workshops and design classes will run throughout the eight months of the challenge to include as many schools and students as possible. We will also hold promotional events in venues such as the Galleries and use our contacts for as much press and social media coverage as possible. The finals and awards presentations will be a special event with an exhibition following.

Neighbourhood and Community Board recommend approval as meets the Celebrations for Washington 60 priority in the Washington Area Plan

Recommendation: Approve

Application No. 2

Funding Source	Neighbourhood Fund
Name of Project	Washington Events 23/24
Lead Organisation	Community Opportunities

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total NF Application
£76,000	£6,000	£70,000

ALL PROJECT DETAIL TAKEN VERBATIM FROM APPLICATIONS

Project description:

Community Opportunities (CO) propose to provide an inclusive, community and cultural events programme across Washington which will celebrate the history of the area and enable the further development of the partnership between Washington Area Committee and the local community. CO are familiar with the Washington area and its partners, having a delivery base at Albany Centre from which we deliver the Neighbourhood Fund/Cild REACT project, warm spaces, household fund, strength and balance sessions, cooking on a budget and a range of training and skills development courses. We deliver volunteering and community services from Bowes Railway, Springwell and environmental improvements at local green spaces, through the Washington Clean and Green Project. We deliver services for young people from outreach at a range of venues including Wessington School, Millennium Centre and local green spaces. We work with the Washington VCS project and Sunderland Alliance to support local Organisations to increase their capacity and identify opportunities for volunteering, growing community capacity and engaging with residents. SNCBC/CO ran the Washington Covid Hub and were the Lead Organisation distributing the Household Fund.

We have developed robust networks and partnership working arrangements in the Washington area over the last six years when we have delivered the Washington Area events, which has included Springwell Village 1940's weekend, Albany Park Summer Carnival, Concord Illuminations, Washington Village Christmas Festival and laterally the Usworth Park Miners event. We will build on and develop these existing relationships to deliver our proposal and will work closely with the Washington Heritage Partnership to ensure the inclusion of projects based in and delivering to the Washington geography.

We have previously worked closely with VCS organisations and statutory partners including Washington Area Committee, VCS Network, local Schools, Springwell Village Community Venue, Washington Millennium Centre, Washington CA, Bowes Railway, and with local businesses such as Greggs, Gentoo, Police, Wetherspoons, Vinyl, Olivias Cafe, The Washington Arms, Nobles Funfairs, Ringtons, Slimming World, in our delivery of Washington events. We have established links with the local heritage groups, miner's banner groups, local military support groups, classic car club and vintage bus restorers, who are all keen to continue their engagement in and support of the Washington area community events.

We successfully adapted the 2019 programme to run on a budget reduced by 33.33%, ensuring we considered feedback from visitors, exhibitors and partners who had participated in or attended previous events to develop the correct offer without impacting visitor numbers. Partners have reported that CO's communication and planning approaches were seen as a key strength of the event delivery and visitors liked the variety of activities available for the whole family at the Carnival, Springwell Village and Washington Village events. We successfully secured opportunities to attract additional funds to enable the Durham Miners Gala and Remembrance Parade to take place within a budget of £4000.

The events schedule was postponed in 2020 due to the covid19 pandemic, but we were able to re-introduce the service in 2021 through careful planning, assessing risk with the relevant health professionals and working closely with SCC events team. To this end we were able to run the Washington Illuminations, Village Christmas, Springwell 1940s and Usworth Park events from within the 2020 budget and also support a community group to safely organise the remembrance parade and provided some financial support to secure the infrastructure for this. While prices have risen, and fluctuated greatly, we have effectively managed the budget, secured alternative suppliers as some businesses chose not to restart after covid19 and ensured our delivery partners were signed up to and committed to our risk assessments.

CO propose to deliver 5 events across Washington in 2023/4 as detailed below, all dates are subject to confirmation against the Civic calendar and SCC events calendar.

Christmas Lights Switch On - Concord – Monday 13th November 2023

Washington Christmas Festival – Saturday 9th December 2023

Springwell Village 1940's weekend – Friday 28th June to Sunday 30th June 2024

Usworth Park Miners Picnic – Saturday 12th August

Washington Summer Carnival – Saturday 16th September 2024

Neighbourhood and Community Board recommend approval as meets the Community Events priority in the Washington Area Plan

Recommendation: Approve