

Application No 1

Funding Source	Neighbourhood Fund
Name of Project	Clean It, Green It – Pallion
Lead Organisation	Community Opportunities (Limited)

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total NF Application
£29,120	£2,120	£27,000
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
24 Months	December 22	November 24

Project Description **(verbatim from application)**

Community Opportunities propose to deliver a project which provides

- ward-based environmental project
- will 'clean up local neighbourhoods and communities'
- responds to local concerns
- builds on West Area Clean and Green scheme (C&G) which SNCBC/Community Opportunities have delivered since June 2019.
- continue to impact positively upon the Councils desire to create an 'attractive, clean and cared for environment where people choose to invest, live, work and spend their leisure time.

We will do this by delivering community clean-ups, litter picking, planting and forestry projects, effectively engaging residents into environmental volunteering to improve the appearance of their neighbourhoods, reduce littering and fly tipping, managing overgrown greenspaces and sustaining the maintenance of areas by working with groups to develop additional skills, including providing access to an equipment bank loan scheme.

Our experienced Senior Project Officer/Ranger, Gail, will lead environmental improvement works from recommendations from the established Steering Group (see partnership section), scope the works, assessing any impact to habitat, permissions required in the Countryside Act, by laws, working on public land etc and identifying health, safety, resource and tool requirements, and seasonal influences of pruning, nesting, winter months being ideal for cutting back/removing vegetation. Any issues observed, for example falling trees, are reported to SCC Arboriculture Team. We will liaise with Council and Gentoo to compile the work plan, avoiding duplication and enabling the pooling of resources

12 residents volunteer each week, and we also recruit volunteer's for specific events, such as the Great British Spring Clean which attracted 61 residents to clean ups and litter picks and target residential areas for specific projects. We predict 40 volunteers will engage in the 24-month delivery project, which volunteers report has also led to a reduced feeling of social isolation, improved confidence with some volunteers accessing job opportunities.

Our Volunteer Pathway provides a structured induction, individual skills assessment, considering health issues and providing regular supervision. Volunteers receive a 'toolbox talk' to understand the correct/appropriate use of tools and equipment, understanding risk assessments, providing on-site training including matters relating to conservation, grounds maintenance, habitat management and infrastructure maintenance. We engage corporate volunteers including from Asda, NHS, Nissan and EE.

We will encourage local businesses to maintain their premises and surroundings such as Pallion Traders and around industrial estates to address littering, fly-tipping, overgrown vegetation/ branches to walkways etc. We

have worked with voluntary organisations/friends groups, providing access to and training with an equipment loan scheme, of litter picks, bags, rings, sacks, loppers, pruners and will enhance these resources. We support groups to deliver community clean ups/litter picking sessions, providing advice on site surveys, health and safety and insurance and accompany groups in activities to provide first aid cover if needed.

We deliver targeted work to address issues such as a decline in local amenities, improving the attractiveness of neighbourhoods through community clean-ups etc and respond to Volunteers/residents frustrations regarding 'repeat offenders' who regularly discard litter by providing an educational offer and environmental projects in schools/youth projects, communicating the importance of correct residential waste disposal, reporting issues. Ideas may include developing a children's orchard, wildflower garden, 'bling the bin' with children designs to encouraging appropriate waste disposal. We will raise awareness of local recycling schemes, community furniture donation centres etc.

Our experience of working in the Pallion ward, which we will build on/continue includes

- regular litter picks along the metro line towards Millfield, the old railway line and Bridle Path to South Hylton in response to residents identifying that Blackie Field, Fordfield Road was run down and suffering from anti-social behaviour and residents feeling unsafe
- community clean-up/litter picks in partnership with local residents/councillors on Fordfield Estate and in liaison with Planning/Highways colleagues, installed bespoke planters, securing them in situ, and engaging local residents to maintain them.
- Responded to issues at Highfield Academy with parking at the school. We liaised with the School, Local Councillors and residents' group to discuss traffic calming measures, restricting parking outside school, improving safety for pedestrians/children. Bespoke planters were situated in line with Highways Department approvals and designed to be moved to enable access for street lighting engineers. The planters were dressed by volunteers/local groups/councillors and residents. The school and residents living on Fordfield Road have maintained the planters and the school with C&G have delivered educational awareness raising activities around plants, environment and nature.
- CTW identified the Ford Quarry area needed attention to protect local wildlife, encourage more residents to use the area and reduce anti-social behaviour. We supported CTW to plan improvements for the quarry, attended site visits to review the area/identify works including community clean ups/litter picking, tidying of foliage and pathways.
- Pallion and Millfield residents group identified that the appearance of Victory Street Embankment needed improvement, also stopping noise and dirt/debris from the road progressing to nearby houses. Litter/debris were removed, soil was turned over and weeded. Flowers were planted along with bushes to the top of the embankment. Site surveys were carried out around the Mineral Line, encompassing Pallion New Road, Victory Street and Palermo Street, to the high open areas next to the New Road. Volunteers
 - have carried out frequent litter picks at Victory Street, planting flowering shrubs and hedges to cut down on debris spread.
- Traders on the Front Street in Pallion were supported by volunteers, Councillors and local community groups/volunteers to tidy up the street and plant up the planters/ hanging baskets, improving the appearance of the shopping area and encouraging more residents to visit it.
- Old Jovial Fryer Site, Fordfield Road was identified for a community clean up on the corner site. We removed debris and litter and cut back hedgerows and greenery along with a CTW group member and local ward councillor.
- A site survey has completed at Hylton Road playing fields identifying the need for a general clean up, litter picking, removing overhanging tree branches, cutting back bushes and addressing the tidiness of the parking area and pathways.

We recognise that the Pallion ward suffers from littering and fly-tipping perhaps more so than neighbouring wards so we propose to establish a regular pattern of litter picks within the 'Clean it Green it' project and carry out area walkabouts to identify fly-tipping and promote the contact number to report incidents of this

As part of our current neighbourhood management works in the wider West Area, we carried out painting of street furniture including cleaning, sanding and re-painting metal fencing and benches. We developed digital and paper-based environmental activity packs for children, young people and families and these were used to continue to engage people during the covid19 pandemic and have a future use in promoting visits to local green spaces, to complete spotter exercises and quizzes. In June 2022 we ran an educational session for schools visiting the Barnes Park Event. The project delivered to over 150 local school children, gifting a fruit plat to pot, grow and care for to produce their own food. We will encourage growing produce within local communities such as herb gardens, vegetable patches etc.

In conclusion, we believe Community Opportunities have the existing staff, partners, working procedures and most importantly a bank of well-motivated, trained and willing volunteers and to deliver the requirements of the 'Clean it and Green it' project and commence delivery with immediate effect.

Outputs

Data Field	Code	Output Target
A Healthy Smart City Output	CODE	
number of adults enjoying a healthier lifestyle (mentally, physically, independently)	201	10
number of children and young people benefiting from this project	203	40
amount of highway, cycle, pathways improved by area (m2)	208	500
number of community cleans up carried out	209	40
number of litter picks carried out	210	40
A Vibrant Smart City Output	CODE	
number of volunteers recruited and participating	304	40
number of volunteer hours delivered	305	650
number of hours spent delivering this funded project	307	1560

Financial Information

Item and Description	Total Costs	Match Costs	NF Contribution
Staffing –	2, 080.00	120	21,900.00
Co-ordinator – 1 hour pr week			
Senior Project Officer – 5 hrs per week			
Project Officer – 7.5 hours per week	9,800.00		

	10,140.00		
Small Equip and Hand Tools	3100.00	2000	1100.00
Phone, stat, office etc	1000.00		1000.00
Vol expenses, travel, DBS, PPE	1300.00		1300.00
Manage, Finance, Insurance, Accounts, MI, Payroll	1700.00		1700.00
Total	29,120.00	2,120	27,000.00

Application No 2

Funding Source	Neighbourhood Fund
Name of Project	Pallion Clean and Green
Lead Organisation	Springboard

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total NF Application
£27,000		£27,000
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
24 Months	January 2023	January 2025

Project Description **(verbatim from application)**

Established in 1975 Springboard, a North-East based charity aims to support the development of sustainable communities, where people have the skills needed for work and life. We have operated in the Pallion area for over 30 years, working with local stakeholders and schools deliver a variety of services and initiatives.

We work closely with the local schools, including the Link School, emphasising on promoting educational messages to both our learners, and learners in local schools. We work closely in partnership with The Link School to offer alternative education, and hands on training. We would recruit school volunteers to help with our Clean and Green programme, along with our current study programme learners and tutors.

We already attend the West Area steering groups, and we will provide regular updates regarding the Clean and Green programme, to ensure it is delivering the improvements and involving as much of the local community as possible.

The main volunteers on Pallion Clean and Green will be our construction learners, alongside our horticulture learners. We also endeavour our Springboard Futures learners will be heavily involved in this project. Springboard Futures is our SEND provision, who have worked closely with Lets Talk SARA to improve the appearance of Southwick with planters, flower beds and more.

We will arrange regular litter picks across Pallion, including around our centre and towards St Lukes Shopping Terrace. We will also facilitate these litter picks along the metro lines towards Millfield, and the old railway line and bridle path to South Hylton. We will carry out regular litter picks across Hylton Road Playing fields. Our Horticulture learners will be able to provide shrub removal and maintenance of these areas, as well Hylton Playing Fields and Ford Quarry.

The planted areas on Fordfield Road will be maintained by our volunteers and learners. Our Construction learners will be able to make new planters as and when needed, and will be able to create more wooden planters for St Lukes Shopping Terrace.

Springboard work closely with the traders on St Lukes Shopping Terrace, with several of the traders often offering support and charity raffle prizes for our events. We will aim to improve our relationships with the traders, by creating a stronger network, offering traders to come into our on site Bistro for breakfast meetings, to see what ideas they have for the shopping terrace and to see how we can

facilitate them. We will work with the traders to maintain and enhance the environment of the local shopping terrace.

We work closely with the local residents by regularly holding family fun days and themed events, we would like to strengthen relationships with the local residents by holding resident breakfast or lunch meetings - allowing them to come in to our Bistro and to share their ideas for the area.

Environmental Improvements

Working closely with existing services and local stakeholders; local elected members, and local schools, as well as, Gentoo, and Northumbria Police, we will work together to identify what improvements are needed and develop an action plan to ensure we achieve maximum impact. This will be balanced across the whole area to ensure a fair distribution of projects are undertaken within the time available. There will be a blend of litter picking and community clean up engagement activities to more intense works that require mechanised support, strimmer's, grass cutters, chippers or rotavators. We have the skills and tools to provide a strong starting point to continue to look after and maintain them in the ways the learners have been shown.

We have Horticulture learners and Construction learners on programme who are keen to get involved within this programme as mentioned above, construction learners can build planters and anything else necessary, whilst horticulture learners can work on keeping the shrubs and the areas tidy.

Working with Communities and Partners

To date we have consulted with those listed in the partnership working below and we will consult with communities and partner organisations using our collective links in the different wards of Pallion. Examples will include the The Link School, from there we can plan an integrated approach, supporting local groups to take lasting action in their areas. New areas of priority will be added to as the project develops and the main stakeholders will feed into this at regular intervals, coordinated by the programme manager. We will be working regularly with associations, community and resident groups to create solutions with them, empowering them and their users to be involved and continue to be integral to their improvement and maintenance beyond the 2 year life of the project.

Improving the Visual Appearance of the Pallion

Together with partners and in particular our construction and horticulture trainees we will make visual improvements to identified areas and dramatically improve them so that there is a clear change in a short period of time. We will do this by using our powered machinery as well as expertise in training people on their use. Once an area is in a better state it is less of a challenge to maintain for local residents and volunteer groups. We will carry out adjustments to areas where possible to minimise the ongoing workload. Litter and fly tipping are key contributing issues for the decline in Pallion areas, educating people on these messages is key to success in this project.

Delivering and Coordinating Core Activities in Partnership with Sunderland City Council

We will recruit a programme manager to lead the programme supported by wider staff members.

Our strength is our ability to train and inspire people in horticulture and construction, cleansing and grounds maintenance, and creating vital storage and planters for our communities. Our trainers and assessors will be running accredited training for people who would like to take the lead locally;

our 'Clean Green Champions' will allow them to train new recruits as they are recruited once the project is established and for the future sustainability.

All volunteers will be supported to develop skills and funnelled through a pathway to ensure that they are safely inducted into the project, understand what the plan is and are assessed verbally and practically to ensure they are involved in appropriate activities for their ability. All of the staff involved will supervise closely and coach participants on technique and coach any practice that is not correct. At the start of each session participants will be given a tool box talk refreshing regular attendees of safe use. The groups will be involved in risk assessment both from a health and safety point of view and also environmentally as well.

Alongside the improvements we will provide local residents with information and education on the work that is going on as well as ways to be involved. The education element will reduce the decline in local amenities by informing residents of the types of behaviour that are negative for their area. Free and low cost ways of disposing of waste by the City Council, identifying genuine waste disposal operators as well as charities that recycle furniture and upcycling to avoid items going to landfill. These educational messages will be delivered in person with those who engage face to face but also by localised leaflet/flyer distribution and also targeted social media posts both organic and paid ads from Springboard's marketing team. This will involve working with Primary and Secondary schools in Pallion to organise for pupils to attend workshops on waste management and recycling and also taking direct action supporting our community clean up days.

There will be many success stories on the journey of this project and we intend to celebrate those both online via social media but also in print in our regular newsletter catch ups. We will also talk with local press to ensure that people in the community are recognised for the work that they do.

We will be creating an equipment bank for use by groups which will be based at our Pallion site, in our secure equipment store. This will be added to our kit log to ensure it is maintained and safety checked at the correct intervals as well as to monitor its use and location. This will be monitored by the programme manager to ensure it is fairly distributed, used by volunteers who have been through the volunteer pathway and signed off as competent. We have allowed for natural damage / breakage and maintenance into the budget. The project aligns with the cities low carbon framework by being directly in the communities it is serving.

To summarise, by building on our existing partnerships and expertise in creating volunteering groups, horticulture and construction training we will deliver this project to the whole of the Pallion area with the aim of leaving a lasting and sustainable impact.

Outputs

Data Field	Code	Output Target
A Dynamic Smart City Output	CODE	
number of low carbon initiatives supported	103	12
number of Adults moved into Education, Employment or Training	105	20
A Healthy Smart City Output	CODE	
amount of highway, cycle, pathways improved by area (m2)	208	200
number of community cleans up carried out	209	36
number of litter picks carried out	210	48
tonnage of waste cleared from neighbourhoods	211	80
amount of greenspace sites improved by area (m2)	212	8000
Issues reported via www.sunderland.gov.uk/report-it	213	600
A Vibrant Smart City Output	CODE	
number of volunteers recruited and participating	304	130
number of volunteer hours delivered	305	24,000
number of external organisations involved or supported	306	16
number of hours spent delivering this funded project	307	24 months

Financial Information

Item and Description	Total Costs	Match Costs	NF Contribution
Staff - new role created 15hrs per week	18,240		18,240
Fuel, mileage, travel, vehicle/machine use and maintenance.	1,000		1,000
PPE, boots, gloves, hi-vis, helmets, overalls.	1,500		1,500
Marketing, PPC ads, printing flyers and design.	410		410
Equipment, tools and tools to be used and loaned out.	1750		1750
Accredited Training for volunteers	800		800
Volunteer welfare	800		800
Management Costs	2500		2,500
Total	27,000		27,000