

## Neighbourhood Fund proposals

## Application No. 1

<b>Funding Source</b>	Neighbourhood Fund
<b>Name of Project</b>	Washington Clean and Green
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Community Opportunities

<b>Total cost of Project</b>	<b>Total Match Funding</b>	<b>Total NF Application</b>
£61,000	£1,000	£60,000

**Project Description:**

This phase of the Washington Clean and Green project will be delivered for a 2 year period commencing in July 2023.

Community Opportunities Limited (Com Opps) propose to deliver a 'co-ordinated approach to neighbourhood management and environmental improvements, responding to local concerns across the Washington Area. Our proposal builds on the work delivered by Sunderland North Community Business Centre (SNCBC) and laterally Com Opps who have been delivering environmental improvements within the Washington Area Framework geography since 2015. This was initially through volunteering and work placement opportunities and since 2017 has been as part of the structured volunteering Clean and Green project which has contributed to improving Washington neighbourhoods engaging residents and organisations in 'clean ups' of community spaces alongside focussing on the management of overgrown areas, which do not fall within the Councils remit, across all five Washington wards.

This application proposes to continue the delivery of community clean-ups, 'effectively engage residents into volunteering to support the delivery of environmental projects to reduce littering and fly tipping, managing overgrown greenspaces and sustaining the maintenance of areas by working with groups to develop additional skills and providing access to an equipment bank. The project will 'contribute' to a plantation management strategy which is being developed by SCC. We have built strong relationships with a range of local Organisations/Partners and attend their premises to work alongside their volunteers and users to raise awareness of environmental maintenance techniques, frequency and use of tools. We have also worked closely to maintain the appearance of local parks such as Albany, Usworth and Princess Anne and will develop this work further as part of this proposal.

We anticipate working with 54 volunteers over approximately 48 projects in the proposed 24 month delivery period and will ensure all those engaging as volunteers receive training in the use of equipment and we will monitor the return, storage and maintenance of that equipment. The Project will continue to be led by a dedicated Com Opps Manager and directed by a Steering Group comprising staff from Local Services Response Team, Gentoo, Local Elected Members and staff from relevant support partners such as Police, Tyne and Wear Fire, Schools and VCS partners who will contribute to the group when specific issues emerge. The Steering Group identify potential sites that need attention which respond to local need as identified by residents, local business and community walkabouts. This work forms the core of the Project Work Plan and communication through the steering groups ensures activities are relevant and do not duplicate environmental services provided by such as the Council or Gentoo. The Steering Group approach also ensures we provide coverage to all Washington wards and understand the priorities of the local communities we are working with. Further the Steering Group recognise the need to anticipate the requirement to re-visiting sites to address such as re-growth, littering etc and create a sustainable plantation management strategy and we ensure this is diarised in the work plan.

The Project is co-ordinated led by a suitably experienced manager and led by an Environmental Supervisor who is responsible for setting the work plan and carrying out visits to potential sites and sharing information on the project with local organisations and partners. This role also leads the

practical environmental improvement work and takes recommendations for project work from the Steering Group and visits the areas to understand the needs of the area.

We will work closely with Officers from Sunderland City Council and Gentoo to understand land ownership and statutory responsibilities, including responsibilities of private developers, commercial property owners etc. This will ensure the project focuses on those areas that are in public control.

Recruitment of volunteers is ongoing, volunteers attend for varying reasons and varying lengths of time, we have some corporate groups and some occasional or one-off volunteers who support specific clean ups of public spaces, specific environmental works on plantation clearances. We currently have an active group of 15 regular volunteers and have engaged over 30 volunteers from groups we have supported in the last year. Volunteers have provided many examples, and case studies, to demonstrate how Clean and Green has reduced their social isolation, improved confidence and led to some volunteers accessing job opportunities. We expect similar achievements and outputs to be realised in the next phase of the project.

We have carried out work with a range of voluntary Organisations and projects including Gentoo, Trolleywise, Friends of Princess Anne Park, Friends of Usworth Park, and the REACT employability project. This has included showing members of Organisations how to use tools effectively, enabling them to access equipment for the 'tool bank, volunteers shadowing the Clean and Green staff to learn and rehearse practical skills, and in turn gain confidence to move forward and carry out the environmental improvements in their Organisations independently.

Our collaborative approach has extended to engaging corporate volunteers from Asda, NHS, Nissan and EE and we will pursue other opportunities in this regard in our future delivery. We will also build upon or relationships with local businesses and encourage them to take a greater responsibility for their waste and also the upkeep of overgrown vegetation which creates problems including overhanging branches on to public walkways and blocked drainage due to fallen leaves from trees etc. We believe our project impacts 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.

In conclusion, Community Opportunities have existing staff, partners, working procedures and most importantly a bank of well-motivated, trained and willing volunteers and as such feel they are well placed to deliver a next phase of the clean and green project and commence delivery with immediate effect.

**Recommendation: Approve**

**Application No. 2**

<b>Funding Source</b>	Neighbourhood Fund
<b>Name of Project</b>	Washington Individual Support Programme (WISP)
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Shiney Advice and Resource Project (ShARP)

<b>Total cost of Project</b>	<b>Total Match Funding</b>	<b>Total NF Application</b>
£16,000	£1,000	£15,000

**Washington Individual Support Project – WISP**

WISP is a unique project delivered by a dedicated Advice Worker from ShARP. The project will offer a bespoke approach to providing welfare rights, benefit, debt and housing advice to people presenting in crisis at any venue in Washington. The Advice Worker will support around 21 people each week through direct face to face work. She will use a case work approach to engage, build and sustain a relationship with residents experiencing crisis and hardship who present regularly for help at Washington foodbanks or other venues..

WISP will support:

- people presenting in crisis
- people experiencing persistent and repeated episodes of crisis
- people not known to or engaged with mainstream services

- people with multiple complex need
- people with a range of vulnerabilities
- people with drug/alcohol dependency

The WISP Advice Worker will work 16 hours per week directly into :

- Mickey's Place (Sulgrave) Monday – Wednesday and Friday mornings 9-12 (or until finished)
- Unit O as required

Every week Monday – Friday 9-4.30 she will provide telephone support to residents in crisis, foodbanks or other Washington organisations dealing with people presenting in crisis.

The WISP worker has excellent relationships within Washington VCS Network as well as WWIN, Drug/Alcohol treatment services, Mental Health Crisis team, Police and Sunderland City Council, Gentoo and also Social Prescribers. She will work with all available community based resources to support residents through and out of crisis.

**Recommendation: Approve**

### Application No. 3

<b>Funding Source</b>	Neighbourhood Fund
<b>Name of Project</b>	Positive Activities for Young People
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Oxclose and District Young People's Project (ODYPP)

<b>Total cost of Project</b>	<b>Total Match Funding</b>	<b>Total NF Application</b>
£42,863	£2,863	£40,000

The proposed project will be operational during the, 2023 summer holidays, October, Christmas, February, May half term and Easter school holidays of 2023/24. The same activities will be delivered in separate sessions across North, South, East and Central Washington wards. This approach should ensure equality of opportunity and a fair distribution of resources. ODYPP will employ qualified and experienced youth work staff to deliver a creative and challenging programme of work. The programme will include a range of activities, opportunities and experiences incorporating sport, outdoor activities, leisure, health and wellbeing, cultural and creative activities. ODYPP will work in partnership with Springwell Community Venue who will deliver a programme designed to meet the needs of the YP from Washington West ward.

Specific activities that we will deliver will be decided upon by young people to ensure that there is a good take up of the opportunities provided. Activities will also be varied to ensure they are responsive to the needs, interests and abilities of participants. Prior to delivery of the programme youth workers will consult with young people from the five Washington wards to find out the type of activities they would be most interested in engaging in. Consultation will be undertaken with young people in the wards via our outreach youth work team and youth centres. Activities will be provided on the days and at times of the week that young people would be most likely to participate. The project manager will contact local Cllrs in each of the five wards to discuss local hotspots, groups of young people identified by members and gaps in provision or current issues involving young people before activities are planned.

The activity programmes will focus upon reducing levels of youth related anti-social behaviour focusing on hotspot areas with the aim to improve community cohesion and alleviating the additional stresses placed upon parents/carers during school holiday periods. All activities will be provided free of charge. All participants will be provided with a nutritious snack/meal during each activity.

We will promote the activities on offer via schools and via other local organisations in the area that work with young people. We will also promote our activity programme on our Facebook page which is widely used by local young people. We will acknowledge Washington Area Committee Sunderland City Council support on all of our publicity materials.

What we will deliver as a minimum per ward:

- 3 Recruitment Sessions

- 1 x Summer Drop In holiday sessions
- 5 x Summer holiday Activity sessions
- 1 x October half term session
- 1 x October Drop In holiday sessions
- 1 x Christmas themed activity session.
- 1 x activity session February half term.
- 1 x February half term drop in session
- 2 x activity sessions Easter
- 2 x Easter half term drop in sessions
- 1 x May half term activity session
- 1 x May Drop In half term drop in session

**Minimum sessions delivered 20 per ward.**

Activity sessions could include activities such as Quasar Laser, mountain biking, bushcraft skills, indoor team games, coasteering, rock climbing, watersports, golf and ice skating or seasonal themed activities (Halloween, Christmas, Easter). ODYPP will endeavour to ensure activities will take place in Sunderland utilising local facilities whenever possible, i.e. local cycle routes. ODYPP has qualified instructors, and own cycling and outdoor sports equipment which will help to reduce costs. Many young people, and particularly those from low income households, do not have the opportunity to take part in outdoor learning experiences such as these as the costs can be prohibitive. We will work with the Sunderland Climbing Wall and Marine Activity Centre, George Washington Golf Club and other local providers to ensure local businesses are supported and to negotiate reduced rates for local young people.

Drop in activity session will incorporate a choice of activities that could include sports, indoor team games, computer games, cookery, music, arts and crafts, team challenges, and quizzes. Activities will aim to raise young people's aspirations alongside providing a range of opportunities for informal education. Young people will be involved in planning the menus for the nutritious snack and groups will take turns in preparing the food for each session. The sessions will also provide opportunities for young people to gain accredited outcomes in Heart Start or first aid.

We will promote the '5 ways to wellbeing' within our plans for delivery to help ensure young people are aware of what constitutes a healthy lifestyle and feel positive about the actions they can take to live more healthily. We will work with young people to raise their awareness of the potential consequences of risk taking behaviour. Workers will offer information, support and guidance to help young people make informed choices about their actions.

ODYPP delivers the C-Card service and a smoking cessation service to young people. We will incorporate these services into our holiday time provision to ensure that we continue to contribute towards reduction rates for STIs, teenage pregnancies and smoking

**Recommendation: Approve**