

Large Call for Projects - £50,000 allocated

Four project applications were received. Consultation and assessment of the projects took place and all information was provided to the Place Board. The following project is recommended for approval.

Name of Organisation	Groundwork North East
Title of Project	My Place, Our Space
Full Cost of project	£63,000
Match Funding	£13,500
Total SIB requested	£49,500
When will the project start	May 2017 for two years

My space, our place aims to:-

Work with all 15 primary schools in the Coalfields. 'Environment Week' will focus on encouraging communities to reduce, reuse and recycle. We will focus on the common neighbourhood issues such as litter, dog fouling and graffiti. Each year group will take part in a different activity designed to make them think more clearly about the impact they have on the environment. This new education programme will see one class from each school visit the Energy From Waste Centre on Teesside and Campground, the Visitor and Education Centre we manage for Suez at Springwell. At the end of our week of engagement, to ensure sustainability we will give each school the learning resource pack. On graduation of Environment Week each child will be asked to pledge to live more sustainably and sign up to a charter. The final task will be to go home and tell five members of their family what they have learned as a way of carrying the message home to the wider community and ensuring there is an **increased awareness of environmental issues**.

We want to make sure that this project is inclusive of the whole community so have made links to the areas two secondary schools Kepier and Hetton School. It is notoriously difficult to engage with secondary schools but we have discussed the project with them and they would both like to partner with us to tackle the issues that involve their children. Most prevalent issues being underage drinking, vandalism in parks and increased litter in the routes that the children use. We know from experience that a lot of the issues are caused by young people aged between 11 and 16. We will work a selection of school children to discuss issues around fly-tipping, litter and underage drinking and the impact it has on the environment, local parks and shopping streets. Our education work will be geared around **reducing negative activity on the environment**. Again we will link this is to a trip to the Visitor and Education Centre and Energy From Waste Centre.

We will work with members, council officers and local residents groups to identify unloved plots of land and will **improve these outdoor spaces**. Consultation will include attending residents meetings, surveys in main shopping streets, talking to residents and park users and meeting with our partners. We will create a tool library which can be stored centrally in the Coalfields. Residents can borrow tools, complete work then return the equipment to the store when they are finished. Through our organised events and guidance people will have the knowledge and confidence to take more ownership and have **an increased sense of pride in their neighbourhoods**. Residents will pledge to keep the area near to their house or a pocket of green space litter free, with the view that they continue when the project comes to an end.

To ensure that our project is sustainable we propose to set up and chair a steering group made up from people across the Coalfields and other interested partners. The group will meet regularly and will be a way of discussing issues in the area and sharing stories of best practice. We will continue to chair the group when this project finishes as we feel that it would be beneficial to the area and the work that Groundwork do. We will also manage the tool library going forward ensuring that equipment is signed in and out and everything is maintained appropriately. We are happy to coordinate the delivery and offer guidance to the VCS organisations who are successful in securing funds for the smaller environmental projects. We have the skills, expertise and knowledge of the area to be able to ensure that there is no duplication and projects complement each other.

We will work with active friends of parks groups such as Herrington, Hetton Lyons, Elba and Rectory Parks educating them to positively promote those responsible dog owners who clean up after their dogs. We will deliver four engagement events per site in Herrington, Hetton Lyons, Elba and Rectory

Parks celebrating responsible dog owners and educating people on how to help look after their parks. We will work closely with Local Services and council officers to ensure that all partners are happy with our approach. It is not just practical days that help improve the look of an area it is also a culture change and adopting a different mindset. By attending a series of friends meetings, four per park, we aim to help build capacity within groups. Groundwork staff have lots of land management experience and would be happy to offer suggestions on park management, community engagement, increasing biodiversity and maintenance.

Our consultation into environmental issues in the Coalfields highlighted the main shopping streets have issues with litter. There were hot spot areas outside of some shops but also peak times when litter was more of an issue such as lunch-time and when children were going to and from school. We will work closely with shop owners, schools and the Northeast BIC to explore ways to minimise this problem. It could be something small like supplying shops with litter bins and asking customers to dispose of litter before leaving the shop.

There are lots of different components to this project but they have the potential to help communities help themselves into **cleaner neighbourhoods**. We will work closely with VCS groups in the area offering regular opportunities for people to get involved. We will also continue to attend area network meetings to promote and advertise the positive work we do in the Coalfields.

Our aim is to begin to change mindsets and encourage people to take more ownership of environmental issues within their power. We hope to begin to change attitudes towards where responsibilities lie. We don't expect to change attitudes overnight but this important initial phase will see residents exploring other options around environmental problems rather than phoning the council in the first instance.

Groundwork has excellent relationships with Council officers in the Coalfields and will consult and report as the project progresses to ensure we tackle the most relevant issues.

Score:

Appraiser 1 109/120

Appraiser 2 120/120

Small Call for Projects - £35,000 allocated

A New Look	Groundwork NE & Cumbria	£4,500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to tidy up area around Lambton Lane, including path to Herrington Burn, working with local schools, local VCS groups, approx. 40 volunteers, 3 youth groups and Elba Park Friends • Tackle environmental issues by cutting back vegetation, repairing/replacing broken fencing, litter picks, and place boulders on site to block off access for motorbikes etc to ensure safety • Work with 3 local schools (approx. 90 children) to design images associated with the environmental works in the park to be installed on fencing at entrance to Elba Park. Pictures will be recreated in metal and welded onto fencing • Site highlighted as area to improve from the Green Flag judges • Advertise volunteering opportunities through Coalfield VCS Network • Match funding of £3,500 from the Land Trust to be used for community engagement • Work with partners including Wear Rivers Trust and SNCBC • Duration of project April to September 17- 6 months 		
Pollution- From Me to Sea	Hetton Local Natural History Society	£4,170
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with year 4 from 5 school to educate students on pollutive activities and the impact of litter etc.. on marine life • Display boards with photos and information for the schools • Education on pollution on the food chain and how it begins on the doorstep • Achieve personal responsibility • Work with other members of the history group, Schools, Scouts, Air cadets, Springboard etc • Students taken to Dove Marine lab – North Shields, Blue Reef Aquarium for tours and talks along with visit to Seaburn and Seaham beaches • Stream clean at Hetton/Rainton Burns and litter picks around their school area then a visit to a recycling plant in Hartlepool • Duration of project 6 months Feb to July 17 		

Tool Bank & HLCP Wildflower Planting	Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park	£1,296.89
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of a bank of equipment including tools, gazebos, bulbs, plants and seeds for environment projects throughout the Coalfields for schools and groups etc to continue and enable them to undertake various environmental projects across the Coalfields • Schools will plant bulbs etc in and around Hetton Lyons Country Park as part of environmental projects and assist with the school curriculum resulting in visual improvements, physical activity for the children and sense of ownership • Create posters to enhance activities/issues etc on littering, dog fouling, recycling etc • Bring community together and Involve schools, Hetton Natural History Group, Air Cadets and Scouts • 2 years and ongoing 		
Wetlands Re-discovered	Durham Wildlife Trust	£5,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with 5 schools to explore local wetlands at Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve undertake water quality testing and learn to identify signs of pollution with hands on experience • Follow on sessions in schools to look at urban lifestyle and contamination then will support the schools to improve an area of local river/wetlands • Through public events will engage with the wider community at Rainton Meadows, Herrington Country Park and other local green spaces – will include family friendly events and in depth targeted at community groups • Stream clearing and improving habitat for waders • 'Yellow Fish Campaign' to raise awareness of urban drainage etc and effects • Involve Friends of Herrington Country Park and Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park • Duration of project – 9 months 		
Coalfield Clean Up	YMCA Fencehouses	£3,630
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular clean/spruce up projects with local residents within their local neighbourhood • Create an action plan to specifically look at the Fencehouses area – will include looking at land ownership, resources etc. • Use action plan, local forums, Friends Groups etc as a tool to recruit volunteers, gain residents views, identify problem hot spots and how to resolve • Improve outdoor space accessible to residents • Work with local primary schools to promote educational message pride in their area and create 'Litter Bug' group for litter picks around area • Develop small task groups to set priorities and develop ownership within the community • Plan to develop Volunteer groups to continue clean ups to sustain project • Work with Gentoo and SCC to identify problem areas • Duration – one year 		
Forest School	Easington Lane Primary School	£5,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding to create an interactive woodland learning environment at the school • Provide an outdoor learning space for activities, nature and wildlife • Learning environment will improve the appearance of the unused land • Engage with local families and community through project days • Area once developed can be used for local groups to deliver green initiatives • Phase 1 will improve the area with staff, pupils and families • Phase 2 will deliver educational activities on the improved land • Phase 2 of project will also redevelop further land to extend the forest area – applying for additional funding • Engaged with Woodland Trust and working towards Green Tree Schools Award 		
Creating Eco-friendly Schools	North East Environmental Network	£5,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support four local schools to work with Eco – Schools and gain a bronze award for each school through establishing an Eco-Committee made up of pupils, staff and governors to lead process • Complete an Environmental Review then develop their Eco Schools action plan • Topics covered include litter, waste, biodiversity, schools grounds, healthy living, global citizenship etc • Deliver topic's through assemblies, workshops on site visits etc • Visits to Rainton Meadows, Groundwork Campground 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will complement current education initiatives – discussed with City Council Waste and Recycling Development Manager • Duration 1 year 		
Make the Change – Make the Difference	SNCBC	£4,989.20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide 2.5 hr youth session per week working with young people at the Flatts Youth Centre getting them engaged in environmental projects • Local area around Easington Lane has been identified as a target area • Engage on a reward based system linked to community activities and lead on projects – lead to reward days / trips • Work with young people to identify problem areas i.e. littering, dog fouling, unsafe areas • Educate on importance of keeping areas tidy • Carry out litter picks, garden make-overs, planting bulbs, awareness raising • Encourage intergenerational work with older people in community • Initial discussions with young people have identified projects already • Design a leaflet from a young person point of view with local schools highlighting work achieved by the young people involved. Leaflets will be delivered by young people • Work with ELCAP, Gillas Lane and Hetton Lyons Primary Schools and Gentoo • Duration – 9 months 		

**Please note: All projects will be co-ordinated to ensure that contact with the schools, and improvement work carried out within the locality, has a collective approach. The large project will manage this process, with co-operation from the small projects. This will be a condition of all funding offers.