

## Neighbourhood Fund Proposals

## Application No. 1

<b>Funding Source</b>	Neighbourhood Fund
<b>Name of Project</b>	Shiney Row CA Centre Refurb and Upgrade
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Shiney Row CA

<b>Total cost of Project</b>	<b>Total Match Funding</b>	<b>Total NF Application</b>
£7,580	£3,790	£3,790

**Project Description:**

We would like to seek funding to assist us to upgrade the heating system within the centre as there are currently three old gas blow heaters that are quite expensive to run. We intend removing the gas heaters and will be replacing them with modern air conditioning units that provide heat and cold air when required. Also, after removing the old gas heaters, we will then remove the gas supply from the centre thus only having one energy supplier to pay instead of two.

To make the centre more attractive to the local community in regards using the facility for the likes of children's birthday parties etc we would also like to refurb the kitchen as again the equipment is now over 20 years old. We hope to replace the main electric hob and oven, purchase new toaster and microwave oven and then ideally either upgrade the kitchen unit doors or replace the kitchen units altogether.

Once the works has been completed the centre will place a new sign on the outside of the property advertising that the building is a Community Centre as no such sign exists at the minute. We will then hold an open day promoting the Martial Arts and the Camera Club to see if we can gain any new members. We are also hosting new play and youth sessions during the summer holidays and weekly from then on, delivered by Community Opportunities who will also use our centre for training purposes.

Additional signage and posters will be placed in the windows of the centre advertising the centre for children's birthday parties etc.

It is hoped to also attract some of our elderly community by seeing if we can attract some users during the day to the centre by setting up afternoon teas or a cards and dominoes afternoon etc. We currently have an indoor bowling mat and bowls that are not being used, we will advertise this equipment also as may get some takers.

The Camera Club will use social media platforms to also advertise the centre, and again hopefully attract some of the younger generation that use social media on a daily basis.

**Recommendation – Approve. The project meets the objectives of Coalfield Neighbourhood Investment Priority ‘Support voluntary and community sector’**

## Application No. 2

<b>Funding Source</b>	Neighbourhood Fund
<b>Name of Project</b>	Championships of Great Britain
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Houghton Brass

<b>Total cost of Project</b>	<b>Total Match Funding</b>	<b>Total NF Application</b>
£7,420	£3,000	£4,420

**Project Description:**

Houghton Brass is a community brass band affiliated to the town of Houghton-le-Spring. The majority of the players live in the Coalfield areas of Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row. Established in 1983, the band enjoyed one of its proudest moments in their history in 2015 when they were crowned

national third section champions at the finals of the National Brass Band Championships in Cheltenham.

Since then, Houghton Brass have progressed up the brass band rankings and are now in the first section, just below the highest level of playing – the Championship section. In March 2022 at the North of England Regional Brass Band Championships the band were placed second in their section meaning they qualified to compete at the national finals in Cheltenham this September, competing against some of the best bands in Great Britain.

Whilst this is an exciting prospect and opportunity, it is also a very expensive one. The band is self-funding and opportunities to raise money during the last two years during the Covid-19 pandemic have been challenging. The trip to Cheltenham means we need to raise funding to support the costs of coach travel, accommodation for two nights and the competition entry fee.

The funding will mean that the band can participate in the national finals and represent the North-East of England and in particular the Houghton/Coalfields area. The band feel proud to be able to do this with the majority of players being born and bred here. Sadly, many local brass bands have disappeared over the last 10 years due to the inability to secure sustainable funding to meet the costs of competing in competitions such as this one. Houghton Brass are successful in their self-funding efforts to secure income to pay for running costs, however, the costs associated with competing in the national finals are significant and we would not be able to participate without financial support.

Houghton Brass work in partnership with many local partner organisations for example ELCAP, local churches and more recently we have been in discussions around supporting The Stephenson Trail Music Commission. The band often provide musical entertainment for free or to cover costs only as a way of giving something back to the community. Should this funding application be successful, the band would be prepared to play a full concert for Sunderland City Council at some point in the future if that is something you'd like to consider.

**Recommendation: Approve. The project meets the objectives of Coalfield Neighbourhood Investment Priority ‘Support voluntary and community sector’**

**Application No. 3**

<b>Funding Source</b>	Neighbourhood Fund
<b>Name of Project</b>	LinkTogether Bridge the Gap
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Durham Wildlife Trust

<b>Total Match Funding</b>	<b>Total NF Application</b>
£1,880,079 for both development and delivery phases	£18,500

**Project Description:**

The partnership between Sunderland City Council and Durham Wildlife Trust has been successful in securing funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for the one year development phase of the Link Together project. A Development Manager will be appointed and employed by Durham Wildlife Trust who will lead the project on behalf of the partnership.

During the Development phase, the Development Manager will set up a project executive group and a wider steering group with representatives from interested partner organisations and community groups.

The project will work with local groups within the area and will focus on the following Council-owned sites within the Coalfield:

- Former Elemore Golf Course site – supporting the Elemore Park Development Team, undertaking environmental works that will focus on improved grassland, woodland, wetland and carr development;
- Elemore Vale Local Wildlife Site – Grassland and woodland management;
- Hetton Bogs Local Nature Reserve – undertaking wetland and woodland improvement within the SSSI and LWS and invasive species removal;
- Hetton Park – supporting ongoing Council work to improve natural features of the park, which may include additional grassland and woodland creation, flood storage and river naturalisation;

- Hazard Railway and Woodland – considering woodland thinning and glade creation, additional hedging and wetland features;
- Copt Hill LWS – further grassland and access improvement and considering options for flood mitigation;
- Hetton Lyons Country Park – improving grassland habitat and woodland management;
- Red Burn (Rainton Meadows) – improving burn, wetland and grassland features, and potential to reduce localised flooding;
- Flint Mill (between Dubmire and Burnside) – creating a wildlife stepping stone, improving woodland, grassland and wetland;
- Keir Hardie Street, Fence Houses – enhancing greenspace for biodiversity and neighbourhood use;
- Herrington Burn at Shiney Row – improving burn, grassland and woodland features, and flood mitigation;
- Success Railway LWS – improving wildlife and access arrangements along former rail corridor;
- Herrington Country Park and Herrington Burn (Penshaw) – improving a wildlife stepping stone and grassland features.

The Development Manager, in collaboration with the Link Together partnership, will prepare and submit the application to the NLHF for the two year delivery phase. During the development phase, the Development Manager will build up links with local groups from the VCS network and run taster activities at various places such as walks and taster practical sessions. Link Together will have built up momentum and expectation amongst local people. It is really important for the project's long term success that this not lost during the period between submitting the application and receiving the decision. Therefore, DWT, in partnership with Sunderland Council, are seeking funding to maintain the Development Manager in post during this period. The Development Manager will continue to work with local groups to raise awareness about greenspaces, start to deliver some small scale activity on site and continue to build up contacts and network in the local area. They will play an active role in supporting ongoing projects such as the development of Elemore Park, the Coalfield Clean it Green it Project and work with members of the VCS network on greenspace projects. Keeping the Development Manager in post will reduce the risk of delays to the start of the delivery phase, maintain project momentum and help to meet local expectations.

**Recommendation: Approve. The project meets the objectives of Coalfield Neighbourhood Investment Priority 'Improve local greenspace'**

#### Application No. 4

<b>Funding Source</b>	Neighbourhood Fund
<b>Name of Project</b>	Houghton Feast Community Programme
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Sunderland City Council

<b>Total cost of Project</b>	<b>Total Match Funding</b>	<b>Total NF Application</b>
£10,000	£0	£10,000

**Project Description:**

Sunderland City Council events team deliver a number of core events across the City, including Houghton Feast. The services arranged by the events team include Infrastructure, marketing, site and event management for all aspects of the Feast, fireworks and civic arrangements.

In addition to the core programme, and in line with previous years, a community element for the Friday evening opening event, along with a Carnival parade on the Saturday is proposed. This additional element would include involvement of, and engagement with, local schools and community groups in the lead up to the Feast and performances at the Friday evening event and Saturday parade developed and managed by the Houghton Feast Steering Group. The theme of the 2022 event is Houghton Platinum Jubilee Feast. The community events and displays will be focused around this theme, incorporating key information and activities.

A total of £10,000 is requested to deliver the programme. This will be utilised to deliver art and music workshops to local schools and to engage local groups and organisations including to participate in all

aspects of the Friday and Saturday events and provide on street entertainment such as face painting, balloon modelling and Stilt Walkers. The Steering Group will agree the detail of the project spend, the budget will be managed by the Area Community Development Lead on behalf of Houghton Feast Steering Group and Area Committee.

**Recommendation: Approve. The project meets the objectives of Coalfield Neighbourhood Investment Priority 'Celebrating Local Events'**