



**Natural Kirklees Small Grant Scheme 2023**

**Application Form**

<b>Name of Group</b>	Cleckheaton in Bloom
<b>Location of Green Space</b>	Cleckheaton Library
<b>Contact Name</b>	Angela Sugden
<b>Contact Phone</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Email Address</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Project Title</b>	Nurturing the bee and insect population throughout the year to help them thrive and survive
<b>Project Description</b> <b>Max 100 words</b>	This project will build on our work at Cleckheaton Library. It will focus on improving all the borders by planting new native and non-native perennial flowering plants, shrubs, ornamental grasses, ferns, herbs, alpines and bulbs. Each plant will be chosen to provide a nectar and pollen rich diet for bees and insects and support biodiversity. We want to create flower borders to attract as many bees and insects as possible. Collectively , the new plants will provide a source of food, shelter and habitats for bees and insects during each month of the year, hopefully, 365 days each year. (98 words)
<b>Grant Value £</b>	£750
<b>Costings</b> <b><u>(please provide full cost analysis and /or estimates</u></b>  Provide a separate email if insufficient space	Flowering shrubs - estimated cost = £175.00 Shrubs providing berries in autumn and winter - estimated cost =£85.00 Grasses - estimated cost = £112.00 Plants - estimated cost = £200.00 Bulbs - estimated cost = £45.00 Herbs - estimated cost = £23.00 Heathers - estimated cost = £30.00 Rockery plants - estimated cost = £35.00

	Ferns - estimated cost = £45.00
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<b><u>Kirklees Volunteer Coordinator</u></b>	Gill Logan
<b><u>Project End Date</u></b>	August 2023
<b><u>No of Volunteers involved</u></b>	7
<b><u>Anticipated Volunteers Hours</u></b>	70 hours approx

**Please detail the benefits as appropriate**

<b><u>What benefit will the project bring to the park or green space?</u></b>	<p>Environmentalists inform us that due to a range of factors the bee and insect population is in severe decline in Great Britain and globally. If we do not act quickly the bee and insect population could become extinct which will be disastrous for all of us. We need bees and insects for our survival.</p> <p>This project would help in our endeavours to support nature and do ‘our bit’ in Cleckheaton to try to halt the decline in the bee and insect population. The library grounds are situated in an area of dense housing and in close proximity to the M62 motorway. The new planting will attract wildlife by providing an oasis for them, which in turn will provide the bees and insects that visit with the vital food and shelter they need. The new plants, shrubs, grasses, ferns, herbs, alpines and bulbs will become a rich café for the bees and insects that visit and support biodiversity. As well as providing a great home for wildlife. They will also provide structure, beauty, colour, scent, textures and interest for the people who visits the library grounds to enjoy.</p> <p>The new planting will have a positive impact in helping to increase the numbers of bees and a range of insects, including butterflies, moths, hoverflies, wasps and beetles to thrive and survive and help to tackle their decline. The project will help us to provide an ever-changing variety of flowers, catkins, leaves, berries and stems which will be carefully chosen to attract and feed bees and insects predominantly but will also support animals, from butterflies to birds. It will form a small part in helping to heal the climate and nature crisis at a local level in Cleckheaton.</p> <p>We know that bees and insects are an effective group of pollinators. The flowers we plant and grow will provide nectar and pollen throughout each month of the year. Pollination is crucial to the food we eat, including vegetables and fruits as well as the crops that feed livestock as they rely on it to be fertilised. Thus, it will benefit the library grounds by bringing in wildlife. All the new plants will play their own important part in providing food and a home for nature.</p>
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The Bees and insects that visit the library grounds will spread the pollen from the new plants. This will provide the flowers with the means to reproduce by spreading pollen. The pollination process will create seeds and more plants helping to enrich the library grounds further. The bees, insects and flowers are each vital to each other. Each will struggle to survive without the other, thus the project will help them all to thrive.

The project will support other insects such as beetles and moths as well as the bird population that visit the grounds. It will also support the small population of existing hedgehogs that frequent the library grounds through better supporting their nesting and food sources in the undergrowth. The project will support the ecosystem through improving the food chain for other interdependent living creatures right from the start

As part of the project we will provide information on our social media account and within the library about the project with ideas of how families in the community can support the bee and insect population at home throughout the year. We will also work with and involve local schools in the project to help children develop the understanding they need about valuing and supporting the bee and insect population and why this is important to their future. It is clear that the future of the natural world lies in the hands of children. Thus, helping them to understand why the plants, the library grounds and green spaces are important and need ongoing nurturing. We will also hope to encourage families, children and community members to do 'their bit' to provide the bees and insects with a range of nectar rich flowers, berries, shelter and habitats to support pollination in the library grounds, across the town of Cleckheaton in their own gardens and possibly further afield.

The project will greatly enhance the library grounds as it will provide beautiful surroundings for adults and children to sit and read or just to enjoy the green space. The perennial flowering plants, shrubs, grasses, herbs, alpines and bulbs planted as part of the project will enhance the Cleckheaton Library grounds by providing beauty, colour, scent, texture, movement and tranquility. The project will also help visitors to connect with nature, support a sense of well-being, help to promote their health through helping visitors to de-stress, to relax, be calm and happy. The project will enable us to develop a beautiful garden that would bring joy to visitors, lift their mood, have a significant positive impact on stress and support the good mental health of all who visit and spend time in the grounds of Cleckheaton Library. The grounds will become a haven and hopefully increase visitor numbers to the library and the grounds. All whilst supporting wildlife and nature.

**What, if any, benefit will the project bring in terms of addressing Climate Change**

We are living in a world where green spaces are in severe decline. This is also prevalent in the area of Cleckheaton where green spaces are being reduced. Many homes in the area no longer have front gardens. Often these are replaced with concrete and tarmac drives for cars. In our busy lives, where once there was grass and flowers, back gardens are now often flagged over for easy maintenance. This significantly reduces trees, plants and flowers and the valuable source of nectar and pollen for bees, insects and birds as well as their habitats and the habitats of other small mammals.

The new plants, shrubs, grasses, herbs, alpines and bulbs along with the already established trees and the woodland nature trail that Cleckheaton in Bloom have already created within the grounds will help in tackling climate change. The project will help to remove carbon dioxide from the environment, help to cool the urban temperatures and help to reduce and/or prevent flooding by storing excess rain water.

All the new plants that would be planted as part of the project will be perennial plants. They will develop good root systems within the soil, thus reducing the need for water and support water conservation. The base of plants will be mulched which will also reduce the need for water, even during drought conditions. The mulch will also provide shelter and habitats for visiting insects as well as help to reduce carbon.

Any waste from the new plants and from all other areas of the library grounds will be composted in the compost bins that we have already established within the grounds. The compost produced will be used to improve the soil in which the new plants are growing. This will help to keep the soil healthy and capture carbon.

As a group, Cleckheaton in Bloom have already adopted an organic way of working within the library grounds. No chemicals are used, where compost has been used this has been peat free. Throughout the project and beyond, this will continue. Together, these ways of working will further help to lower the carbon footprint and help to preserve the vital peatlands and the habitats they provide.

Additionally, as many plants as possible will be sourced locally through garden centres in Cleckheaton and Liversedge. This in turn will reduce the miles during the purchase and delivery of plants, again helping to reduce the carbon footprint.

**Please print your name and date on the understanding you are signing the form**

Angela Sugden  
23rd March 2023