

SHIPLEY TOWN COUNCIL GREEN GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Mission Statement:

“To provide grants to people and organisations for purposes that further the [recommendations](#) made by the Citizens’ Jury and contained in Shipley Town Council’s [Climate Action Plan](#) (Transport, Housing, Education and Nature) to benefit, improve and support the environment and residents in Shipley (parish boundary)”

Name of applicant:

Louise Yates

Tell us about yourselves and/or what your organisation was set up to do:

Local resident and professional garden designer/ gardener/plant expert Louise who has volunteered to care for the Washhouse Garden on Caroline Street in Saltaire. Previously it was tended by a retired local resident. This large planting area (24 metres long) has been volunteer-supported for more than 10 years and has only once been in receipt of any funding to aid its upkeep. The space has relied heavily on donations of all kinds. It is a vital space for people of all backgrounds who come to sit and enjoy the changing seasons and for people to eat their lunch outdoors, reduce social isolation, practice mindfulness sitting on the bench.

What is your idea (that you are applying for these funds for)?

There is a great deal being written about the increase in ‘plant blindness’, the phenomena where people cannot name a common plant or even claim to have ever seen it before. Much is also recorded about the enormous benefits of having green space near to your home. We should make as much of our green spaces as possible, encouraging people to interact positively with them. The most positive way is by being able to harvest freely from plants, to experience fresh tastes and easily available edibles.

The Washhouse Garden has evolved over time with a mixture of donated plants, centred on a memorial cherry tree. Some of these plants have outgrown their suitability, (for example the Bank’s rose that is too aggressive to remain in situ where it is growing into the garage guttering and the Bay that will keep growing to 5 metres or more unless cut every year). The space has the potential to increase local residents, students and visitors to the village access to nature and the potential of local planting to be a genuine source of food. This kind of awareness of the potential of our local parks and green spaces to be a source of healthy fresh edibles would result in a transformative approach to our food future, giving us the security our food systems greatly need. The wash house garden is only a fragment in this context, but would allow local people to reconnect with plants of all kinds in the urban landscape in a physical & positive way.

Climate change is affecting what we can grow- especially the small number of intensively grown crops that the vast majority of manufactures foods are reliant on. We can demonstrate what alternatives can be grown around us in non-intensive ways that benefit the environment.

If we could replace certain difficult to maintain plants with those that are both a suitable size and productive- whether with edible leaves or flowers, the garden could be much more of a gathering place to explore the edibles on offer. It has the potential to be much more of a hub for learning and developing growing skills as well as a place to share ideas and experience of growing. This knowledge is lacking in so many people.

Which element(s) of Shipley's [Climate Action Plan](#) does your idea address?

Teaching resources about climate change -food security. Showing how relatively easy it is to find edible plants, fruit etc in the urban environment without losing the visual appeal of an ornamental garden

Improving a green area- as described, the garden is currently 11 years old, comprised of of predominantly donated plants, several of which have grown beyond their usefulness and which do not offer the opportunity to interact with as you could with flowers, fruit & edible leaves or stems.

How will Shipley benefit from carrying out your idea?

This idea could be replicated across Shipley in green spaces around the town. It would help communities evolve as well as provide learning and eating opportunities.

How will you measure that you have successfully achieved what you plan to do?

I would talk to people visiting the space and any neighbours who are interested. If there is any funding to help cover the costs, I could leaflet all the residents at the beginning of the project and then at the end to assess impact.

How much funding are you seeking from STC? (maximum £2000): £ 1530

Total Cost of Project: £ 1530

Source of balance of funds:

Currently I am seeking funding from this source solely as I am a volunteer and cannot devote too much of my time to seeking funding, filling out forms etc because I am still developing my own business.

Please include a breakdown of costs:

Communications- leaflets, posters, signage in the garden. £150

Plants -all with edible components, to replace those that are becoming problematic due to excessive size, aggressive growth rates etc. £500

**Raised beds to include plants that need to be out of the dog urine zone!
£600**

Soil improver – the site is largely rubble with a thin top coat of imported compost and would benefit from more organic matter being added. Leaf mould and horse manure are recommended. £150

Watering:-There is no mains water and the site faces due south. On site water butts gather 400 litres of water but requirements far exceed that. The barrels currently have a broken feed pipe which will reduce capacity unless repaired/replaced. More barrels would be a huge bonus. Each 100litre barrel costs in the region of £37 including delivery costs. The planting plan would aim to include plants that are more climate resilient and less water needy.

Three more barrels plus connecting pipework: £130

and any estimated income (including other grants, admission charges, fund-raising, subscriptions and similar) for this project:

The decommissioned phone box on site can be used for donations of seeds and plants grown by local green fingered folk. These would be used to help fundraise with the goal of having a plant sale during the open gardens event and/or the arts trail held in the village. These fund raising events would be held on the site. This would require a gazebo, table etc and more volunteer

involvement which hopefully will come from making the planting scheme more engaging. This currently involves minimum volunteer time of 1 volunteer 2-3 hours a week in peak season, watering and litter picking.

Contact details:

Referees:

Please sign and date to confirm you have read and agree with the
Criteria and Notes for Applicants

Signature of Applicant:

Date:

Applications should only be made on this form, which should be returned by Royal Mail or electronic mail **by midnight on Friday 5 January 2024** to:

**The Town Clerk
Shipley Town Council
Town Hall, Kirkgate, Shipley BD18 3EJ**

E-mail: deputyclerk@shipleytowncouncil.gov.uk

