

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: Canal & River Trust and the Garden Party Volunteers

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

Founded in 2012 the Canal & River Trust is the UK’s largest waterways charity caring for a 2,000 mile network of stunning canals and navigable rivers.

Connecting many of the UK’s urban and rural areas, we provide essential spaces for wildlife and people, helping us all feel happier and healthier.

The 250 year old waterways in our care – the canals, embankments, culverts, and reservoirs as well as the bridges, locks and towpaths – and their vital ecosystems – are threatened by the growing impact of climate change and more extreme weather. They need constant upkeep and investment. Without it they face decline and closure, and we risk losing the vital benefits they bring.

This application is supported by members of the Canal & River Trust’s volunteer-led Garden Party which was established in April 2023. It has already received recognition for its outstanding and creative horticultural work in the local area and beyond along the towpath of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal. The Garden Party meets every Wednesday 10:00 – 14:00 to deliver horticultural maintenance, wildflower planting, vegetation management and conservation activities. It supports existing community green spaces along the canal such as the community raised beds opposite Gallows Boat Yard in Shipley and develops new gardens along with horticultural projects that include tree and bulb planting through to grass cutting and balsam bashing. The Garden Party is a team of local volunteers with a passion for the environment, horticulture and conservation.

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

We have a transformative project which was initiated by our dedicated team of volunteers based at Shipley, involving the creation of a bog garden to fill the basin at the Bradford Canal spur located adjacent to Junction Stone Arch Bridge in Shipley. This endeavour is geared towards enhancing the ecological diversity of the area, repurposing neglected spaces, and fostering a sense of community engagement.

In 2024 we were awarded a Green Grant from Shipley Town Council which enabled us to construct the initial stage of the bog garden down one side of the canal spur. The bog garden consists of coir rolls planted with native marginal plants, transforming the side of the towpath with a visually appealing feature that provides a thriving habitat for wildlife.

We are writing to seek support to extend the bog garden to the other two sides of the Bradford Canal spur by installing additional coir rolls, building on the success of the project so far, creating a larger expanse of habitat.

The Garden Party has enhanced the area at the end of the canal spur by clearing litter and building debris, and planting native wild flowers and native daffodil bulbs. The bog garden in conjunction with the wild flower garden has gone some way to discouraging anti-social behaviour, creating a welcoming environment for residents and visitors. We would like to make it even better.

Again, we believe that with your support our project can make a lasting impact on the landscape, community well-being and environmental conservation efforts

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

Our project seeks to address the following element of the climate action plan:

'2. Nature

Recommendation - To encourage and enable nature to thrive in Shipley, by securing council funds and external grants to support environmental action. Ultimately, public participation should be encouraged to support the development and execution of actions that provide sanctuary and sustenance for insects.'

'Finding Every Opportunity to Support & Improve Nature:'

The bog garden aims to increase biodiversity in the area and has started to transform an unused space into a thriving habitat for local wildlife. Part of the neglected canal basin (one of the three sides) has now been reclaimed and repurposed into a natural space aligning with the goal of finding opportunities for environmental improvement, and we have already seen a change for the better. There is an opportunity here to extend the bog garden along the other two sides of the spur to further support and improve nature using native marginal plants that will provide a wildlife habitat, sanctuary and sustenance for insects. Newts and frogs were spotted enjoying the bog garden soon after it was installed. New reports of kingfisher sightings in the area have been made.

'Map opportunities for environmental improvement in Shipley:'

The proposal directly addresses the opportunity to enhance the old Bradford Canal spur by extending the bog garden contributing to the mapped opportunities for environmental improvements. The location has hard piled sides to the canal which is not inviting habitat for wildlife. Extending the bog garden along the other two canal sides will create a bank providing

wildlife easy access to and exit from the water. Newts and frogs were spotted enjoying the bog garden soon after it was installed. New reports of kingfisher sightings in the area have been made.

‘Green spaces where biodiversity could be increased:’

The bog garden project focuses on transforming a specific green space, the old Bradford Canal spur, into a biodiverse habitat, aligning with the recommendation to increase biodiversity in green spaces. Biodiversity can be increased by extending the bog garden.

‘Create a native seed bank and plant native flowers & plants wherever possible:’

Native plant species have been carefully selected for the existing bog garden and the same approach would be taken when extending it with more coir rolls. This will contribute to the creation of a native seed bank promoting the planting of native flowers and plants.

‘Accompany environmental initiatives with information to raise awareness and knowledge:’

The project includes a component of community engagement where volunteers work on the creation and the maintenance of the bog garden. Since the installation of the initial section of the bog garden residents from the adjacent properties have come forward to volunteer with the Trust on a regular basis. This aligns with the recommendation to accompany environmental initiatives with information to raise awareness and knowledge within the community.

Overall the next phase of the bog garden project contributes to Shipley’s vision of supporting and providing opportunities for nature to thrive while addressing specific recommendations outlined in the Climate Action Plan.

How will Shipley benefit from carrying out your idea?

The implementation of the bog garden project at the old Bradford Canal spur in Shipley already offers significant benefits to the community and the environment. Extending the bog garden over a bigger area, will build on that:

Enhanced biodiversity: The extension of the bag garden will bring more native plant species into an area currently lacking in vegetation, providing more areas of habitat and territory to support local wildlife. Increased biodiversity contributes to a healthy ecosystem and promotes the presence of various flora and fauna.

Community engagement and well-being: This stage of the project will still involve active participation from volunteers and community members, fostering a sense of pride and ownership. Engaging in environmental initiatives promotes community well-being, as residents come together to beautify and revitalise their surroundings.

Aesthetic improvement: Extending the bog garden will further aesthetically enhance the area. The visually appealing landscape can positively impact residents’ perceptions of their surroundings, fostering a greater appreciation for nature and green spaces.

Climate Resilience: The native planting scheme and creation of wildlife corridors contribute to the resilience of the local ecosystem in the face of climate change. Native plants are well adapted to the local climate, requiring less maintenance and contributing to the overall ecological balance.

Mitigation of ‘broken window’ syndrome: by further enhancing a previously neglected space, extending the bog garden enabling it to thrive, the project actively addresses the ‘broken window’ syndrome. Revitalisation of an area can discourage anti-social behaviour and promote

a sense of community responsibility for maintaining a clean and attractive environment.

Educational opportunities: Accompanying the project with information sessions and awareness campaigns provides educational opportunities for residents. This fosters a deeper understanding of the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable practices, encouraging responsible behaviour within the community.

Improved air and water quality: The introduction of more native plants and the creation of a bigger green space makes a bigger contribution to improved air quality by absorbing pollutants and releasing oxygen. Additionally the project can have positive effects on local water quality through natural filtration processes.

Long-term environmental impact: The project's commitment to environmental sustainability, including reducing mowing, stopping pesticide use, and encouraging beehives, contributes to a lasting positive impact on the local environment and supports Shipley's broader goals for climate action.

In summary, the next phase of the bog garden project will further beautify the area whilst promoting environmental, social and economic benefits, fostering a healthier and more resilient community in Shipley.

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

The success of the project will be assessed based on the following measurable criteria:

- **Number of residents involved.** Monitoring the level of community engagement will be crucial. The project's success will be determined by the number of residents actively participating in the installation and maintenance activities of the bog garden. This metric reflects the project's ability to engage and mobilise the community in environmental initiatives.
- **Habitat enhancement.** Plants flourishing; insects, invertebrates, birds and fish sighted. Newts and frogs were spotted enjoying the bog garden soon after it was installed. New reports of kingfisher sightings in the area have been made.
- **Visual improvement and litter reduction.** This serves as a visual and tangible measure of success. We will continue to carry out regular assessments to gauge the aesthetic enhancement of the site, demonstrating the project's effectiveness in mitigating the 'broken window' syndrome and discouraging anti-social behaviour.

It is important to note that the project will not commit to habitat surveys owing to limitations in skill levels and resources. Whilst habitat surveys are valuable for assessing ecological impact, your acknowledgement of these constraints is a reasonable and transparent approach. Instead, focusing on achievable and quantifiable metrics such as community engagement, habitat enhancement, and visual improvements ensures a practical and realistic assessment of the project's success.

Risk Assessment

How will you engage people with your idea, if applicable? Please tell us about any experience you have in engaging people:

The Canal & River Trust uses a number of communication channels to engage people with ideas and initiatives including the website where volunteering opportunities are advertised, searchable by location [Volunteering Opportunities | Canal & River Trust Volunteering](#). The opportunity to be involved as a volunteer on this project will be posted on the website.

We also use X (previously known as Twitter), Facebook and Linked In to publicise our ideas, projects, news and campaigns. In May 2024, using our regional X (Twitter) account, the post about the first phase of the bog garden project reached 15,000 people, 46 people liked the post. On our national Facebook page the reach was much larger and received 366 likes. Both posts tagged Shipley Town Council and used the Hashtag Shipley Green Grants.

Face to face engagement occurs both out on the towpath, at locks, and in established volunteer group sessions such as the Garden Party and various Towpath Taskforces.

We engage with people daily, weekly and monthly using these channels.

Is the success of your project dependent on one or a limited number of people? If so, what are your contingency plans should they be unavailable?

The success of the project is not dependent on one person or a small group. The Canal & River Trust employ 8 full time staff who manage the canal in this area, and they work alongside the Garden Party, a large group of volunteers.

What other risks have you identified that might prevent the project being realised and how will you manage them?

The project will be subject to a Canal & River Trust Environmental Appraisal which will assess environmental risks relevant to this project and how they will be managed. The initial bog garden project in 2024 was subject to an Environmental Appraisal which did not identify any risks that could have prevented the project being realised.

How much funding are you seeking from STC? (maximum £2000): £1,960.00

Total Cost of Project: £1,960.00

Source of balance of funds: The Canal and River Trust will contribute staff time

Please include a breakdown of costs:

50m of coir rolls @ £32.00 per metre = £1600
Delivery £360.00

We have enough fascines and stakes to extend the bog garden. Only the pre-planted coir rolls are required.

and any estimated income (including other grants, admission charges, fund-raising, subscriptions and similar) for this project: None

Contact details:

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Please give the name and contact details for two referees who we can contact

Name: Sean McGinley, Director, Yorkshire and North East
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Name: Nick Garthwaite, member of regional advisory board for Yorkshire and the North East, and volunteer at nearby Bingley Five Rise Locks
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Telephone: 07717 572011
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Please sign and date to confirm you have read and agree with the Criteria and Notes
for Applicants

Signature of Applicant: *Rachel J. Clapham*

Date: 20th December 2024

Applications should only be made on this form, which should be returned by Royal Mail or
electronic mail **by midnight on Friday 3 January 2025** to:

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

E-mail: deputyclerk@shipleytowncouncil.gov.uk