

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: Jen Dyer (on behalf of Nifty Sustainability)

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

We are Nifty Sustainability CIC, a micro social enterprise established in 2019 by Claire Bastin and Jen Dyer. We bring expertise in social science research, consultation and evaluation, education and learning, community engagement, and activism. We help diverse groups and organisations who are trying to create meaningful change for the benefit of people, planet and prosperity. We have three key strands of work, all based around sustainability:
--

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Research and evaluation: we support a range of VCSE and wider public, education and health organisations in evaluating their impacts and developing their policy and practice through in-depth, creative research practices.- Learning: we develop resources to build knowledge and capacity around sustainability, supporting individuals and organisations to embed sustainability into their practices.- Engagement, inclusion, and activism: the way we work is as important as what we do. As a community interest company, we seek to make a positive difference through our research and learning. We also use a portion of any profits for community projects to encourage inclusive activism and regularly work on a pro bono basis. |
|--|

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

In 2021, we successfully applied to the Shipley Climate Action Fund to co-create a thriving environment and community space on Old Spring Wood Meadow – an underused green space which suffers from localised flooding.

After a lively community consultation, and partnership working with Fruit Works cooperative and YORgreencic, we coordinated the planting of a colourful wildflower strip and spring bulbs, a variety of native bog-loving plants, small trees and shrubs to extend the woodland edge and fruit trees and bushes. We also began the ongoing process of making the paths more accessible with wood chipping and tackling localised flooding through willow planting – both of which are very important given the area is adjacent to Northcliffe Park and access through it represents an important connection to the park for those living to the north and east. We commissioned Shipley and Saltaire Men's Shed, to build three lovely planters which are now filled with herbs for community-use, and we also built a lovely insect hotel at the woodland edge. These activities have brought nature back to the area, with regular visits from roe deer and foxes and created a community around the space, which now meets regularly for working parties and celebration events.

This activity has prompted other members of the community to suggest and lead on further improvements, including the WI planting more fruit trees and bushes and the building of a commemorative bench, which was officially opened by the Lord Mayor of Bradford. This event saw 40+ members of the community join in with the celebration and associated street party.

However, the paths through the area remain waterlogged at the wettest times of year, some of the initial planting has succumbed to the Council mowing regime and we have been donated an additional planter that needs filling. We have also had interest in creating a little library to further engage the community and additional benches to encourage them to spend longer in the space. As such, we would like to build on and extend what we have done during these initial project phases through:

- Exploring and putting in place more permanent, eco-friendly solutions for path infrastructure to further increase accessibility through the space and connecting with Northcliffe Park
- Planting more spring bulbs and bog plants to replace those lost and to increase cover
- Extending the wildflower strip, which has proved very popular for community and insects alike, and add moth-friendly species
- Purchase topsoil and plants for our new planter
- Commission a 'little library' and an additional bench for the area

There is also opportunity to extend the project to a further section of Old Spring Wood Meadow, which has recently become available since the development of Arrow House has been completed. With this funding we would:

- Carry out a community consultation process, similar to the one we used initially, for this additional area asking people what they would like to see in the space. We would do in person events and an online survey for this.
- Facilitate the community vision for the area being carried out.

And finally, we would like to organise some education and outreach for the area to showcase what we've done. This would involve:

- Developing an information board outlining the key features of the space that improve biodiversity, reduce flooding and engage community
- Organising an outreach event to showcase what we've done
- Creating an information booklet, which would be available in the little library

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

This project addresses and brings together nature and education.

The project aligns with encouraging and enabling nature to thrive in Shipley through public participation in environmental action through our working groups and community engagement, and managing public spaces in a nature friendly way with e.g., community planters, encouraging pollinator friendly planting and natural flood management.

We will also be providing information boards and an outreach event to highlight to others how to be more environmentally friendly in their own contexts, as well as about different aspects of encouraging nature to thrive, better understanding of e.g., flower, insect and mammal species and of natural flood management systems.

How will Shipley benefit from carrying out your idea?

We have heard from the Shipley community that they really enjoy the Old Spring Wood Meadow area with the improvements we have made. At the Shipley eco-fair, we showcased what has been done and received many positive comments from people who know it, walk through it and / or have been involved in the project to date.

The bench, and accessible paths allow people easier access and a place to stop and rest, watch children play ball games and connect with the nature around as well as more easily connecting with Northcliffe Park itself. There is a lovely community built up around working on the area which people enjoy being part of and we would hope to extend that through this project.

The additional trees, especially the willow, while sequestering carbon, soaking up some of the excess water, and have created a more natural woodland edge – there are regularly sitings of the deer posted on social media and the local streets WhatsApp showing how much people are enjoying that. The working parties attracted a wide range of volunteers from the area and have promoted green-skills development amongst the group including plant and insect identification, a range of horticultural skills, path-laying and knowledge around natural flood management. We hope this will also inspire people to make changes in their local contexts that will encourage and enable nature to thrive.

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

When we have achieved our aims for this project, we expect the following outputs, which can be easily measured by their presence:

For building on and extending our current work on Old Spring Wood, we will have:

- Explored and put in place more permanent, eco-friendly solutions for path infrastructure to further increase accessibility
- Planted more spring bulbs and bog plants to replace those lost and to increase cover
- Extended the wildflower strip and added moth-friendly species
- Got the new planter up and running with topsoil and plants
- Put in place a lovely new 'little library'

For extending the area, success will be having:

- Carried out a community consultation process, similar to the one we used initially and begun to carry out the community vision for the area.

And finally for the education and outreach, we will have:

- Developed an information board outlining the key features of the space encourage and enable nature and community to thrive
- Organised an outreach event to showcase what we've done
- Created an information booklet, which would be available in the little library

Throughout the project, we will monitor the number of people involved and engaged with events, consultations etc, and the social media reach. Towards the end of the project, we will develop and send out a short MS Form to survey people from the surrounding area and those who have been involved about the impacts of the changes they see and / or impacts of being involved in the project. We will share this survey through the same networks as we will use to promote the work.

Risk Assessment

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

We have a lovely existing community around Old Spring Wood Meadow who regularly turn out for working parties (whatever the weather!) These are mainly from the surrounding roads (Scarborough Road, Avondale Mount, Marlborough Road, Springhurst Close, Lynton Mount) who we communicate with through local WhatsApp groups and a new lockable notice board at the top of Scarborough Road (which people now look to for updates on the project). We also had great engagement with the first consultation with an in-person event and interactive map of the area and the online survey so would expect the same this time.

We will maintain this existing network as well as reaching out to others through our broader networks e.g., Friends of Northcliffe, Northcliffe Allotment Society, Shipley in Bloom and Shipley Green Drinks.

Jen is also a member of the Yorkshire EcoBusiness Network who have expressed interest in volunteering and being involved in an outreach event which could result in good engagement beyond Shipley.

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?

Jen will lead the project but if she became unavailable there are others who have been working on Old Spring Wood Meadow from the start and could step in if needed, for example Martino and Jon (referees below) who both live on Scarborough Road and have been involved in management, finances and organisation to date.

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

We have learnt a lot from our work on Old Spring Wood Meadow so far and this represents an opportunity to put that in place. Therefore, we have experience of risks (e.g., mowing the new plants / lack of ongoing funds for maintenance) and how to manage them. At the start of the project, we will brainstorm other potential challenges and ways to mitigate them.

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

Total Cost of Project: £2800

Source of balance of funds: Nifty will fund pro-bono days for Jen to project manage

Please include a breakdown of costs:

Building on what we've already done = £800

- Woodchip / path infrastructure
- Additional plants (bulbs / bog plants / wildflowers)
- Topsoil for new planter
- Little library

Creating something lovely from the new area = £500

- Printing flyers / community consultation resources
- Putting the ideas in place

Creating an educational resource = £500

- Information board
- Information booklet (to be available in the little library)

One day of project management @ £200

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

We will keep an eye out for possible other sources of funding to increase the impacts and what is possible but don't have any in progress at the current time.

Contact details:

Name: Jen Dyer

Address: 9, Dallam Avenue, Shipley

Post Code: BD18 4PB

Telephone: 07846121880

E-mail Address: jendyer@niftysustainability.org.uk

Referees:

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

Jon Young – Member of Old Spring Wood Meadow working group and Friends of Northcliffe Committee Member

56 Scarborough Road

Shipley

BD18 3DR

Jon@wealthatbluesky.com

07813789309

Martino Corazza – Director of International Mixed Ability Sports and member of Old Spring Wood Meadow working group

54 Scarborough Road

Shipley

BD18 3DR

martino.corazza@gmail.com

07456171908

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

Signature of Applicant:



Date: 22/12/24

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

CRITERIA AND NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

1. Projects must benefit the environment in Shipley (defined by its Parish boundary) in one or more ways identified in the Town Council's [Climate Action Plan](#) (Housing, Transport, Education and Nature). Applications must make it clear which recommendation(s) the project addresses and how that benefit will be measured. This plan is based on [recommendations made by Shipley's Citizens' Jury on Climate](#)
2. Projects that achieve (1) will then be scored on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 10 (highest) for each of the following criteria: Benefit to Shipley, Achievability and Value for Money
3. Grants awarded will be to a maximum of £2000
4. Money can only be paid into an existing business, not for profit or charity bank account (not a personal account). Where it is an individual bidding, a confirmed not for profit sponsor will be required to agree to receive the funding on behalf of the applicant (which the Town Council may be able to help identify or host the grant). In the case of a private business account at least one sponsor representing an established local not for profit group or organisation will be required
5. Applications are welcome for any lawful purpose that address (1) above
6. Applications that meet the criteria will be posted on the Town Council website ahead of a public meeting on 25 January where applicants will be required to make a 3-minute presentation including questions on their idea to the Shipley community
7. Successful applications will be determined by a public vote (each person present being asked to rank their first second and third choices). This will take place a meeting on Saturday 25 January (11am – 1.30pm at Northcliffe Church, Bradford Road, Shipley, BD18 3ED)
8. Successful applicants must recognise and acknowledge the support of Shipley Town Council in publicity materials, where appropriate (for example on a website, in leaflets, programmes and minutes). An electronic copy of the Town Council logo and small plaques can be made available on request
9. Failure to fully complete the application form with all the relevant information will result in the application not being considered
10. Proof of expenditure will be required together with a demonstration of obtaining best value for money and depending upon the amount awarded the Town Council may place orders for any individual spend exceeding £500
11. Ongoing costs will not be funded
12. Applications benefiting only an individual will not be accepted
13. A short report on the project and copies of receipts showing how all the money was spent should be sent to the Town Council within six months of a grant being awarded. If monitoring information is not received by the deadline, further applications will not be accepted for any future years

14. Applications will not be accepted if monitoring from a previous STC Wellbeing Grant has not been provided
15. If funding is being sought to support an event, applications should be received at least three months beforehand, unless agreed otherwise with the Town Clerk
16. Projects should not contravene the Town Council's Equality Policy, the Equality Act 2010 or Public Sector Equality Duty
17. Grants cannot be used to fund religious or political activities. Religious organisations may apply if the purpose of the grant is not explicitly religious in nature. Applications from political parties or election candidates or for the purposes of campaigning for political parties, election candidates or referendums, will not be accepted
18. Applications from childcare, pre-school and social care organisations must enclose proof of registration and a copy of the latest inspection report
19. Applications for activities for children or vulnerable adults must include a copy of the organisation's child/vulnerable adult safeguarding policy and enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) identification number(s) and expiry date(s) as evidence that checks have been completed
20. Grants cannot be awarded retrospectively for events/purchases that have already taken place
21. Please note that some of the data collected as part of the grant application and monitoring is shared with internal and external partners as well as the funded projects being publicised. Such information may be shared or published electronically, in funding reports, in the media and other methods of distributing the information such as newsletters and leaflets. It is also possible that this information may be released in accordance with a Freedom of Information request to the Town Council