

**SHIPLEY TOWN COUNCIL
GREEN GRANT AND PARKS & RECREATION GRANT
APPLICATION FORM**

Mission Statements: 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)”
and / or
“Enhance the provision and enjoyment of Shipley parks, green spaces and
outdoor recreational pursuits. Shipley residents (parish boundary) and/or
biodiversity should benefit from the idea.”

Name of applicant: Friends of Northcliffe

Name of organisation that will support the achievement of your project (if under 18):

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

FoN is a community group with 343 members (as at February 2026). We work to enhance Northcliffe for public use, protect wildlife and biodiversity, and preserve the area’s unique character for future generations. We are very well organised and supported, and have just voted to start the process to convert to charitable (CIO) status.

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

We propose to create a community rain garden in Northcliffe to help manage surface-water runoff that currently flows into surrounding residential areas. A rain garden is a shallow, planted depression designed to capture and absorb rainwater runoff from hard surfaces like roofs, paths, and car parks. Unlike ponds, rain gardens temporarily hold water and allow it to infiltrate into the soil, reducing flooding and filtering pollutants. They are an example of **Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)**, which mimic natural water retention.

The rain garden will:

- Capture and slow stormwater using specially designed planting beds and permeable materials.
- Reduce localised flooding risk for homes downslope of Northcliffe.
- Improve water quality by filtering sediments and pollutants before they enter drainage systems or gardens.
- Enhance biodiversity through pollinator-friendly native wet-tolerant plants.
- Provide an attractive micro-habitat and learning space for community engagement, nature-based volunteering, and environmental education.

The project requires Green Grant support for site preparation, soil amendments, materials (stones, gravel, compost), plants, signage, and community workshop delivery (see cost breakdown for details).

The project will involve the following stages:

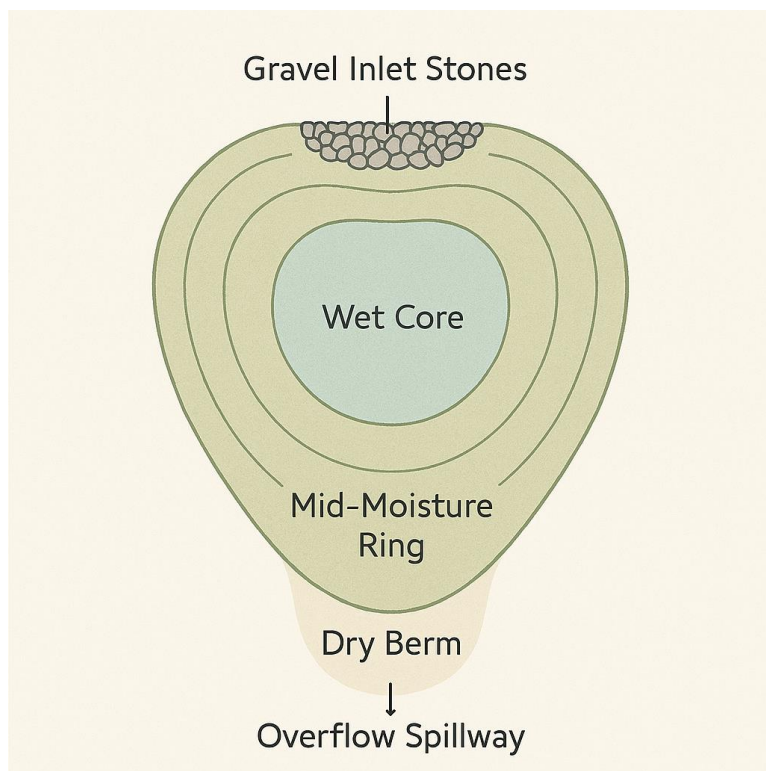
Site Selection: Choose a suitable area in conjunction with CBDMC and FoN Conservation and Biodiversity Planning Group). Perform a drainage test.

Excavation and Water Inlet: Dig a shallow basin with a flat bottom. Add Base layer (gravel) and top layer (mix of sand, compost, loam for filtration). Create a shallow swale to direct water into the garden. We would propose using a local social enterprise such as NEET to carry out the heavy preparation in return for a donation (included in costings).

Planting and Mulching: Use native, water-tolerant plants that can handle wet and dry conditions. Include pollinator-friendly plants for biodiversity. Apply 5–8 cm of organic mulch to retain moisture and suppress weeds.

Overflow & Maintenance: Consider an overflow pipe or channel for excess water. Remove debris, check infiltration, prune plants seasonally using residents' groups and FoN volunteers.

The need for this project is backed up by residents' concerns, and the visible runoff that occurs from the meadow and playing fields whenever there is heavy rainfall. A diagram of the likely configuration of the rain garden is included, as well as an example of the runoff water collecting in a resident's garden.



Example configuration of Rain Garden



Example of water runoff from Northcliffe meadow in a resident's garden (Lynton Drive, backing onto the meadow)

Please complete one of the following:

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

The Shipley Green Grants scheme requires that all funded projects support actions within the Shipley Climate Action Plan, under one or more of the four key themes: Housing, Transport, Education, and Nature.

This project contributes to the plan in the following ways:

Nature

- Supports climate adaptation through increased green infrastructure and natural flood-management measures.
- Enhances biodiversity by creating new habitats and increasing pollinator-supporting planting. It adds value to the concept of pollinator patches by incorporating flood management as its core feature.

Education

- Provides a practical demonstration of climate resilience and nature-based solutions.
- Offers opportunities for residents, schools, and community groups to learn about sustainable water management, planting for biodiversity, and the practicalities of SuDS.

Housing

- Reduces flood risk for households adjacent to Northcliffe by addressing unmanaged storm-water flows.

Community Empowerment & Climate Action

- The Climate Action Plan is rooted in the Shipley Citizens' Jury, which identified the need for local, community-led environmental action and adaptation projects. This project responds directly to these priorities by giving residents the tools and knowledge to be part of climate-resilience efforts.

How will Shipley benefit from carrying out your idea?

Enhancing Northcliffe's green character: The rain garden will add varied planting beds and seasonal interest, making the area more visually appealing.

Improved accessibility during wet periods: By controlling runoff and reducing standing water on paths and surrounding roads, the project supports safer walking routes to and from Northcliffe.

Supporting wildlife: Native moisture-loving species (such as purple loosestrife, sedges, meadowsweet and willowherb) will provide nectar, seeds, and shelter for insects, amphibians, and birds.

Creating a learning and engagement point: Clear signage will explain how the rain garden works, encouraging visitors to replicate similar solutions in their own gardens.

Contribution to Shipley's reputation for high-quality community green spaces, following successes such as Shipley Community Gardens and Yorkshire in Bloom recognition for local green-space enhancement projects

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

Quantitative measures:

- Reduction in surface-water pooling in pre-identified areas after heavy rainfall (documented with before-and-after photos and community feedback).
- Amount of water diverted through the rain garden catchment area (estimated using simple rain-event logs and infiltration measurements).
- Number of volunteer participants and workshop attendees.
- Plant survival and biodiversity indicators such as pollinator counts during summer months.

Qualitative measures:

- Resident feedback on reduced water issues and improved aesthetics.
- Testimonials from workshop participants about increased knowledge of nature-based climate solutions.
- Evidence of increased footfall or dwell time at the site.
- Sentiment analysis from social media.

Reporting:

- A short report including photos, attendance logs, and expenditure receipts will be submitted within 6 months, as required by the Green Grant conditions.

Risk Assessment

Key risks and mitigations include:

Environmental Risks

- Heavy rainfall exceeding design capacity:
Mitigation: Overspill channel designed to direct excess water safely to existing drainage (depending on site chosen); robust plant selection for variable water levels.
- Drought stress in summer:
Mitigation: Choose drought-tolerant species for upper berms; plan occasional community watering during prolonged dry spells.

Construction & Safety Risks

- Trip hazards during installation:
Mitigation: Clearly cordon off work areas; ensure all volunteers receive safety briefings.
- Manual-handling injuries:
Mitigation: Provide training on safe lifting; use wheelbarrows and tools to reduce strain.

Biodiversity & Maintenance Risks

- Invasive species colonisation:
Mitigation: Regular monitoring and volunteer maintenance days to remove unwanted growth.

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

Community Workshops and Social Media Campaign: Delivered before and after installation to introduce SuDS, climate adaptation, and biodiversity benefits.

Volunteer Planting Days: Residents from surrounding streets, FoN members and wider community engaged through social media will be invited to take part in hands-on planting and mulching.

Partnerships: Engage local groups such as Springswood Residents Group (via WhatsApp), FoN membership, FoN social media, local schools, Shipley eco-fair attendees, and broader climate-action organisations noted in the council's Climate Emergency & Environment programme

Participatory ethos: The project aligns with Shipley Town Council's participatory approach to climate-action funding, encouraging local people to shape climate-resilient spaces in their community.

Interpretation Signage: On-site educational boards explaining storm-water capture, plant species, and how residents can build mini rain gardens at home.

Experience: We have considerable experience in engaging people. We have 343 members of our immediate group, who we can reach via direct email and meetings. We have very active social media with good engagement and considerable reach (3117 followers, and in February we had 27,599 views and 741 content interactions). We also have experience of managing large campaigns, most notably evidenced in the opposition to the siting of a crematorium in Northcliffe.

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 FoN committee operates collaboratively, with 11 committee members. There is always backup available immediately if someone becomes unavailable, and we run real-time communication with all committee members via WhatsApp.

That said, the project is designed to be community-led, not individually dependent, through the following broad roles:

- Core roles (project coordination, workshop delivery, maintenance oversight) will be shared among at least three volunteers.
- Specialist input (e.g., site contour assessment or plant advice) will be documented and shared so others can continue if one person becomes unavailable.
- All tasks—planting, weeding, monitoring—can be undertaken by multiple people with easily transferable skills.

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

Funding Constraints

If less than full funding is awarded, the design will be scaled modularly, building the rain garden in phases. However, any reduction would also impact the size, and therefore effectiveness, of the project.

Weather-related Delays

Mitigation: Flexible scheduling; installing during a drier weather window to ensure soil preparation is feasible.

Permissions / Land Ownership

Mitigation: Early engagement with CBMDC to confirm site permissions before spending any

grant funds.

Volunteer Availability

Mitigation: Multiple recruitment channels as described in engagement section. In the unlikely event we do not attract enough interest, we would widen out to explore the inclusion of STC notice boards, other groups' social media, the Kirkgate Centre, local eco-fairs, and neighbourhood networks.

Fit with Local Nature Reserve management plan and biodiversity survey

Mitigation: Consult with CBMDC, FoN-sponsored Conservation and Biodiversity Planning Group and the ecologist who authored the biodiversity survey (Madeleine Holloway) to choose the best site, taking local resident's needs and views into account as well.

How much funding are you seeking from STC*?: £2000

Total Cost of Project: £2915

Source of balance of funds: Friends of Northcliffe

Please include a breakdown of costs:

Item	Description	Quantity / Unit	Cost per Unit (£)	Total (£)
Site Preparation	Light excavation, shaping basin, removal of excess soil	Lump sum	500	500
Soil & Substrate Materials	Rain-garden soil mix (topsoil, compost, sand), gravel for drainage layer	4 m ³ soil + 1 m ³ gravel	120 + 80	200
Native Plants & Shrubs	Moisture-tolerant natives such as sedges, purple loosestrife, meadowsweet	100 plants	3.50	350
Mulch	Woodchip mulch for moisture retention	10 bags	5	50
Edging & Stones	Natural stone or timber edging to define basin and slow runoff	Lump sum	250	250
Signage & Interpretation Board	Weatherproof educational sign (timber or recycled plastic) explaining the rain garden's purpose and construction	1	800	800
Volunteer Materials	Gloves, tools (borrowed where possible), buckets, refreshments	Lump sum	100	100
Workshop Delivery Costs	Facilitator planning + delivery for educational sessions	2 sessions	200	400

Contingency (10%)	To cover unexpected needs (weather-related adjustments, extra plants) or site survey requirements	–	–	265
Total Project Cost				£2,915

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

N/A

*maximum £2000 for Green Grant applicants and £1000 for Parks & Recreation Grant applicants

Contact details:

Name: Steve Bruzzese

Address: address in Shipley

Post Code: provided

Telephone: provided

E-mail Address: chair@friendsofnorthcliffe.org.uk

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

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

Signature of Applicant: Steve Bruzzese (by email)

Date: 28.02.26

Applications should only be made on this form, which should be returned by Royal Mail or electronic mail **by midnight on Sunday 1 March 2026** to:

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

E-mail: deputyclerk@shipleytowncouncil.gov.uk