

## GRANT APPLICATION 2014/15 – ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

<b>Priority Corporate Outcomes</b>	To maintain and improve the borough's parks and green spaces To support residents to live as healthily and independently as possible through increased physical activity To encourage a sense of community	
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>HENDON GROVE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY</b>	ref 197/C/CTY
<b>Address</b>	St Joseph's Grove, NW4	
<b>Relevant policy, aims and objectives</b>		
<p>The council is committed to maintaining Barnet as a successful, prosperous place where people want to live and in which an active community can thrive. This includes protecting and enhancing the natural (and built) environment. Strategic objectives include working with local residents to improve the environment and empowering people to take responsibility for their health and well-being through improvement in lifestyle.</p> <p>The devolution of management of allotment sites from the council to the community, largely completed in 2014, sought to make greater use of local creativity and entrepreneurial spirit in line with the development of the Big Society in Barnet.</p>		
<b>Activities / proposal</b>		
<p>Hendon Grove Allotment Society (HGAS) is an unincorporated association formed in 2013 to assume leaseholder responsibility for Hendon Grove Allotments, located to the rear of Hendon Town Hall. The site was previously occupied by way of a licence. It offers 40 plots for horticultural activities, ranging from small beginner plots to larger ones occupied by more experienced plot holders, selected according to criteria set by the council. One plot is reserved for adults with special needs. All plot-holders live in the borough. The society commenced self-management of the site following the grant of a 37-year lease in October 2013.</p> <p>Its first major projects have been to secure the boundary fencing and hedging and to re-route the water supply away from inadequate pipework under Middlesex University in conjunction with Thames Water. A range of community and fundraising activities take place, including an annual barbecue and locally grown plant, vegetable and fruit sales, pursuant to the objective of expanding use of the site and galvanising the local community to help develop it.</p> <p>This application seeks a grant to replace several smaller, poorly maintained, information panels with a large noticeboard at the main entrance to the site, as required by the terms of the lease. The noticeboard will provide contact details; announce plot vacancies; and generally serve to build the society's relationship with the community. It will notify dates of meetings and events and provide information about vegetable and fruit growing and seasonal growing techniques, supplementing what is on the society's website, recognizing that not all members, especially those who are retired, have access to the internet.</p> <p>Street Scene's Green Spaces Team supports the application on the basis of how the new noticeboard will serve to smarten the appearance of the site and make it look more like a thriving community space.</p>		
<b>Cost and financial need</b>		
In 2013/14, HGAS incurred expenditure of £1,410.90, which included the annual rental fee of		

the site payable to the council; utilities; repairs and maintenance; and insurance. Income is mainly from letting charges payable by plot-holders and fundraising, including cake sales and raffles. A surplus of £2,599.52 increased reserves to £5,722.06. The recommendation of Barnet Allotment Federation is that allotment societies of this size should hold reserves of £10,000 as a working contingency and for emergencies.

The supply, delivery and installation of a premium external noticeboard complete with header panel, based on the cheapest quotation obtained, will cost £1,416 (including VAT), equal to the grant request.

The award proposed acknowledges how the society is embracing the opportunities created through the roll-out of the allotment self-management model; the level of voluntary input to improve the allotments; and the need for assistance with one-off items of capital expenditure whilst a working contingency is created at the level recommended.

### Grant recommendation, type and conditions

**£1,416** (from former Borough Lottery Fund)

Start-up grant  
One-off grant

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#### Special conditions:

Payment of the award should be made subject to an undertaking to notify completion of the project and to facilitate an inspection by the council.

### Target grant outcomes

(a) To enhance the capacity of borough residents to grow their own food; engage in regular exercise; and be active members of the local community and (b) to protect and improve the natural environment.

**Date:** March 2015