


## MEMBERS CIL FUNDING REQUEST FORM

<b>AREA COMMITTEE – MEMBERS CIL FUNDING REQUEST</b>	
<b>MEMBER</b>	Cllr Giulia Innocenti
<b>DATE</b>	04/09/2023
<b>WARD</b>	Childs Hill
<i>cross-ward applications</i>	
<b>SCHEME SUMMARY</b>	
<p>Turning the Vale into a pollinator corridor - enhancing the biodiversity of the 4 grassy islands along the Vale, through the introduction of a range of flowers which will attract a greater variety of insects and wildlife; repairing the fence that runs along the perimeter.</p> <p>The aim is to turn a relatively unused area of grass monoculture into a small haven for bees and other forms of wildlife, while giving residents something attractive to look at and walk through. (It is the first phase of a 2 year project which will hopefully see wildflowers and perennials planted along the grassy islands.)</p> <p><i>The Vale at present:</i></p>	
	
<p><i>Eg of a similar grassy area of Council land, (Beaconsfield Gardens, SW London); bulbs planted and mowed path:</i></p>	



*Eg of mowed path through long grass:*



<b>Funding Request (£)</b>	<b>£18,480.00</b>
<b>CIL Eligibility</b>	Maureen Byrne, resident of the Vale and Co-Chair of GGERA (Golders Green Estate Residents Association) approached local councillors about making the grassy islands on the Vale more attractive to local residents, citing the lack of flowers, the broken fence and continued littering from passing cars. In conversation with Maureen and other residents along The Vale, Childs Hill Councillors discussed the

	<p>possibility of turning this relatively unused stretch of grass into an attractive green corridor for pollinators, connecting Basing Hill and Childs Hill Parks to Millenium Green. (nb: one of the grassy islands already has a perimeter of wildflowers which were planted by the Greenspaces team a few years ago. We wish to take this work further by planting on all 4 islands).</p> <p>Several initial site visits have been carried out with: Maureen Byrne (resident of the Vale/ Chair of GGERA); Harriet Duffield, Andrew Arliss, Roger Chapman (Chair of Green Spaces Network), Dr Karen Liebreich (Abundance London) and Anika Bakirtzidis (Garden Volunteer Team Leader and Outreach Coordinator/ Our Yard, Clitterhouse).</p> <p>The following officers have so far been consulted on this project:</p> <p>Matthew Gunyon - Greenspaces</p> <p>Harriet Duffield – Biodiversity Officer/ Greenspaces  Andrew Arliss – Greenspaces  Graham Perrior - Highways</p> <p>This project has support from the following local community groups:  Friends of Childs Hill Park  Friends of Basing Hill Park  Friends of Clitterhouse  Friends of Millenium Green  Green Our Neighbourhood</p>
<p><b>Area Committee priorities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environment: This project fits with the Council’s commitment to increasing biodiversity and tackling the climate crisis. We are taking a first step towards turning a stretch of mowed grass, lacking in biodiversity, into a field of different seasonal flowers, which will attract a variety of insects along the Vale, eventually creating a pollinator corridor. We hope it may set the path for similar grassy verges across the borough.</li> <li>- Environment: The Vale is in an area where a huge number of front gardens have been paved over to make way for driveways. In so doing, the area has lost a large percentage of green land. This project will in effect replace some of the planting / diversity lost by the disappearance of these front gardens.</li> <li>- Wellbeing: making the area greener and more attractive will contribute to the overall wellbeing of local residents. The</li> </ul>

	<p>meandering mowed path connecting all 4 islands may encourage passers by to walk through the flowers and long grass, rather than walking on the pavement. We also hope that the impact of the flowers and generally more attractive appearance of these islands (inc repaired fence), will in turn discourage passing cars from littering them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community cohesion – this project is an opportunity for local residents to get involved in an environmental project on their doorstep. By planting thousands of bulbs and seeing them flower in vast drifts along the Vale, we hope that we will be laying the foundations for further community involvement in wild flower and perennial planting the following year.</li> <li>- Community engagement –</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. a consultation letter will be sent to local residents: to raise awareness of the importance of increasing biodiversity in this area, to gather any initial input and to generate interest in future bulb planting activities. Residents will also be made aware of the Council’s “adopt a space” scheme.</li> <li>2. There will be a bulb planting weekend at the end of Oct/beginning of Nov. Local environmental community groups (listed above) as well as the GGERA have already pledged their support and will contact their own network of volunteers to take part.</li> <li>3. Anika Bakirtzidis (community gardener) is very familiar with this community and lives a stone’s throw from The Vale. She will be instrumental in communicating this project to the local community and actively engaging with residents in the lead up and during bulb planting days.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Who will deliver the scheme</b></p>	<p>This project will be carried out by the Council (Greenspaces &amp; Biodiversity officers Andrew Arliss and Harriet Duffield); Grounds &amp; Highways teams in collaboration with Anika Bakirtzidis (Community Gardener/ Our Yard, Clitterhouse and local resident); Dr Karen Liebreich (Abundance London) and local residents/ community groups and volunteers.</p> <p>Dr Karen Liebreich of Abundance London (<a href="https://abundancelondon.com">https://abundancelondon.com</a>) who has a lot of experience in community planting projects and guerilla gardening (see <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00184bp">https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00184bp</a>, Gardeners’ World, 38 mins in) will be consulting/guiding the project in its early stages to make sure we hit the ground running and to help avoid any pitfalls.</p> <p>Anika will be the lynch pin between the Council and the community since she is very familiar with the neighborhood and has a lot of experience in community gardening through her ongoing work at Our Yard, Clitterhouse. Anika will help to deliver the project: draw up a</p>

	planting plan, oversee the gardening, work with the community on bulb planting days, help maintain the area.								
<b>Community Grants</b> <i>(if applicable please confirm this is included with the application)</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>								
<b>Feasibility Study only</b>	<i>Not applicable</i>								
<b>BUDGET &amp; DELIVERY</b>									
<b>The Vale - phase 1</b>									
<b>Item</b>									
Bulbs & extra compost/ soil feed <i>(as quoted by Matthew Gunion, based on Abundance London quote)</i>	£6,000.00								
Yellow rattle seed	£750.00								
Fence repair, <i>(as quoted by Graham Perrior/ Highways)</i>	£3,000.00								
Materials for community engagement (eg sign posting flowers)	£200.00								
Consultancy - Abundance London (equivalent to 8 hrs)	£350.00								
Community gardener - Anika Bakirtzidis (equivalent to 9 days across the year)	£1,800.00								
Officer time (Harriet Duffield & Andrew Arliss)	£2,100.00								
Contractor for bulb planting (on top of volunteers), <i>tbc</i>	~£1,200.00								
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>£15,400.00</b>								
Contingency @ 8%	£3,080.00								
<b>Total</b>	<b>£18,480.00</b>								
<b>Quotes provided with the application</b>	<i>{Please provide the supporting documentation of the quotes}</i>								
<b>Timescale for delivery</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Activity</th> <th style="text-align: left;">When</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Consultation event with Anika, local residents, local gardeners and landscape designers and Dr Karen Liebreich of Abundance London to finalise planting lay out and type of bulbs to be used. Ward councillors and officers to attend.</td> <td>End Sept</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Order bulbs</td> <td>Early Oct</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Establish then regularly mow a neat path through the grass, encouraging pedestrians to divert their walk through green space. Anika/Abundance</td> <td>Sept/Oct, then ongoing (tbc)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Activity	When	1. Consultation event with Anika, local residents, local gardeners and landscape designers and Dr Karen Liebreich of Abundance London to finalise planting lay out and type of bulbs to be used. Ward councillors and officers to attend.	End Sept	2. Order bulbs	Early Oct	3. Establish then regularly mow a neat path through the grass, encouraging pedestrians to divert their walk through green space. Anika/Abundance	Sept/Oct, then ongoing (tbc)
	Activity	When							
	1. Consultation event with Anika, local residents, local gardeners and landscape designers and Dr Karen Liebreich of Abundance London to finalise planting lay out and type of bulbs to be used. Ward councillors and officers to attend.	End Sept							
	2. Order bulbs	Early Oct							
3. Establish then regularly mow a neat path through the grass, encouraging pedestrians to divert their walk through green space. Anika/Abundance	Sept/Oct, then ongoing (tbc)								

	<p>London to begin this process for first 2 months.</p>	
	<p>4. Plant varieties of late winter / spring flowering bulbs either side of path e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Daffodils</li> <li>- Snowdrops</li> <li>- Scilla</li> <li>- Crocus</li> <li>- Community participation in- “bulb planting days”</li> </ul>	<p>Late Oct/ Early Nov</p>
	<p>5. Extend flowering period of interest by the addition of later flowering bulbs e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alliums</li> <li>- Tulips</li> <li>- Iris</li> <li>- Nectaroscordum</li> <li>- Eremurus</li> </ul>	<p>Late Oct/ Early Nov</p>
	<p>6. Leave the remaining grass uncut throughout the season to encourage wildflowers and insects (strimming edges / underneath fencing for sightlines and to make unmowed sections look ‘intentional’ rather than neglected). Leaving the grass to grow will allow us to see which species grow there naturally and will aid in future wildflower planting.</p>	<p>Ongoing (tbc)</p>
	<p>7. Repair the fence perimeter, to enhance the aspect of the islands</p>	<p>Nov</p>
<p><b>Maintenance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meandering path (about 60cm wide) to be mowed every 16 days with a hand held lawnmower. The path will be initially mowed by Annika for the first couple of months, then maintained by the Grounds Team. This will replace the current mowing regime which covers the whole area and is carried out every 16 days.</li> <li>- The lawn around the perimeter and fence to be strimmed regularly, so that the area looks neat and well maintained, and any planting/ growth on the inside looks intentional.</li> </ul>		

	<p>Strimming the perimeter will also prevent visibility issues for passing motorists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bulbs require no extra maintenance</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
<p><b>Council Service Delivery</b></p>	<p>Matthew Gunyon, Harriet Duffield and Andrew Arliss from the Greenspaces team have assessed the scheme. Harriet and Andrew have suggested that a new mowing regime (with hand held mower) should be possible, to be confirmed by the Grounds team.</p> <p>Matthew Gunyon has advised that the new lightweight mowing regime will require a final cut &amp; lift at the end of the summer, a service not currently offered by Greenspaces for this stretch of land. So either we need to include it in this budget as a one-off, or we need to mobilise volunteers for an end of summer 2024 raking &amp; clearing of the dead grass, tbc.</p> <p>Harriet and Andrew supplied an initial quote for wildflower/ perennial planting and soil rotavation by an external contractor. The project has since split into 2 phases, in order to allow time for the ground to be scoped in preparation for further wildflower / perennial planting the following Autumn. The only outstanding quote is for the bulb planting (which I have loosely based on half the cost of the wild flower quotation), since no soil preparation is necessary. Final figure to be confirmed.</p>
<p><b>Dependencies/Risks</b></p>	<p>Public consultation – there is relatively little risk with bulb planting, as residents in general would like to see more colour/ vitality along The Vale.</p> <p>Public engagement/volunteers – there is a risk that not many residents (beyond the ones we know already) will take part in bulb planting days/ or adopt a space. Anika knows some of the residents along the Vale so her involvement is crucial in mobilising support and educating people on the importance of doing anything we can to improve the ecology of our local area. We will also use a contractor to help plant the bulbs, so that we are not relying solely on volunteers, who may have differing capabilities.</p> <p>Visibility for drivers – there is a risk that the long grass may cause visibility issues for passing cars. However we intend to mow along the edges to avoid any long grasses/ flowers growing into the road.</p> <p>Phase 2 of this project would see us planting wildflowers along the 4 islands. This is a more risky project as wildflowers aren't always predictable, and when they go to seed they can look a bit straggly, which might generate complaints from local residents. We are hoping to minimise this risk by letting the grass grow in order to see which flowers grow naturally and well in that environment. We also hope that after seeing the positive impact of the bulbs, local</p>

	residents will be more keen to take the next step of seeing what else might grow.
<b>VALUE FOR MONEY</b>	
<p>How does your scheme offer good value for money?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By investing in a local gardener who knows this community and is keen to engage local residents, we believe that we are investing in the future of this space. Local environmental groups are also keen to be involved and will mobilise their own volunteers.</li> <li>• I will be speaking to Related Argent about the possibility of applying for a community grant for The Vale, since it falls within their regeneration area. Anika will also be approaching them about supplying volunteers for bulb planting days.</li> <li>• We will be working with Abundance London, an organisation known for its inspirational guerilla planting on public land. We all know that planting involves taking risks and seeing what happens with a lot being learnt and adapted along the way – Abundance London offer us invaluable knowledge from working on similar projects on public land and will help to minimise financial risk.</li> <li>• Anika will also source bulbs from companies that throw away large unused batches of them.</li> </ul>	
<b>No ongoing revenue costs</b>	<i>{Members must confirm that there are no ongoing additional revenue costs associated with the scheme. If the scheme is to be maintained on an ongoing basis by a Council service, a mandated officer must confirm that the service can be support this from existing revenue budgets}</i>
<b>COMMUNITY BENEFITS</b>	
<p>The scheme should be considering the providing the <b>widest community benefits</b> possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A combination of long grass, short grass and a variety of flowers will attract a wider variety of species to the Vale.</li> <li>- An opportunity for local residents to get involved in a community planting project, with the possibility of ‘adopting’ a space in future.</li> <li>- An opportunity for local primary schools to participate in bulb planting days, and to get involved through the Green Our Neighbourhood group.</li> <li>- A more enhanced and beautiful landscape could improve wellbeing and have a positive effect on mental health.</li> <li>- By using a handheld lawn mower to mow one narrow path, rather than the current ride on mowers which mow the entire area, we will be using less fuel and therefore impacting less on the environment.</li> </ul>	
<b>Lead Officer Review – if required</b>	
<b>Lead Officer</b>	
<b>Date</b>	
<b>Assessment &amp; Recommendations</b>	



The Vale 'Islands' – Objectives		
<p>Enhance the biodiversity of the islands at the same time as enhancing the appearance, through the introduction of a range of flowers and features designed to attract a range of insects and wildlife.</p>		
Actions – Year 1		When
1	Establish then regularly mow a neat path through the grass, encouraging pedestrians to divert their walk through green space	Anytime
2	Plant varieties of late winter / spring flowering bulbs either side of path e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Daffodils</li> <li>- <b>Snowdrops</b></li> <li>- <b>Scilla</b></li> <li>- <b>Crocus</b></li> </ul>	Oct / Nov
3	Extend flowering period of interest by the addition of later flowering bulbs e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Alliums</b></li> <li>- Tulips</li> <li>- <b>Iris</b></li> <li>- <b>Nectaroscordum</b></li> <li>- <b>Eremurus</b></li> </ul>	Oct / Nov
4	Leave the remaining grass uncut throughout the season to encourage wildflowers and insects (strimming edges / underneath fencing for sightline) <p><b>Good for pollinators</b></p>	Ongoing
Actions – Year 2+		
5	Sow swathes of wildflowers (requires ground preparation and ongoing maintenance)	
6	Build bug hotels (good as a community project / activity involving local children)	
7	Plant additional trees / shrubs to increase biodiversity	
8	Paint / maintain fences	
Resources		

Extent of activities will be driven by available resource. Alongside council support, consider:

- Volunteer residents / groups
- Local schools / community groups (e.g. scouts)
- Community support groups e.g. Good-Gym
- Corporate volunteer groups

**Costs**

Example cost **per island**:

**Early spring bulbs: £515**

- 10 x 25kg sacks mixed daffodils (app. 4000 bulbs)
- 100 crocus
- 100 snowdrops
- 100 scilla

**Later spring bulbs: £470**

- 1000 x mixed tulips
- 500 x iris
- 200 x allium
- 10 x eremurus

Good wholesale bulb providers:

- [www.gee-tee.co.uk](http://www.gee-tee.co.uk)
- [www.peternyssen.co.uk](http://www.peternyssen.co.uk)

**Notes**

Path – ideally mown weekly from March through to November to keep it really neat (which is important to make the area look ‘well kept’ if other areas are allowed to grow more wildy)

Bulbs for autumn planting should be ordered asap (stocks often sell out) – need to consider storage (cool, dry), transport to planting site and tools (trowels / spades) to plant

Volume of bulbs can be adjusted to suit budgets and resource – but for maximum impact, recommend planting in large volumes or the impact is limited

Ground conditions will determine how long it takes to plant the bulbs manually. Volunteers vary widely in terms of capability – very physical work where speed and endurance will vary on a large scale.

	<p>Sowing wildflower seed has massively mixed results depending on multiple factors (ground preparation, competing grasses, weather, maintenance). Leaving the grass unmown in year one will highlight what wildflowers already exist which can influence the approach in year 2.</p>	
<p><b>Abundance Support</b></p>		
	<p>Initial provision of advice and guidance based on similar Abundance projects.</p> <p>On site support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishing initial route of path and mowing</li> <li>- Follow up mowing (x 2 visits)</li> <li>- Testing areas to establish ground conditions for bulbs</li> </ul> <p>Estimate as one day in total @ £350 (payable to Abundance)</p>	