



Denham, Gerrards Cross and The Chalfonts Community Board Funding Report - 2020/21

Date: 04/02/2021

Organisation Name	Chalfont St Giles Parish Council
Project Name	Chalfont St Giles Wildflowers for Wellbeing
Funding Stream	Community Area Priority
Total Cost of project	£1,987.50
Amount of Match Funding	£0
Amount being applied for	£1,987.50
Amount suggested	£1,987.50

Project Summary

Planting up the roadside verges with colourful wildflowers, increasing flowers in the village centre, providing colourful flowers in the cemetery borders and creating spaces for native wildflowers within the parks and open spaces. The benefits of this activity are increasing plant species to encourage more birds and insects into the area, improving the mood and wellbeing of people seeing and smelling the flowers, improving the physical wellbeing of people involved in planting the seeds and bulbs and improving the perception of our green spaces as being cared for.

In 2018 the Parish Council planted up some wildflowers on the A413 at Pheasant Hill. This was very well received and the areas planted were increased in 2019. The positive feedback from the flowered areas meant that the Parish Council anticipated planting more areas in 2020, however this did not happen because of the Pandemic. Several residents have expressed disappointment at not seeing more flowers this year. The Pandemic has seen far more people taking exercise outdoors and enjoying the open spaces within the Parish so the Parish Council has agreed to increase the flowers around the villages of Chalfont St Giles and Jordans.

How does the project address local priorities?

Climate Change/Environment, Covid Reset and Recovery, Wellbeing, Youth Provision

- The decrease in the variety of wildflowers in the UK countryside throughout the last century must be addressed in order to protect our environment, pollinators and wildlife from further erosion.
- Wildflower meadows offer a diverse and typically exceptionally attractive habit for young and old alike.
- We also see that by creating something that has obvious visual appeal, we are helping to promote mental Wellbeing and Covid Reset Recovery

How does the project align with the values, objectives and corporate priorities of Buckinghamshire Council?

Climate Change/Environment, Covid Reset and Recovery, Wellbeing, Youth Provision

Increasing biodiversity in our Parish will have a broader effect when birds and animals spread the

seeds created by the flowers planted this year, thereby improving the environment for a much larger area. The Pandemic has changed many lives, and diminished mental health and wellbeing has been a casualty of the lockdown, job losses and bereavement. By providing beautiful green spaces with pockets of colour and scent we can help to improve the lives of our residents. Forest School will help with the planting of seeds and as we have seen in previous years, the children who plant the seeds become invested in the area and watch the plants grow and see the insects and butterflies attracted to those flowers.

How does the project achieve value for money?

The wildflower display would negate the need for mowing, thus saving much needed funds.

Community Board Coordinator comments

This application has been discussed via email with the Climate Change and Environment Working Group, and the following has been agreed:

- **It is recommended that members award £1,987.50 to Chalfont St Giles Parish Council for their Wildflower Welcome to Seer Green project.**

The applicant will be required to agree to terms and conditions, which include a monitoring agreement, as discussed with the Community Board Coordinator before the fund will be formally awarded.