



South West Chiltern Community Board Funding Recommendation - 2020/21

Date of Decision – 2 February 2021

Organisation Name	Lady Ryder Memorial Garden, Parmoor, Frieth
Project Name	All Abilities, All Communities Garden
Funding Stream	Community Area Priorities
Total Cost of project	£57,000 but looking to achieve £47,000 through funding streams
Amount of Match Funding	£14,000 confirmed, further £14,500 applied for so far
Amount being applied for	£5,000
Amount Recommended	£5,000

Project Summary

The aim of this project is to enhance the experience of the walled gardens to all visitors and improve the facilities for the outreach programme by creating an all abilities, all communities garden to provide a tranquil space for anyone with physical or mental disabilities to try their hand at horticulture, socialise and prevent the onset of social isolation generally even outside of a pandemic scenario.

The area is a place to admire the entire garden from, to gather a class or to seat visitors or volunteers.

It will flow from the education centre and connect with the greenhouse to its side. It is also envisaged to be a place of rest or reflection for the volunteers, for all who come to visit and learn from the garden's delights and for those staying in St Katherines itself.

Lady Ryder Memorial Garden- It has been well documented that 1 in 6 suffer with some form of mental illness as a result of the pandemic and life in general.

The generous area will be designed to be accessible to all abilities and all ages. Landscaping materials and finishes will combine ease of movement for wheelchairs with good drainage, and will be a range of mellow, natural materials to fit in with the brickwork of the surrounding walls. Level surfaces will help wheelchair users and the ambulant disabled. The raised beds will help make the flowers and vegetables and the work of planting and maintaining them accessible to all.

Planting will also be educational, perhaps showcasing plants that celebrate or illustrate the Victorian heritage of the garden, grouping those that are good pollinators, are wildlife friendly or have health properties. They will also be chosen for their sensory qualities, for their different textures, for their swish or particular sounds, for their scent and for their forms or colour which are visually stimulating.

The outreach programme has an ambition to help build teamwork and self-esteem amongst groups with learning and physical disabilities. We will create a place where people with various physical challenges can congregate easily and comfortably for meetings, lessons or talking and relaxing. Furniture will be part of the ensemble - informal seating areas will be incorporated in the stepped edges of raised beds as well as chairs

with tables and surfaces at various heights to aid gardening work (potting for example) or to write some notes or perch a cup of tea.

The surrounding walls of the garden help make our visitors feel safe. The internal classroom walls on the other hand, particularly for our visitors with autism, can feel constraining so this external structured place will be of particular benefit to them. This will also be a place for relaxation, reflection and contemplation, tying in with the network of seats and stopping points around the garden.

- hard landscaping – level surfaces to help wheelchair users and the ambulant disabled with good drainage.
- hard and soft edges to paths and beds
- beds of various heights
- planting - herbs, flowers, vegetables, hedging, and living edges espaliers
- tables to seat around 12 people that are also accessible to wheelchair users.
- informal seating and benching, some incorporated in the raised beds
- supports for climbing plants to give structure and shade and define boundaries
- irrigation system
- external electrical sockets

The garden can assist in many ways, not least to relieve the demanding pressure of mental health.

The garden will be divided into three sections (see attached). A gathering area, a productive area and a sensory area which in themselves provide the backdrop for a calming environment.

Individuals will have the opportunity to do as much or as little depending on how they feel and under supervision from some highly skilled volunteers.

How does the project address local priorities?

The Community Board agreed its priorities on 14 July which included priorities for **Social isolation, Environment and Young People, both of which this project would be associated with.**

This project will contribute towards the working groups objective on funding initiatives around social isolation, environment and young people throughout the board area.

The project identifies the need for offering an opportunity to engage with those who may need to boost their confidence, improve on their social skills and acquire skills relating to horticulture in a safe, specially designed outside educational environment.

The effects broaden even wider. Not only will this be support for those who attend, it will also provide an opportunity for respite for family and carers who would be able to network and communicate whilst the individuals engage with the activities.

The project builds resilience by developing collaboration and partnership working across all sectors of the community, by having a highly experienced team of professionals on site. These include, a Physiotherapist, Teacher, Social Services, SEND, Prison Wardens and former Nurse as well as those who are experts in history and horticulture.

Please see the attached information to illustrate the objectives of the project and what it can offer.

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

This project seeks to achieve the corporate priorities around **Strengthening our Communities, Protecting the vulnerable and Improving our Environment.**

Strengthening our communities: The Project is looking to work collaboratively with local care homes, social housing tenants, GP surgeries to promote this as a community development providing opportunities to learn, engage and socialise in a safe environment whilst acquiring skills in aspects of horticulture through first hand demonstrations and interaction and at varying abilities.

Protecting the vulnerable: The project works with young and older people of all ages and abilities where common goals can be shared within a safe environment. It provides an opportunity for engagement with highly trained members of staff with the focus being on educating with hands on practical involvement forming the basis of the learning.

Improving our environment: The space within the beautiful walled gardens will be developed, landscaped and furnished with plants, trees, shrubs and flowers in relation to the seasons providing a backdrop for encouraging insects and butterflies. The gardens will be accessible to all whether on foot or by mobility aids. The skills learned by the visitors can be developed and are of course portable so can be transferred within their own surroundings.

How does the project achieve value for money?

The total cost of this project is £57,000 although they are looking to raise £47,000 through donations of time, materials and monetary contributions and this total is likely to be less. Various support has already been received/applied for as follows:

- Synters BMW - £3,000
- Hambleton Parish Council - £2,000
- Red Kite Housing - £9,500
- Heart of Bucks - £5,000
- In talks with The Rothchild Foundation
- Reserves - £8,000

Nahida Latif from Red Kite Housing as visited the site on more than one occasion and has first hand understanding and experience of the benefits that this project will bring over and above what is already demonstrated.

Once the area is fully developed, the upkeep and maintenance will be part of the day to day work that is carried out by teaching and passing on skills and knowledge.

By looking to local suppliers, the overall costings are likely to be reduced through being able to purchase items at cost and in some cases perhaps donated.

The volunteers in the team donate their time and abilities tirelessly for the benefit of others and encourage participation no matter what the ability of an individual is.

The proof of how valuable this project will be lies in the detailed plans that have been put forward to this board in one of our more rural areas.

Community Board Coordinator comments

This application has been fully assessed by the Covid19 Recovery Group in line with the Community Board funding criteria, and based on this and the evidence above, it is recommended as a project which is suitable to receive funding from the South West Chilterns Community Board.

It was agreed by everyone that this project would prove to be so valuable within our board area, based out in one of our rural villages but can be utilised by anyone from across the area.

This fully meets our priorities based on the evidence provided and would be a valuable project for South West Chilterns Community Board to contribute funding to.

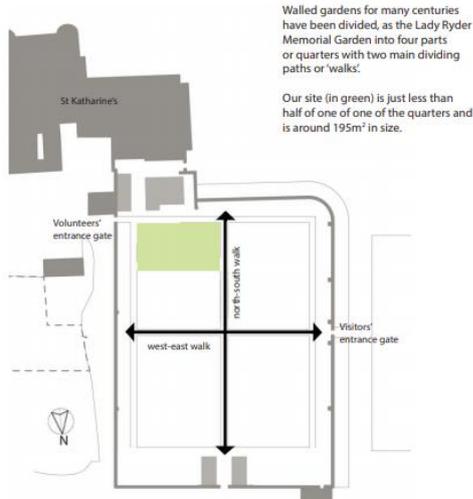
The funding applied for in this report (£5.000) can be accommodated from within the South West Chilterns CAP fund for young and older people projects, and both social isolation and environment agendas. This does take into account monies that have already been spent to date.

As detailed in the attached drawings, the walled garden area once developed, will be an outstanding place to visit and how fortunate we are to have this available in our own board area where individuals can experience first hand the benefits from hands on horticultural skills with in a place of solitude.

This decision requires ratification from the Members of the Board based on the recommendation of the Covid19 Working Group from 2 February 2021

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.

All Abilities/All Communities Garden - The Site



Site Plan showing the location of the All Abilities Garden in the Lady Ryder Memorial Garden

Walled gardens for many centuries have been divided, as the Lady Ryder Memorial Garden into four parts or quarters with two main dividing paths or 'walks'.
Our site (in green) is just less than half of one of the quarters and is around 195m² in size.

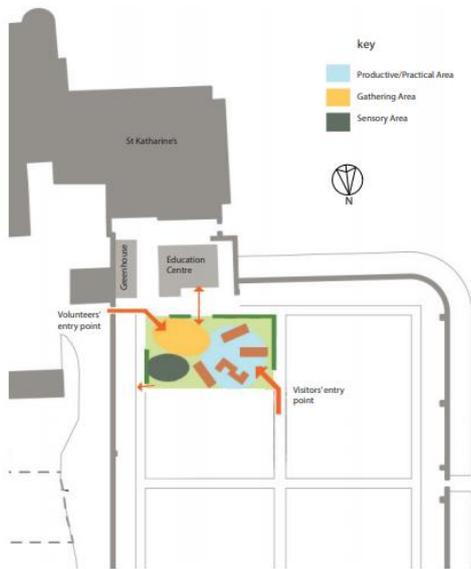


The four quarters of the whole garden are strongly delineated by living edges. Our site with polytunnels on it was originally surrounded by low box hedges (they were almost intact when this photo was taken from St Katharine's looking north in 2010).



The west-east 'walk' as seen from the visitors' entrance is planted with espaliered pear trees and lined with lavender.

All Abilities/All Communities Garden - Main Garden Zones



Site Plan showing the disposition of the three main zones of the All Abilities/ All Communities Garden

Productive/Practical Area

The Productive/Practical Area (blue) will be to the west of the site with a fan like arrangement of raised beds. This area is designed to assist the work we do with our visitor groups and gives easy access for all at raised beds of differing heights.

The beds are designed to have integrated informal seating and low areas on which to perch and have a quick mid-task break. Hard paths between beds are a minimum of 950mm wide and will be created with flat paving in stone and brick, with frequent wide turning spaces for wheelchairs.

Some beds will be permanently planted and may have planting themes. Others may be dedicated to particular user groups.

Gathering Area

The Gathering Area (orange) will extend from the south-east corner to the centre of the plan. It will connect the garden with the busy area around the greenhouse at the volunteer's entrance gate and also with the Education Centre. Together with the productive area it can be used for teaching.

Tables and chairs will be gathered here along with some informal seating in an area like an outdoor room where groups can gather, people can meet and work at tables or enjoy a rest and a cup of tea. A pergola with climbing plants will give dappled shade and will help to define the space.

The paving here will be surrounded by beautiful permanent planting that is an attractive focal point to draw the visitors across the garden.

Sensory Area

The Sensory Area (dark green) is for rest and contemplation and it will add to the network of quiet seating areas already established in the walled garden. The planting and landscaping will stimulate all five of the senses. Plants will be bright and fragrant to attract pollinators, they will be tactile and tickly and will swish in the breeze and hum with insects. There will be a bench in the heart of the area and a simple water feature with running water.

Mid-height espaliers to the east and a group of dwarf fruit trees will give structure and edges to the space to help it to feel 'safe' but not too contained.



All Abilities/All Communities Garden - The Plan



Walks or paths in the new garden will be paved in natural materials with texture and soft hues. Hand landscaping will be flat or minimally sloped to assist mobility, it will also be permeable to help with drainage. The current site is higher than its surroundings so a fair amount of earth movement and levelling is required.

Permanent planting in the Gathering Area will be bright and attractive to draw the eye and the visitors across the garden. The beds will include plants traditionally grown in Victorian walled gardens, vegetables as well as flowers.

The new garden will provide an external equivalent to the Education Centre space in the new Gathering Area. There will be a strong visual connect between the two areas and they will be linked with paving.

Lowered areas of beds to facilitate quick mid-task breaks and informal seating around the Gathering Area.

Aromatic plants and herbs form low boundaries with colourful leaves and flowers as well as fragrance. We will look to use some of the herbs gardeners traditionally planted in the physic part of historic walled gardens including thyme, lavender, hyssop and rue.

The new garden is defined by edges - a mixture of living and 'dead' edges of differing heights and permanence. Robust planters of varying heights will be constructed from sleepers. They will include lower areas and steps to create informal seating. Espaliers of various heights and dwarf trees will create living edges and give structure to the planting without overshadowing or blocking views across the walled garden.

The edge at the south-east corner of the site is completely open to allow free movement in this busy area and it creates a welcoming entrance to the new garden for volunteers who usually enter this way

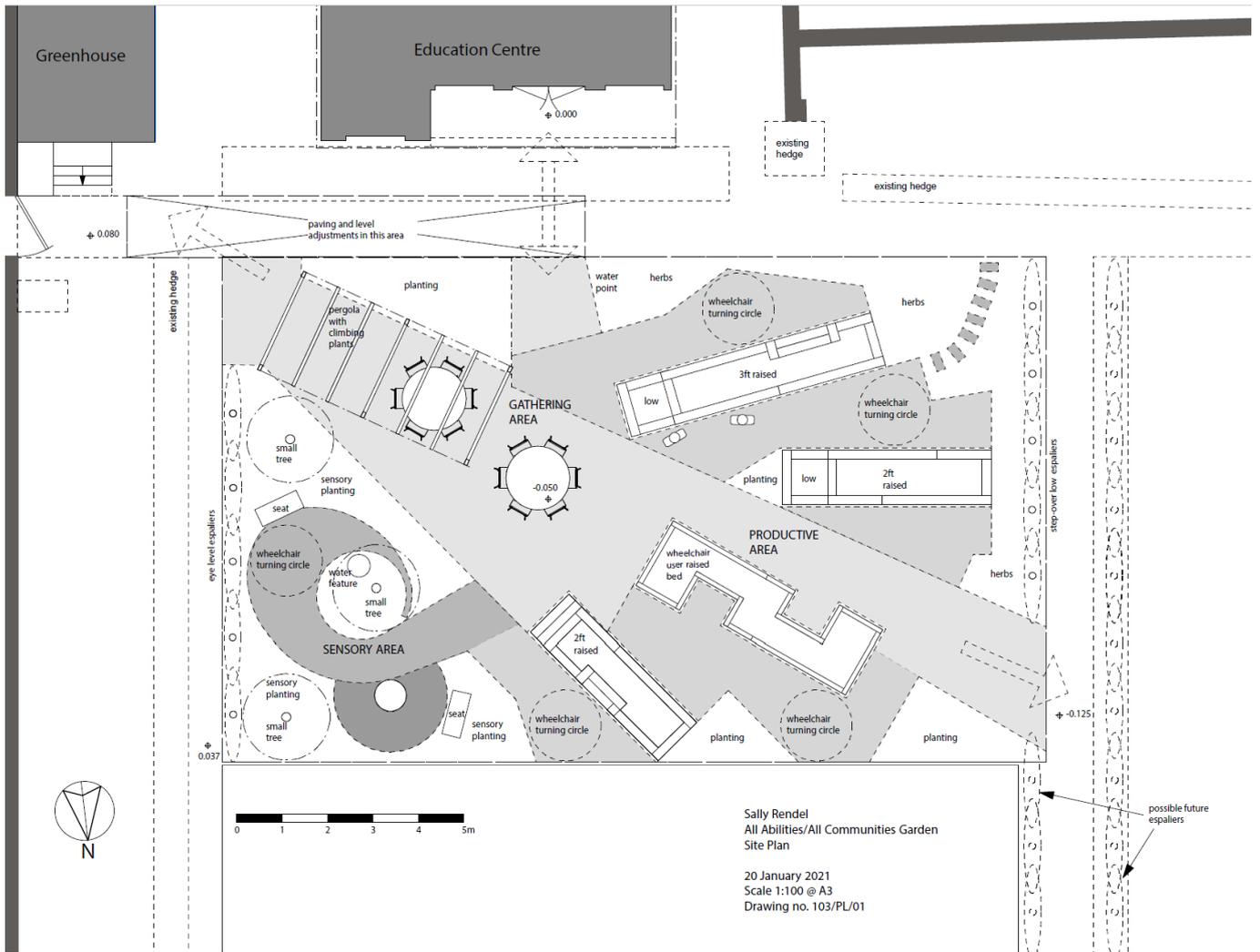
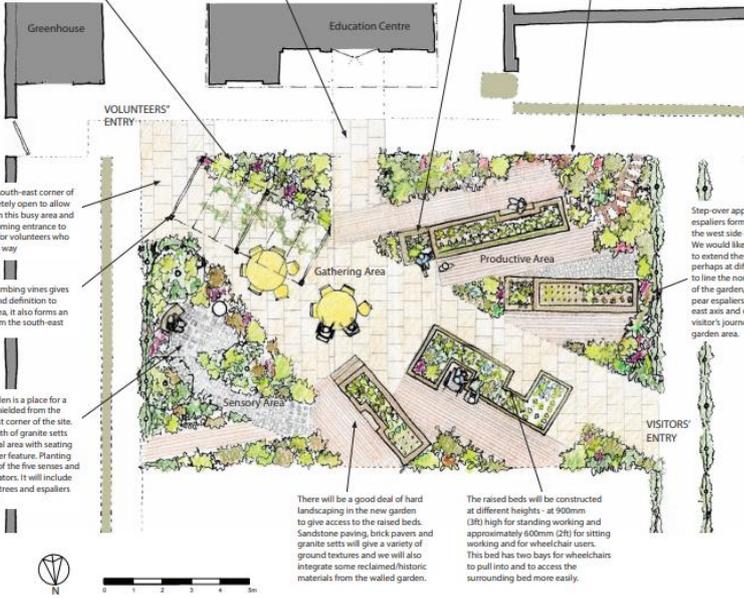
A pergola with climbing vines gives dappled shade and definition to the Gathering Area, it also forms an entrance arch from the south-east corner.

The Sensory Garden is a place for a quiet moment, shielded from the busiest south-east corner of the site. A meandering path of granite sets will lead to an oval area with seating and a simple water feature. Planting will stimulate all of the five senses and will attract pollinators. It will include some dwarf fruit trees and espaliers to give structure.

There will be a good deal of hand landscaping in the new garden to give access to the raised beds. Sandstone paving, brick pavers and granite sets will give a variety of ground textures and we will also integrate some reclaimed/historic materials from the walled garden.

The raised beds will be constructed at different heights - at 900mm (3ft) high for standing working and approximately 600mm (2ft) for sitting working and for wheelchair users. This bed has two bays for wheelchairs to pull into and to access the surrounding bed more easily.

Step-over apple or pear espaliers form low edges to the west side of the garden. We would like eventually to extend these espaliers, perhaps at different heights to line the north-south axis of the garden, reflecting the pear espaliers on the west-east axis and enhancing the visitor's journey to the new garden area.



Sally Rendel
All Abilities/All Communities Garden
Site Plan
20 January 2021
Scale 1:100 @ A3
Drawing no. 103/PL/01

possible future espaliers

The All Abilities/All Communities Garden

Estimated Costs
07-Dec-20

Overall Area 195 sqm

Material Costs

Subheading	Description	Notes	Area/Length/Size	Cost inc. VAT
Paving	Muck away	8no. grab loads @ £300 plus VAT per load		2,880
	Substrate	Buildbase MOT Type 1 laid at 200mm over the site	120 sqm	3,030
		Buildbase builders sand 50mm	120 sqm	500
		Gravel/silver sand to infill joints < 5mm joints		500
		Sandstone	Sandstone paving approx. £85/sqm inc. VAT + delivery	55 sqm
	Brick Pavloirs	Chelmer Valley clay pavloirs approx. £70/sqm inc. VAT + delivery	55 sqm	4,000
	Granite setts	Sensory garden path £50/sqm incl VAT + delivery	10 sqm	800
	Weed membrane	£2 per sqm	120 sqm	288
	Stone protector	Natural stone paving may require stone protector - provisional sum		240
	Raised Beds	Sleepers	Suregreen sleepers 2.4 x 0.2 x 0.1m oak (approx. £27 each including VAT) All beds are 1.2m wide.	
1no. 900mm high raised bed 5.8m long approx. 60 x 2.4m sleepers				1,620
2no. 600mm high raised beds 4.6m long approx. 60 x 2.4m sleepers				1,620
1no. Wheelchair adapted raised bed (sleepers on side) approx. 28 x 2.4m sleepers				760
Delivery, 5no. extra sleepers to account for imperfections, stainless steel fixings				620
Foundations (concrete)		Shayler Concrete pump hire		420
	5 cubic metres of concrete (4in1 readymix)		570	
Linings	Geotextile lining to the raised beds - provisional sum		120	
Low Beds	Edges to beds where necessary	Provisional sum	20m	200
Other Items	Water feature and solar panel pump	Provisional sum		1,500
	Pergola	Harrod Horticultural Contemporary Arch and Pergola Walkway	2.4m x 5m	4,200
	Watering system for all beds	Ducting, pipes, controls, outlets - provisional sum		700
	Table and chairs	1no. Sustainable Furniture Company table and 6 chairs set		1,400
	Benches	2no. Benches		500
	Framing to espaliers	Suregreen timber posts and GS Products galvanised tensioned wire system		220
	Accessible table	Wheelchair accessible Sustainable Furniture Company table		1,000
	Watering point	New hose head - provisional sum		120
			Total Material Costs	

Building Costs and Plant

Subheading	Description	Notes	Area/Length/Size	Cost inc. VAT
Labour	Excavations, setting out, foundations to raised beds, laying substrates, laying ducts for watering and electricity, laying paving and sleepers	Site Manager/ skilled labour £1,050 incl. VAT 10 weeks plus. Skilled labour £875 (no VAT) 10 weeks. Labour £750 (no VAT) 3 weeks.		
		Volunteer labour.		21,500
Plant	Digger and dumper truck	Digger plus driver 2no. weeks at £1200pw incl. VAT 2 weeks. Dumper £250pw incl. VAT 3 weeks. Powered roller £250pw incl. VAT 1 week		3,400
			Total Building Costs and Plant Hire	24,900

OVERALL TOTAL 57,508