



Organisation Name	Groundwork South
Project Name	Multipurpose Meadow- The Ivers Environment Centre
Funding Stream	Community Area Priorities
Total Cost of project	£9,800
Amount of Match Funding	N/A
Amount being applied for	£9,800
Amount suggested	£9,800

### Project Summary

Groundwork South are seeking funding of £9,800 to dramatically transform Iver Environment Centre for the benefit of the community and for the environment, by replacing a concreted area with a beautiful, biodiverse wildflower meadow. The meadow will not only provide support for local ecosystems but will be an aesthetically pleasing addition for visitors to the centre to enjoy both recreationally and for the development of skills (e.g. through volunteering).

Project activities: With this funding, we will:

- Create a beautiful, biodiverse wildflower meadow that is valuable for native wildlife and exciting/aesthetically pleasing for visitors
- Establish a 'bog moat' garden around the meadow, with accessible pathways to access the meadow
- Create a high-quality, long-lasting educational and recreational amenity for residents of Iver, the surrounding areas and beyond

### How does the project address local priorities?

#### **Covid-19 Response and Recovery**

The meadow will provide a tranquil, safe space for individuals to visit for physical and mental wellbeing, as well as for recreation, whilst being able to socially distance outside. In addition, the meadow will provide an excellent opportunity to supplement the education of the children that visit our site in a safe and natural setting - we will be able to use the meadow to create educational sessions which will be of benefit to children, whose ability to access traditional, classroom-based education has been significantly impacted by the pandemic.

#### **Green Spaces**

The project helps to support with the evidenced need of improving biodiversity in the area.

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

### **Strengthening our Communities**

The presence of the wildflower meadow will create a nicer environment for volunteers and visitors on-site, as well as creating an idyllic recreational space for the community to explore and enjoy together. It will help people to increase their physical and mental wellbeing through spending time in green spaces. It will make the Iver area a more attractive place to live in and to visit, by helping to make the Environment Centre a better quality and aesthetically pleasing site. In addition, the creation of the meadow will also create opportunities for site-based events, which will attract a diverse range of people and once again assist in helping people to feel more connected to the people and the places in their local area.

### **Improving Our Environment**

Our project helps to strengthen the biodiversity on-site at Iver Environment Centre, by providing a wildflower meadow which acts not only as a diverse and interesting habitat for flora and fauna to flourish. This 'small but mighty' project will have significant ramifications for the local biodiversity, creating a high-quality environment which will link up with its surroundings, adding ecological value to the wider site. It will be both attractive and useful and incorporates a large amount of recycled material. Waste concrete and rubber tyres dumped on our site will be used to build up the centre of the island, thus avoiding sending it to landfill. Local materials will be used to avoid unnecessary air miles. The project will reduce the risk of flooding and harness water in a positive way.

This project will enable our little patch within the Green Belt to fulfil the purpose of Green Belt by offering wildlife and recreational opportunities. We have the structure in place to ensure long term maintenance and protection of this project which will have an impact on local biodiversity for years to come. The engagement opportunities that this project affords will foster a love of nature that visitors will take with them to their homes in Buckinghamshire. The sense of wonder they experience when gazing over the water or peering closely at a bee filling its pollen pouches in the meadow will inspire them to take action in their lives to reduce their negative environmental impact.

How does the project achieve value for money?

### **Community Board Coordinator comments**

This project supports two of the local area priorities as identified by the board as well as two of Buckinghamshire Council's corporate priorities.

This project will provide an excellent asset to the local community and will be of benefit all residents, especially local schools, families and volunteers.

The centre's volunteering programme enables skills development whilst improving mental health and provides specialist access to purposeful activity for adults with additional needs. Groundwork South partner with day care and residential centres to be able to engage with individuals with higher needs and to engage them in meaningful volunteering activities, making this project a valuable tool for Community Engagement and overall wellbeing for the local community.

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**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.**