

**APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) GRANT
FOR A PROJECT IN THE WOLVERCOTE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM AREA
Spring 2023 Round 3**

1. Please read the "Guidance Notes for WNF CIL Funding Applications"
2. The sections of this application form may be used flexibly to provide additional information where necessary. Not all sections will be relevant to all projects, and you may leave these blank.
3. Applications will be assessed by the WNF Steering Committee, taking account of the following criteria; applicants may wish to include supporting information regarding their project's fit to the criteria.
 - Location within or serving the WNF Community
 - The recipient operates as a recognised body with a nominated bank account
 - The project has agreement in principle from the property or asset owner
 - Value for money
 - Consideration has been given to health and safety requirements
 - Environmental sustainability
 - Innovation

TITLE Short title by which the project will be known	Purchase of a powered scythe mower to cut the grass on Wolvercote Green
PROJECT APPLICANT(S) & CONTACT DETAILS Name of person (not organisation) who has initiated the project, with email & phone number	Kirsten Berry and Nicholas Dunbar
APPLICANT ORGANISATION Name and type of organisation, if applicable, charity number.	Wolvercote Commoners Committee 254695
OUTLINE PROJECT DESCRIPTION Short description so others not associated with the project can understand its purpose and scope. Include aims & objectives, and expected beneficiaries (max 150 words)	<p>Every summer, the tall grass on Wolvercote Green is cut to make hay. This is a key element of the ongoing stewardship of the Green and is necessary to maintain its designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.</p> <p>Financial benefit will be the prudent use of public funds. Purchasing the power scythe entails a single capital cost, albeit with ongoing maintenance requirements. Contractors' charges have previously been in the region of £500 to £750 annually. In 2022 the quote tripled, to a cost that is not financially sustainable.</p> <p>Environmental benefit would be gained by WCC having autonomy regarding grass cutting timing, and not restricted to contractor or</p>

	<p>volunteer availability. This timing can vary by a number of weeks each year and is important in terms of making good quality hay, reducing nutrients being released back into the soil, and protecting soil structure.</p> <p>The mower can also be used for other necessary maintenance tasks, such as cutting back brambles and meadowsweet.</p>
<p>MAIN TASKS</p> <p>A list of the main tasks and if appropriate an initial project plan with timescales.</p>	<p>April/May 2023: Select suitable machine; a shortlist has been drawn up (attached)</p> <p>By 30 June 2023: Purchase chosen machine</p> <p>From 01 July 2023: Cut grass on Wolvercote Green. This is restricted by the Countryside Stewardship Agreement under which the Green is maintained, though some flexibility can be agreed with Defra/Natural England.</p>
<p>STAKEHOLDERS & DETAILS OF CONSULTATION</p> <p>(e.g. Council, Highways, site owners or asset holders, community organisations, businesses, neighbours)</p>	<p>Wolvercote Commoners Committee – custodians of Wolvercote Green</p> <p>Commoners of Wolvercote – getting involved in the management of Wolvercote Green</p> <p>All who enjoy Wolvercote Green – seeing it flourish throughout the year as a result of regular hay making.</p>
<p>RELEVANCE TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN</p> <p>How does the project enhance or develop our neighbourhood?</p>	<p>The project aims to enhance and ensure the best ongoing management of this important site, designated as a European Special Area of Conservation (SAC) as well as SSSI. As a rare example of a floodplain meadow, Wolvercote Green provides valuable biodiversity and habitat; is openly accessible to the public; and hosts regular, well-attended volunteer work mornings. The Neighbourhood Plan recognises Wolvercote Green as one of the most important publicly accessible green spaces in the city.</p> <p>The project will ensure that hay making can continue on Wolvercote Green at a reasonable cost in the interest of both conservation and the community.</p> <p>In addition, volunteers (including new residents to the village) will have the opportunity to use the powered scythe mower; learning a new skill and gaining wellness from being active outdoors.</p>

	Appropriate management of Wolvercote Green will ensure the longevity of this important green space, delivering Neighbourhood Plan policies focussing on biodiversity, nature conservation and providing access to high quality outdoor spaces.
<p>CONSENTS REQUIRED</p> <p>Are any legal consents required before the project can go ahead (e.g. from a Council department such as Highways, Planning, Building Control, or other statutory organisation)?</p>	<p>None required</p> <p>The Countryside Stewardship Agreement held for Wolvercote Green does require it to be cut for hay, annually.</p>
<p>FINANCE</p> <p>How much will this project cost in total? What proportion is being sought from CIL funding? What other sources of finance are being pursued? Are you seeking matched funding? What will the CIL grant be spent on?</p> <p>PLEASE INCLUDE COPIES OF COST ESTIMATES</p>	<p>The cost of a powered scythe mower ranges from about £1,000 up to £10,000 dependent on the size and quality of the machine. For Wolvercote Green, we would need a mid-sized, ‘semi-professional’ model and would seek to find a good second hand machine (so that we might get a better model but without having to pay full price).</p> <p>Consequently, WCC is seeking £3,500 of CIL.</p> <p>WCC would make up any remaining funds necessary to purchase an optimal machine.</p>
<p>MAINTENANCE</p> <p>How will the outputs of the project be maintained and by whom? Please note that CIL grants cannot be used to cover ongoing costs.</p>	<p>Wolvercote Green will be cut for hay annually. The machine will also be used to clear meadowsweet and brambles as appropriate.</p> <p>WCC will ensure the powered scythe mower is appropriately housed whilst not in use and maintained ready for use.</p>
<p>RISK ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Are there any financial or other risks to the completion of this project?</p> <p>Are there any safety issues associated with the project?</p>	<p>None</p> <p>The powered scythe mower would be used in accordance with the manufacturer’s guidance while wearing appropriate PPE. WCC would oversee use of it.</p>
<p>MONITORING AND REPORTING</p> <p>How will the success of the project be monitored? Over what timescale?</p>	<p>Wolvercote Green is monitored by Natural England, who report on its conservation status.</p>
<p>OTHER COMMENTS OR INFORMATION</p>	<p>WCC is almost entirely funded by public monies. Primarily, these funds should be spent prudently and in the public interest. Secondly, paying third parties for this work would very</p>

Please list anything else of relevance you wish the Committee to be aware of.

quickly utilise WCC funds, which could otherwise be used on essential management (eg digging out drainage ditches (which also provide water vole habitat), scrub removal, willow pollarding and also enhancement such as pond clearance and restoration.

Completed applications, WITH COPIES OF COST ESTIMATES/QUOTES WHERE APPLICABLE, should be sent with a covering email to wolvercotenf@gmail.com before : 14th April 2023.