

# Kingston Parish Council

## Financial Grant Application Form

### 2022-2023

- PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY IN DARK INK OR TYPE
- ONLY SEND REQUESTED INFORMATION OR DOCUMENTS

#### A. Contact details

1. Name & address of your group:

Kingston Action Group, 3 Bramleys, BN7 3LF

2. MAIN contact for this application:

Full name: Steve Berry

Position held in the group: Secretary & Treasurer

Contact address including postcode: as above

Email address: stefalik@aol.com

Telephone: 01273 487743 Mobile: 07576 223357

#### B. About your group

3. What type of organisation are you?

Community group

If a registered charity please supply your registration number : Not a registered charity.

4. When did your group start? When did it first start meeting or running activities?

**We were established in May2008 and have been active ever since then.**

- 5. Briefly describe the purpose of your group.** Describe the usual activities/services you provide. If you are a new group describe what you plan to provide. *If you have a written constitution you must enclose a copy with this application.*

**The Group's purpose is as set out in the attached constitution, revised (very slightly) in April 2019. This was, deliberately, very broadly drawn. It could be re-stated as undertaking actions for the benefit of the local community, in conjunction with the Parish Council. In practice, most of our activities over the last decade and more have been connected with improving the village environment in one respect or another, whether campaigning for safer roads, removing litter, making a case for more bins, clearing leaves, planting trees, wildflowers and bulbs etc.**

- 6. How many people are involved in your group?**

**Volunteers: c 40 people have made some recent contribution although the number of dedicated regular helpers is much lower.**

**Management committee members... Currently seven**

**Paid staff None**

**Others.....(no others)**

- 7. Please tick if the group has any of the following:**

**Public liability insurance?      Yes                      Maximum cover? £5 million**

**Other insurance (please specify)?    No other      Maximum cover?**

**C. About your project/service**

- 8. Describe the project or service for which you are seeking funds. Does it have a title? What does it aim to achieve? How will it work? *Please enclose any supporting documents, plans.***

**We are seeking funds to pay for a notice board at the Kingston Community Wildlife Garden.**

**As some Councillors will know, The Garden is being created on the site of**

**a former allotment at Gow's Croft, The Street.**

**It will be a new public space in the village, open to all.**

**It will have several main aims.**

- **Providing a garden which is both attractive to look at and attractive to wildlife**
- **Demonstrating that gardening with wildlife in mind does not mean leaving nature to develop into a wilderness!**
- **Providing a site where children can learn about gardens and wildlife in a safe environment which is close to their school (and to some of their homes)**
- **Developing a new social area in the village for all generations to enjoy, each in their own way**

**9. How have you identified a need for this?**

**Articles in the Kingston News over the last two years and more have aroused interest in, and support for, the project which immediately attracted volunteers to help with the massive task of clearing at least a decade's vegetative growth from the site. Since September 2020 when the project began in earnest, many people have given help in kind and some have given cash donations.**

**Interest has grown steadily as the garden has gradually taken shape.**

**It might seem a grandiose claim but the project does nevertheless provide an opportunity for people to learn more together about the climate crisis and how we can address this locally, albeit in a minor way.**

**10. When do you intend the project or service to start?**

**Month...The project began in earnest in September 2020 when we started to clear the site. The notice board has very recently been erected.**

**11. How many people in Kingston do you expect to benefit directly from your project? And what age group?**

**Potentially, the whole project could benefit hundreds of people, of all ages, over the course of many years.**

**The notice board will draw attention to the site, explain what has been done to date and what is planned. This should, we hope, attract more interest and more offers of help.**

**We hope in particular that the overall project will benefit children from the primary school by providing them with opportunities to grow plants and learn about wildlife. It should also benefit older people who will, ultimately, have a new place of interest in the village where they can help with the garden, socialise with others or just sit and enjoy the surroundings.**

**12. How will you measure the success of your project?**

By the support it is given by funders; the positive attention it draws from villagers; the interest it generates from the primary school; the wildlife which is attracted to the site (and which is being recorded) and by the satisfaction and enjoyment it gives everyone involved in helping to create a new and enduring asset for the village. We have already attracted funding from the Chalk Cliff Trust, from the South Downs Trust and from others (including the Parish Council itself of course!). We believe, too, that the project has contributed to the success of the village in the Parishes in Bloom competition in the last two years.

**13. What experience does your group or individual members have of running this type of project?**

Most of us have horticultural experience. Several also have practical skills – as has already been demonstrated by the construction of bases for the greenhouse and shed; the erection of perimeter fencing and the building of a durable circular path.

One of us has extensive experience of gardening with wildlife in mind and was the lead officer in that field for English Nature until 2006, having previously been responsible for a grant scheme which assisted primary schools to develop wildlife areas within their grounds.

**14. What is the cost of your project? Please give a summary breakdown of what the money is for. *If you have a project budget please enclose it with your application.***

**Item or activity:** Notice Board

**Cost** Including installation, involving two large wooden posts set in concrete, £330.

**Note.** The total cost of the entire project from its inception in September 2020 has already run into several thousand pounds but now that the infrastructure is almost all in place, future annual costs will be much lower.

**15. Have you sought funding from others? If yes please give details of which organisation/s, the amount requested and whether you were successful.**

The following information relates to the Garden as a whole. In February 2021, we applied, unsuccessfully, to the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust for c £1400.

In July 2022, we applied successfully to the Chalk Cliff Trust and received £2000. This money financed the completion of the perimeter fence and the construction

of the path.

We applied in April 2022, to the CARES project (under the aegis of the South Downs Trust) for £3300. Although we have been told that this application was successful, we have yet to receive any money. When we do, this will finance the cost of our annual fixed expenses (rent and insurance) for three years. The remainder (c £2200) will go towards the cost of a shelter on the site to be used by schoolchildren and others. The total cost of this building has been estimated at £4,400. We hope to get the remaining sum (ie a further £2200) from a grant from the Community Garden Scheme run by the National Garden Scheme. We will hear the outcome of this application in late March.

Finally, we have spent roughly one third of the £3000 that the Action Group received in the current F/Y from the KPC for planting in the village as a whole, on shrubs, dwarf trees, bulbs and perennials including climbers specifically for the Garden.

16. How much of your own money will be used for this project?

We have spent more than £1000 of the money we have generated ourselves (via the Lewes Lottery) over the course of the last 30 months but hope to finance this single element of the project solely with the grant from the KPC.

17. How much money are you asking Kingston Parish Council to grant?

We are asking for £330 – the total cost of the notice board and its installation.

18. Details of group or group treasurer bank account.

Account name Kingston Action Steering Group

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Account number 20351868

Sort code 30 65 37.....

Names of all account signatories... Vicki Scott; Tim Ambrose; Steve Berry.....

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19. Please give any additional information that you think may be helpful.

The project is dependent on volunteers. So far, they have clocked up more than 530 hours of work, including 194 in the current financial year. (We have a schedule detailing this work which can be supplied on request). It has also attracted support in kind from villagers. Donations to date include plants, two greenhouses (the first was destroyed in a storm in February 2022), garden tools, wheelbarrows, a shed, paving stones, two large compost bins, a water butt and wooden posts.

Lewes District Council, from whom we are leasing the site, have been very

supportive. Besides removing the two tons of vegetation we cleared from the site in the autumn of 2020 and a further half ton in 2022, they have also freely provided one fence (of post and rail) and a gate.

We had early discussions with the former Head Teacher of Iford and Kingston School, who was keen for the children there to play an active role in the development of the site and to make use of it later for their own projects. Covid put paid to those first thoughts but we are about to resume talks with the new head of the school with the aim of getting some project in place before the start of the new school year in September 2023.

The project is progressing but is still in its initial stages. We have virtually completed the infrastructure - fencing, hedgerows, greenhouse, shed, raised beds, paths etc. and have undertaken considerable planting. Progress was held back severely owing to Covid but will now start to accelerate. We have also recently begun to build the bog garden. This will be completed this Spring/summer.

Other, less costly plans include a raft of measures aimed at increasing the biodiversity of the site. These include a hibernaculum for hedgehogs, piles of sawn logs (and also "bug hotels") for invertebrates, nest boxes, a small meadow area for pollinators and several small water bodies. We intend to use the greenhouse to raise our own plants from seed.

We have secured a modest annual income through the purchase of tickets from the Lewes Lottery by supporters naming us as their nominated good cause. Another supporter provides us with about £100 a year via a Standing Order. Currently, our total income is running at an annual rate of just under £400.

We will learn from experience, be receptive to new ideas from children (and from their teachers, parents and grandparents) and from each other.

## **DECLARATION**

**This must be signed by the person who completed this application, the person named as contact in section A.**

- I confirm that to the best of my knowledge, all the information in this application form is true and correct.
- I understand that you may ask for additional information.
- I am authorised to act for the organisation in making this application for financial assistance

Signature\_\_\_\_S A  
Berry\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_ 28 February 2023  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_Stephen  
Berry\_\_\_\_\_