



# Ward Flexibility Funding Application Form

Thank you for your interest in Stockport Council's Ward Flexibility Fund. To give your group the best chance of success please read the guidance notes and the questions on the application form carefully.

Please ensure that all boxes on this form are completed. You must also include all additional information that is requested.

## 1. About Your Organisation

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### 1. Name of Organisation/ Group

Friends of Highfield Orchard

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### 2. Organisation/Individual Address

c/o 9 Highfield Road, Cheadle Hulme, Stockport SK8 6EL

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### 3. Main Contact Details (for correspondence)

Title:

Name: Aidan Bucknall

Role: Chair of the Friends of Highfield Orchard

Address:

Postcode:

Home Phone Number:

Mobile Phone Number:

Email Address:

Return to:  
Democratic Services  
Town Hall, Stockport SK1 3XE

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#### 4. Please provide your bank account details

Account Name:

Account Number:

Sort Code:

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#### 5. What is the status of your Organisation/ Group?

*Please Tick*

- |                                |                                     |                                  |                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A New Group                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Voluntary Organisation           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| A Registered Charity No.       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Company Limited by Guarantee No. | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Applying for Charitable Status | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Unregistered Association         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Friendly Society               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Other (Please specify)           | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Housing Association            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                                  |                                     |

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#### 6. Please describe the main activities of your Organisation/ Group

To protect and nurture the fruit trees of Highfield Road Community Orchard, and to promote local community enjoyment and involvement in the Orchard's long-term health and development.

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#### 7. When was your Organisation/Group established?

July 2021 but formally constituted as a member group of the Stockport Greenspace Forum in September 2021

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#### 8. Does your organisation have the following policies and procedures in place?

*If you are awarded a grant you will be required to send copies of all relevant documents as part of the grant agreement.*

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| A governance/management committee              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| A Constitution/governing document/set of rules | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| An Equal Opportunities Policy                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| A Child Protection Policy (where necessary)    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| A Health and Safety Public liability           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

## 2. About Your Application

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### 9. Please give us a brief description of your proposed/planned project or activity

*You may wish to include details of what activities will take place, where will it happen, how often and who will take part. If you are applying for equipment you can tell us what will it be used for and why is it needed.*

In July 2021 Stockport Council funded the Orchard Project (a national charity dedicated to the restoration of urban orchards [www.theorchardproject.org.uk](http://www.theorchardproject.org.uk)) to recruit and train six volunteer Orchard Mentors in orchard care, management and community engagement, due to the lack of funding within the council for direct maintenance of the 16 community orchards planted over the past 15 years. I was appointed as one of these, to care for Highfield Road Community Orchard, situated in Highfield Road Park, Cheadle Hulme, whose 150+ fruit trees had become badly neglected.

Working in partnership with the Orchard Project and Anthony Crook, head of the council's Arboriculture Team, I began work in the orchard to clear scrub (saplings, bramble, nettle, grass etc) from in and under the fruit trees, to clear soil circles under the trees and put feed and wood-ship into these, and to prune the trees to protect them from damage and disease. I also built up a volunteer group, weekly work parties taking place to take forward the tasks above. It is this volunteer group evolved into the Friends of Highfield Orchard.

Currently, we only have access to a limited number of tools and other essential equipment and we are looking to purchase more in order to accelerate the work. Specifically, we are seeking to buy :

Heavy Duty Gardening Gloves and Gauntlets, Goggles, Ventilated Facemasks, Granular Fruit Tree Feed, Heavy Duty Digging Spades, Heavy Duty Edgers, Telescopic and Extendable Pruning Loppers, Pruning and Bow saws, Secateurs, Light Medium-Handled Hedging Shears, Blade Sharpeners, Rakes, Heavy Duty Black Bin Bags, Fruit Pickers, a 1 Husqvarna 64 Manual Pugh-Along Hand Mower 40cm, and Hard Hats. In addition, we require Admin materials including Stamps, Envelopes, Printer Ink and A4 printer paper.

Currently we do not have permission to use power tools but soon we hope to receive council-approved training, and therefore would be looking to hire Heavy Duty Strimmers and other power tools, and we are seeking funding that would support this. Hire

Without these tools, it will be impossible to restore and then maintain the orchard in the long-term, and therefore impossible to meet the aims of the Friends of Highfield Orchard, the Orchard project, and Stockport Council itself

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### 10. Who will benefit from this grant?

*e.g. local residents, young people, older people and how?*

Highfield Road Park is an important community resource and haven for local residents, and for the many others who use the park regularly. It is the primary green space area for a large part of Cheadle Hulme and is used by young and old alike. There being a small football pitch and attached play area for children. Local schools use the park for cross country running, and it is

highly popular with dog walkers. The park is semi-wilded and attracts a wide variety of plant and animal species. Indeed, in 2007 orchards were designated a Priority UK Biodiversity Habitat by the Government. During the Covid lockdowns, the park provided a place to go for socially-distanced peace and mental well-being, and physical exercise.

In addition, in late summer the orchard provides ample fruit (apples, pears, medlars, plums, greengage and damson, along with the wild blackberries that circle the orchard) to satisfy the many foragers and local residents who attend the park for fruit picking.

The work of the Friends of Highfield Park as also had an unanticipated benefit, many park users reporting that they feel safer using the park than before, due to the presence of volunteers and the improved 'lines of sight' through the park as scrub is cleared and trees are pruned back.

As the project develops, we are also looking to set up Events Days in the park, centred around the orchard, the carer of the fruit trees, the benefits of the trees to the eco-system, and, of course, all manner of fruit-based food and drink. We are also looking in the medium-long term to develop relationships with local schools, mental health charities and probation services, to provide volunteering opportunities.

#### **10(a) How Many Stockport residents will benefit?**

This is hard to say as no formal survey has yet been conducted. However, the park is in constant use during daylight hours.

#### **10(b) Are there any restrictions on who will benefit from the funding?**

Not that I am aware of.

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### **11. Your Project's Budget**

*Please provide a breakdown of cost for your project including VAT where applicable and submit any estimates for the purchase of equipment or work to be done.*

#### **11(a) How much will the project/activity cost in total?**

We are seeking funding to cover all the costs mentioned above for year one of the project. It is possible to buy most of this equipment online at low prices and I have calculated this to total around £1,000, however I am currently in negotiation with a family-owned garden and hardware store in Cheadle Hulme to purchase through them at discounted prices to match the online offers, as I would prefer to use any funding to benefit the local economy. They are in the process of providing me a formal quotation.

#### **11(b) Tell us about other any other sources of income you have already applied for or raised so far in relation to this project**

None

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**12. How much are you applying for from the Ward Flexibility Budget?**

£1000

**12(a) If the amount you are applying for covers only part of the project/activity, then please tell us how do you intend to fund any shortfall?**

If we need further funds, then we will approach the Manchester Airport Community Fund, seek cash donations from the public, and material donations from local businesses.

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**13. What is the planned timescale for spending this grant?**

Start September 2021

Finish September 2022

### 3. Which Wards are you Applying to?

You may tick more than one box. Please note that no grant of more than £1,000 in totality will ordinarily be made.

Please tell us for each ward you wish to make an application to:-

- (a) how many people will benefit in that ward; and  
 (b) what proportion of funding from your overall application you are seeking from each ward.

		Number of beneficiaries	How much funding you are seeking
<b>Bramhall &amp; Cheadle Hulme South Area Committee</b>			
Bramhall North	<input type="checkbox"/>		£
Bramhall South & Woodford	<input type="checkbox"/>		£
Cheadle Hulme South	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10,000+	£ 1,000
<b>Central Stockport Area Committee</b>			
Brinnington & Central	<input type="checkbox"/>		£
Davenport & Cale Green	<input type="checkbox"/>		£
Edgeley & Cheadle Heath	<input type="checkbox"/>		£
Manor	<input type="checkbox"/>		£
<b>Cheadle Area Committee</b>			
Cheadle & Gatley	<input type="checkbox"/>		£
Cheadle Hulme North	<input type="checkbox"/>		£
Heald Green	<input type="checkbox"/>		£
<b>Heatons &amp; Reddish Area Committee</b>			
Heatons North	<input type="checkbox"/>		£
Heatons South	<input type="checkbox"/>		£
Reddish North	<input type="checkbox"/>		£
Reddish South	<input type="checkbox"/>		£
<b>Marple Area Committee</b>			
Marple North	<input type="checkbox"/>		£
Marple South	<input type="checkbox"/>		£
<b>Stepping Hill Area Committee</b>			
Hazel Grove	<input type="checkbox"/>		£
Offerton	<input type="checkbox"/>		£
Stepping Hill	<input type="checkbox"/>		£
<b>Werneth Area Committee</b>			
Bredbury & Woodley	<input type="checkbox"/>		£
Bredbury Green & Romiley	<input type="checkbox"/>		£
<b>Totals</b>			£ 1,000

This total should add up to the figure you provided in **Question 12**



## 4. Application Checklist and Declaration

1. I am authorised to make this application on behalf of the above organisation
2. I certify that the information contained in this application is correct
3. If the information changes in any way I will inform Democratic Services accordingly.
4. I give permission for Democratic Services to contact my organisation and/or myself by phone, mail or e-mail with information about its activities and funding opportunities.
5. I/ we agree (if required) to attend an Area Committee meeting to explain how the proposal will improve the environmental, economic or social wellbeing of the area and to answer any questions.
6. Our details can be used for promotional purposes should this request be successful
7. I/We will use this grant for the proposed project/activities stated in our application.
8. I/we will not use the grant for any other purpose prior to contacting Democratic Services in order to seek authorisation.
9. I/we will provide appropriate proof of expenditure to Democratic Services, within 12 months from the Grant being made.
10. I/we will highlight the support of the Area Committee in recent publicity material.
11. I/we agree to providing information to assist in the future monitoring of the effectiveness of the funding including reporting back to the Area Committee on how the grant has been spent and what difference it has made.
12. I/we agree that the content of this completed application form and any supplementary information provided may be published on the Council's website and other publications as part of the application process.

Print your name:

Signature:

or if submitted electronically tick this box to signify your agreement to the above terms

Date: 16.9.2021

Return to:  
Democratic Services  
Town Hall, Stockport SK1 3XE