

Community Capacity Grant Application Example

Charity/Organisation Details

Name of charity/organisation:

GreenRoots

Address of your organisation

Witney Allotment, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28

Organisation Website

Greenrootswitney.org

Please provide a postcode which represents the geographic area you will benefit (e.g. OX1, OX12 etc.):

OX28

It is a requirement that 90% of your beneficiaries are in Oxfordshire for this round. Please share some details demonstrating this below (e.g. where your project is based, the locations of activities, areas your beneficiaries are concentrated in, etc):

GreenRoots is based in Witney (OX28), and the vast majority of our activity takes place on-site at Witney Allotment or Witney Community Centre. 100% of our current and intended beneficiaries are West Oxfordshire residents, particularly in the OX28 and OX29 areas, and our volunteers also live in either Witney or the neighbouring towns. We are firmly rooted in West Oxfordshire and our activities are designed specifically to meet the needs of Witney's residents.

This answer clearly shows that the organisation's activities, participants, and beneficiaries are all in Oxfordshire.



Your Organisation's Work

Please describe the overall aims and objectives of your organisation and the activities or services your organisation provides.

GreenRoots is a volunteer-led community organisation focused on reducing isolation and loneliness and promoting physical and mental wellbeing in Witney's residents through environmental sustainability, food growing, and social connection. Our aim is to empower residents of all ages and abilities to engage with nature, improve access to fresh food, and strengthen community ties through hands-on, inclusive activities.

We run a range of projects including accessible allotments, a forest garden, community orchard, and eco-action groups. All initiatives are managed by volunteers and designed to promote ecological awareness, skill-sharing, and wellbeing.

Our activities include:

WEEKLY COMMUNITY GARDENING DAYS: on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Sundays, volunteers with gardening expertise are available at the allotment from 9am to 5pm to offer training and mentoring in gardening and sustainability, provide warm conversation and a friendly face, and ensure the space and tools remain well-maintained and accessible.

MONTHLY COMMUNITY POTLUCKS: each month, we hold a potluck where community members are encouraged to take home some produce from the allotment and cook a cultural dish, favourite food, or home-cooked meal with it to share with other members. Even if they aren't able or don't feel like cooking that month, everyone is welcomed to partake and share; it is a great way to bond with others, learn more about them, and create friends. These are held in the nearby Witney Community Centre.

GREEN BUDDIES PROGRAM: for community members with physical limitations or mobility challenges, we have both raised and lowered allotments. The lowered ones have also been useful for our Green Buddies program, when children from the nearby nursery come for an hour every second Tuesday to enjoy 'gardening together' with our members. It is a great way to promote intergenerational bonding through gardening, and our older members in particular enjoy teaching the little ones the basics.

Community members are also able to access the allotment at any time, ensuring they are able to partake in gardening when and if it suits them.

The organisation has described their aims and objectives, and the ways they achieve them.



To help us understand the difference you make, please tell us how you have helped an individual in the past and the change your organisation has made to their life. This should be anonymised.

'T' is in his early 60s, and he became involved with our community orchard after retiring early due to anxiety and burnout from a high-pressure job. He was struggling with isolation and low confidence, and found it difficult to engage in structured activities or large groups.

Through GreenRoots, he was able to quietly join in at his own pace, initially just helping to water trees and tidy paths during quiet hours. Over time, he began chatting with other volunteers, sharing tips from his past experience in landscaping, and even leading a small pruning workshop for newer members.

He now regularly contributes to our WhatsApp group, sharing photos and advice, and has helped design signage for the orchard. He's told us that the gentle, flexible nature of the group has given him a renewed sense of purpose, helped him reconnect with others, and made a real difference to his mental health. Our open model allows people like 'T' to participate in ways that suit their needs, without pressure or expectation.

An anonymised example has been provided, showing the clear impact the organisation's activities and design have had on an individual in detail. You can also include feedback from a range of people demonstrating the positive impact the organisation has made on their lives.



Your Grant Application

Requested Funds: how much are you applying for?

£8,140

Please provide a budget breakdown of how you will spend the proposed grant below.

Accessible Growing Beds (10 raised beds at varied heights) = £2,500

Ergonomic/Adaptive Tools (lightweight hand tools, long-handled tools, adaptive grips) = £1,200

Quiet Zone Design and Installation (landscape designer, shaded seating, pergola, windbreaks) = £2,300

Tool and Equipment Storage Security (shed reinforcement, padlocks, motion-sensor lighting) = £600

Volunteer Training and Accessibility Awareness (workshops on inclusive gardening practices and mental health sensitivity) = £500

Community Engagement Materials (signage, flyers, digital outreach to invite new participants) = £300

Contingency 10% (for unexpected costs or price fluctuations) = £740

TOTAL: £8,140

The requested funds have been broken down into a clear list of expenses.

Funding Start Date

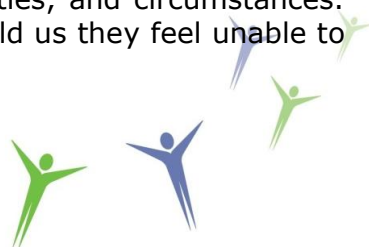
01/12/2025

Funding End Date

01/12/2026

Funding Purpose: How will you spend this grant to deliver one or more of the 'desired outcomes' outlined in the grant criteria? Please include what activities you intend to deliver, and why you think they will lead to the desired outcome i.e. a positive change:

Through this grant, GreenRoots aims to transform our community allotment into an inclusive and restorative space that welcomes individuals of all ages, abilities, and circumstances. While our projects are well-known locally, many residents have told us they feel unable to



participate due to mobility challenges, fluctuating health conditions, limited gardening experience, or childcare responsibilities.

We want to remove these barriers by making practical, thoughtful improvements that will allow more people to engage comfortably and confidently. Funding would enable us to: install more accessible growing beds at varied heights, including ground-level and waist-height options, to support those with limited mobility or chronic pain; introduce ergonomic, lightweight tools and adaptive equipment to make gardening easier and safer for older adults and those with physical limitations; and create quiet zones with shaded seating and sensory planting. These spaces would be designed to support mental wellbeing and offer a calming environment for those living with anxiety, neurodivergence, or recovery from addiction.

These improvements will allow us to welcome more socially prescribed participants, older residents, and those who may not have felt confident joining us before. By investing in accessibility, our space would be able to be used by more people to increase their physical activity levels and participate in our events to reduce loneliness and improve their mental wellbeing.

This answer shows that the actions the organisation would like to take using the requested funds directly link to the 'desired outcomes' in the grant criteria and will create a positive change for a number of disadvantaged people.

Who are the main people who will benefit from this work? Please describe their characteristics, needs, and why they are considered disadvantaged or underrepresented.

The main beneficiaries of this work will be individuals in our local community who are currently underrepresented in outdoor and community-based activities due to physical, mental, or social barriers. These include:

OLDER ADULTS AND THOSE WITH LIMITED MOBILITY: who often face challenges accessing traditional allotment spaces due to uneven terrain, heavy tools, or inaccessible bed heights

PEOPLE LIVING WITH: chronic health conditions, neurodivergence, or mental health challenges, who may struggle with structured group activities or unpredictable symptoms

SOCIALLY PRESCRIBED INDIVIDUALS: referred by healthcare professionals to improve mental and physical health through community engagement. Many of these individuals are navigating recovery, loneliness, or low confidence, and benefit from welcoming, inclusive spaces.

PEOPLE WITH LIMITED FINANCIAL MEANS: who may not have access to private gardens, tools, or fresh produce.

These groups are often excluded from mainstream gardening or community initiatives due to inaccessible design, lack of support, or social stigma. By investing in inclusive infrastructure, we aim to create a space where everyone can connect with nature, build relationships, and improve their wellbeing.

The organisation has clearly listed those who will benefit most from the work they want to do and described why they might be considered disadvantaged or underrepresented.



Which one of these outcomes will the funding meet:

- ☒ Increased physical activity levels
- ☒ Reduce isolation and loneliness
- ☒ Improved mental wellbeing
- ☒ Development of local community spaces and organisations

