

The Alpha Programme

Application for Landfill Tax Credit Funding



**A partnership between Alpha Resource Management Ltd and Groundwork NI,
In association with Belfast City Council, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
And NI Housing Executive.**



**Housing
Executive**

Application for Landfill Tax Credit Funding

Organisation:	Greater Village Regeneration Trust
Lead Contact Name:	Sarah Bowden
Position:	Manager
Address:	337 Donegal Road
Telephone No:	02890333527
Fax No:	
Website address (if applicable):	
Email:	sarah.bowden@tree-ni.org
Address of the proposed site / project:	Blythefield Park , South Belfast
Please estimate the distance from Mullaghglass Landfill site:	7.5 miles
Please tell us what type of group you are (tick most relevant):	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 5px;"> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registered Charity</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Community Group</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Group</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Social Enterprise</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Organisation</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state)</div> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;">Charity Number: XR 43115</div>
Is your group VAT registered?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No - xxxx
If so, please attach proof of VAT status:	
Is your group registered with Entrust as an Environmental Body?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
	If yes, please give your EB number <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
If registered as and EB, have you already registered this project with Entrust?	Project Registration (If project already registered with Entrust by another EB):

What are the main activities & purpose of your group / organisation? Please attach details of your management committee and your Constitution / Memorandum & Articles of Association.

Greater Village Regeneration Trust was established in 1999 in response to a decline in the social and economic condition of the South-West Belfast area, with particular reference to housing. Since this time, GVRT has developed as an organisation delivering a wide range of thematic programmes and initiatives with the over-arching aim of achieving sustainable regeneration. The work of the Trust is based on local engagement, volunteer development, and is predicated upon deprivation indices and statistics.

The Trust is responsible for galvanising efforts to deliver sustainable regeneration in the area. Thematic work relates to:

Community cohesion – Women’s Shed on Wednesdays; Adonis and Athena Youth Programmes on Fridays to deliver short sessions to build capacity / knowledge / skills / empower; organising festivals and seasonal events; establishing and building Richview Regeneration Centre, which provides accommodation to smaller groups in the area, including a Sure Start Children’s Centre.

Community Safety – convening the Village Community Safety Partnership, delivering a range of initiatives, including quarterly newsletter, training for frontline workers and local residents, crime-prevention interventions

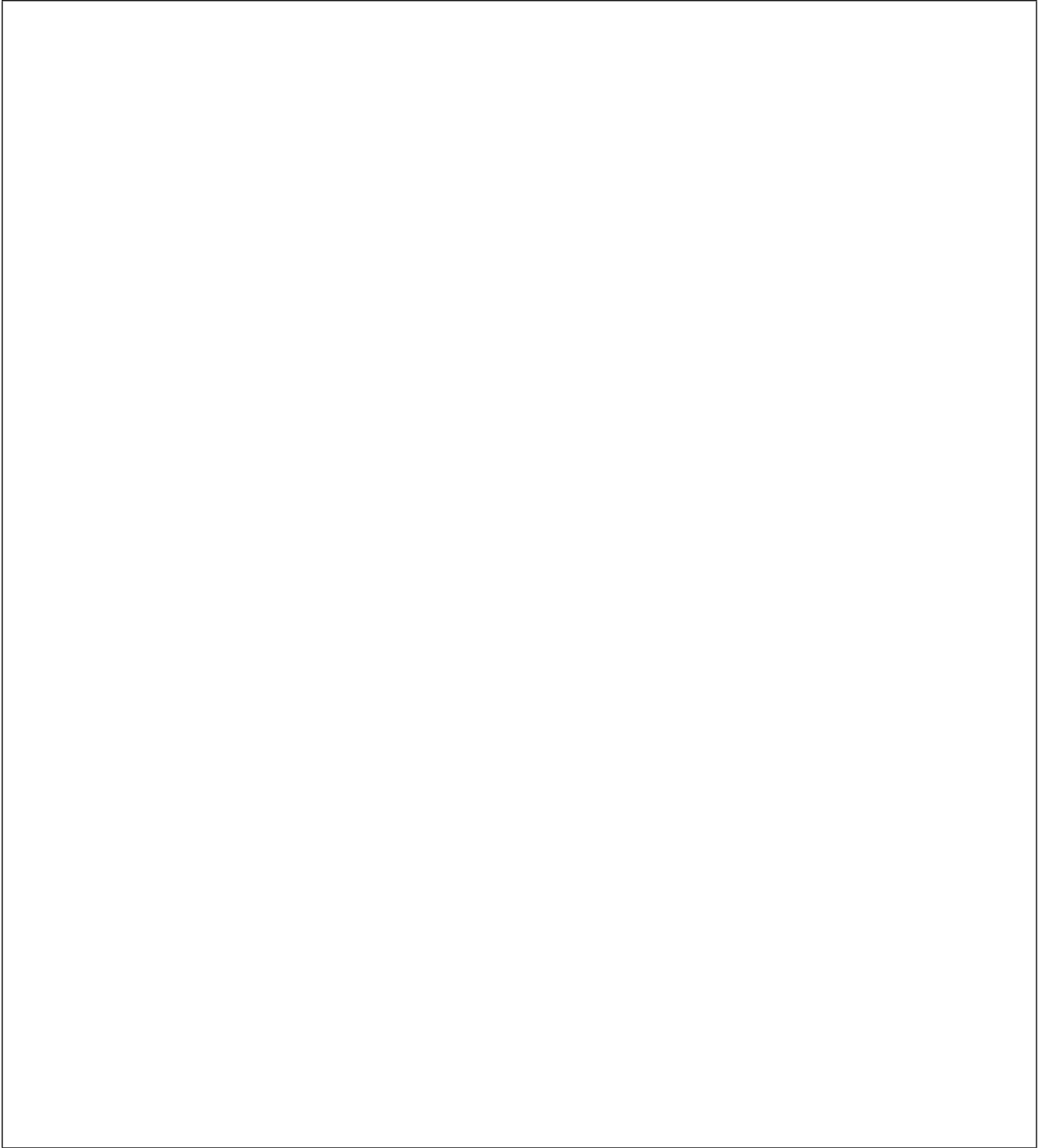
Culture & Arts – delivering murals and artwork; bringing in external guests to deliver sessions on cultural heritage and history to different audiences; organising visits to other locations in Northern Ireland to educate and enlighten people about other religions, cultures, political viewpoints, etc.;

Employment & Training – establishing and managing TREE Training Centre, an accredited centre, which delivers a wide range of employability and vocational training; providing job seeking support and mentoring; and organising work placements’

Health & Physical Activity – establishing and managing the Fit 4 Life Centre, which provides classes and open-gym sessions to 60+ local residents per day; delivering programmes such as Cook It Burn It! And Men’s Team Challenge (obesity programmes); delivering youth diversion and after-school activities; managing four Active Communities coaches and employing two in-house fitness instructors; capacity building with local sports teams, schools and volunteers

Housing – working with NIHE and housing associations on the delivery of comprehensive housing redevelopment and improvement of derelict properties; providing a comprehensive Housing Advice Service and support for tenants wishing to move, etc.

Physical & Environmental Improvements – working with the community and statutory agencies on the delivery of a wide range of projects, including clean-ups, tree planting, updating street furniture, managing the Blythfield Park Allotments



Project Title / Name:	A Beautiful South Part 11
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Please provide a brief description of the proposed project (Max 200 words):

NB Please attach a map/site plan and any photographs or other relevant supplementary information.

We are applying to you to enable us to carry out much needed work to try and improve Blythefield Park which connects the Donegall Road and Sandy Row and is in desperate need of attention. Blythefield park is the responsibility of Belfast City Council and currently has an allotments, bmx track and a 3g Pitch however there is space and potential for this to be developed into an area of great environmental quality. It is evident that Nature is a trouble and that over the last 50 years there has been a decline in a range of species and habitats. It is also widely proven that green space improved physical and mental wellbeing so we are looking to incorporate physical exercise into this area as well, by introducing a trial outdoor gym facility along the grounds of the park. GVRT has a framework Strategy for the area and although a significant amount has been achieved over the years, focus changes on a regular basis according to local need and is affected by current issues. The local area needs so much investment in relation to brownfield sites, blocked up properties, education and health and GVRT would like the area to be improved so that it is much more vibrant, healthy and above all a pleasant place to live. We would like to see Blythefield Park improved so that people will use the park instead of just using it to gain access from Donegall Road to Sandy Row and vice versa. For example we would like to introduce a Trail Gym which would be spread out from the start of the park and would lead through until the end of the park. This would be of great benefit to the 3 local primary schools and the 2 local nursery providers in the area. We would also propose to plant 50 6f native trees to enhance the areas along the pathways as at the moment it is just a plain grassed area with no character and isn't appealing. We also would like to introduce 2 woodland areas, which will have a pergola archways erected at the path entrances to entice people into the park and to make the area look more interested. For the woodland area we would also like to construct a wood chipped path edges with logs through the trees and include steps where required in order that people can gain access to these areas. This is where we aim to hold our educational nature trails and install our mini beast hotel that we have applied for through the Challenge Fund Application. This will enable us to work in partnership with the schools and complete a giving nature a home baseline study, giving the children an opportunity to assess the value on the environment and how conditions might change and explore what can be done to improve their local areas. We will also be able to carry out a big schools birdwatch programme and a bio blitz mini beast hunt. The children will all achieve their Wildlife Action Bronze Award.

Involve school children and families around the Greater Village Area (GVA) in South Belfast in discovering and raising awareness of the importance of the Urban area, for wildlife. Highlighting priority species (e.g. swift, hedgehog and house sparrows) and habitats that they can help to protect.

Work with P7 classes in schools around the GVA focusing on the natural heritage value of the area supporting children and families in exploring, understanding and sharing their local landscape:

- Deliver education sessions through outdoor learning to enthuse young people

about their urban landscape enabling them to gain an appreciation of the need to support/conservate local biodiversity.

- Provide a 'homestudy toolkit' resource to stimulate cross-generational discussion about the culture, natural history and secrets/treasures of their urban landscape.
- Record 'homestudy' information and from it produce 'It's in our Nature' Memory Map poster with shared vision for community distribution and downloadable resource.
- Distribute Memory Map poster
- Participation certificates for school children.

This project promotes education, awareness and appreciation of the natural, cultural and built heritage of the urban landscape. This project promotes the historic environment including the built and cultural heritage, and community action for biodiversity. The project will:

- give local children and their families a voice in their recognition of the importance of their urban landscape and of their appreciation of the biodiversity of the area.
- stimulate cross-generational discussion about the natural history of the landscape, and from this information a Memory Map will be produced. This document will present the shared memories and shared vision for the sustainable management of the landscape around the GVA area.
- be linked to the three main Curriculum Objectives, using ICT and also through The World Around Us and Language and Literacy Areas of Learning. The project will support the Eco-schools topics of Biodiversity, Water and Waste.
- encourage further action and provide details on how to benefit biodiversity on school grounds and in shared spaces within the local community.

The project will benefit the local GVA community, as well as providing benefits to the participating schools by providing resources and information about their local natural heritage.

'Homestudy toolkits' will provide links to the curriculum (Language and Literacy through talking and listening, reading and writing; The World Around Us through History, Geography and Environment).

'Homestudy toolkits' will be designed to stimulate cross-generational engagement. Children will 'interview' and talk to their parents and grandparents about their knowledge of the history, biodiversity and cultural heritage of the area. Adults will participate by sharing their knowledge and memories and helping to create a lasting record/treasure chest of facts, stories, and experiences, creating a shared vision for their urban landscapes.

The toolkit information will be collected as a Memory Map, providing personal and general information about the area for the wider public on issues of conservation and local wildlife. Materials will record information from the homestudy toolkit for each child to retain for this project (along with certificate of participation).

The project will foster increased pride in the value and importance of the biodiversity and landscape conservation of their urban landscape.

Please provide details why the project is needed:

This park has been neglected and isn't used the way it should be by local people due to the bad state that it is in. It is often littered with rubbish and is used as a dumping ground. The allotments are in a bad state of disrepair and although things are slowly improving this funding would allow us to make much needed improvement to the whole park and to introduce educational programmes and work alongside the 3 local primary schools to try and better educate and equip our young people to appreciate, make use of and understand their environment and the area in which they live. No such environmental programmes have been carried out in this area and the schools are extremely keen to carry out more environmental education. The usage of both the Allotments and the Park isn't great and we aim to improve the amount of people using this area and to actively encourage and promote the benefits of using green space and supporting the environment.

Currently within Blythefield Park we have provision for a BMX Track, Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), Outdoor Gym and allotments. The proposed project will compliment all these facilities by the introduction of new structures so that the implementation of activity based programmes will utilize all the facilities in the park and link them together. At present these facilities / resources are isolated within the park with no link between each resource, but the introduction of the PRO FIT Outdoor Trail Package will enhance the park and change how the park is used completely. At present we have local youth and senior football teams, youth and senior groups, and primary schools which all use sections of the park but with no major link to the next resource or indeed the other groups. If we have the ability for groups to use the whole area of the park it will not only change the outlook of the park but how it is utilized and owned by the local community.

Please outline the environmental, community and / or biodiversity benefits of your proposed project:

Environmental Benefits: Our Project is located in an area of high population density of inner south Belfast where access to open green space, gardens and nature is extremely limited. The Park offers valuable access to nature for local people which our project will enhance further. Transforming two overgrown sections into 'pocket gardens' with added features and interest will make the overall area look more attractive to people and wildlife. Environmental friendly messages will be integrated into our project e.g. anti-litter, grown your own etc., which will help local people recognise the value of green space and how to maintain it for wider benefits.

Community Benefits: The project will get local people involved in creating a pathway and planting trees, shrubs and flowers to transform an unsightly section of their local park. This will improve the visual appearance of the area and help protect this valuable green space for everyone to enjoy for health, leisure, relaxation and sport. Direct contact with green space is well reported to have positive impacts on people's health and well-being. This project will create safe access into sections of our park for people to enjoy, bringing them in closer contact with our natural world and encouraging them to increase their exercise levels through walking and social contact by joining in the help on a common cause. Local people of all ages will be engaged in this project to increase their sense of pride and ownership. By specifically engaging youth groups we will address local issues of anti-social behaviour and use this practical project to build bonds between different age groups within our community building a culture of active citizenship.

Biodiversity Benefits: We will buy in the services and expertise of The Conservation Volunteers to ensure that the project is completed to the highest environmental standards. This will include the removal of invasive species and replanting with native varieties to attract maximum insect and wildlife. People using the park will have limited understanding of biodiversity, and this project will demonstrate how through being involved and taking small steps as a community can have wider biodiversity benefits.

Estimated project start date:	September 2015
Estimated project end date:	August 2016
<p>Please outline the key project milestones and objectives with timescales (this should include details on what you want to achieve over the above estimated start and end project dates):</p> <p>We would aim to start all of the work and kick off the programme in September and would propose to have a completion date of August 2016 if not before. The key milestones are that the 2 woodland areas of constructed and operational by March 2016 in order that the Educational Programmes can be introduced in during April – June as we are installing swift nest boxes throughout the area and these will need to monitor for the 12 week period that the swifts are present during May / June 2016. Another key milestone is that the Trail Gym is installed and ready for use by Summer 2016 so that we can have an official launch in and around this time.</p>	
<p>Please detail any experience you have had in managing similar projects (evidence project cost and financial management experience):</p> <p>GVRT has a wealth of experience in managing projects and has a dedicated and highly professional finance department. GVRT Manages the contract for Neighbourhood Renewal for the area and as such is responsible for other local organisations financial accounts and payments. We have been awarded money in the past for re-imaging projects and have recently been awarded the Lead Partner for the Social Investment Fund Contract for South Belfast and as such manage a large amount of government money.</p>	

Please give details of support gained & involvement/consultation of the local community, schools, statutory bodies and so on (Please enclose any letters of support and / or evidence of community consultation / engagement):

We have had discussions with the 3 local Primary Schools and they are extremely keen to participate in any educational programmes that we can get involved in, especially ones based around the environment and nature as to date they haven't been able to avail of these opportunities.

We have also got support from local Women's Group who use the allotments and feel that the bad state of the park is a deterrent from people wishing to gain access to community based allotments or projects that involve the park. This piece of green space should be used for exercise and social events but to date it's not due to the lack of amenities and its bad state. We have also had discussions with the young people in the area from TREE Training Centre and they would be keen to get involved in this project as they feel this area is right on their doorstep and has reached its full potential and isn't used as much as it could be. They feel it has been tarnished due to all the negative publicity it has had recently with regards to anti-social behaviour , dumping , drugs and alcohol and they would very much like to be involved in a more positive programme to promote the park and the area as a whole.

Who will carry out the work/project? (Please note that successful applicants will be required to detail any connection between the applicant organisation and/or its Members and any contractor or supplier that may be asked to tender or supply any element of the project before any tendering process is started).

GVRT will work alongside Conservation Volunteers and will use its own community volunteers to carry of the project. The majority of these volunteers will be aged 16 – 24 (young people not in employment or training), we will also have volunteers from Probation Board NI who are with us on Community Service, Blythefeld Allotments Committee and a local well women’s and senior moments group.

Please show how the project will be sustained long term; include details of how it will be maintained, and how this ongoing work will be funded (if applicable):

The community volunteers will manage this site through our youth diversionary project, the allotments committee and GVRT staff. GVRT regularly hosts community clean up days and events and its anticipated that we will host specific community clean-up and maintenance days for the park to ensure that it is kept in a clean , tidy and respectful manner after the programme has been completed.

Who owns the proposed project site? Please provide written evidence of support for this project from the landowner(s)/landlord(s)

Belfast City Council own the Blythefield Park Site and also the Allotments Site. GVRT provides a Chair for the Allotments Committee and staff also sit on the forum involved in the Park.

Please give details of permissions obtained e.g. planning or building control etc: (Please enclose copies of all relevant documentation).

None needed

Please detail how the project (1) links to other strategies (local, regional and/or national) and (2) complements existing facilities: (Please name each proposed relevant strategy and how the proposed project compliments it).

This proposal has many key environmental , social , wellbeing , health and economic benefits which link to multiple cross cutting Northern Strategic , the key ones being;

NI Biodiversity Strategy – Identifying spaces in urban areas to protect and enhance biodiversity. This work will link to the local biodiversity planning for this area.

Making Life Better Strategy – This is a Public Health Agency NI Strategy for local people to be supported to connect with their local green space to recognise its value to improving and enhancing their physical health, social, and mental well-being.

Five Ways to Well Being – DHSPNI – The inclusive and interactive nature of our proposal will promote the Take 5 message. **Connect** local people to their green space and each other , **keep learning** by creating new opportunities and challenges through practical environmental workshops for people living in an inner city area , **be active** support local people to get out , feel safe and use their local green space for exercise , **give** to others local working together for a common positive purpose and supporting each other to achieve this goal, **take notice** increased understanding of their natural surroundings and how it benefits their health and well-being.

NI Volunteering Strategy – DSD VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY UNIT – Our

project will focus on bringing local people together to enhance their living green space for everyone's benefit. We will use our proven community development approach to engage local people in positive volunteering, promoting active citizenship by upskilling local people and building a strong sense of community ownership and skills bank to create sustained engagement.

(please use separate page(s) if necessary)

Please outline other funding sought, gained or previously rejected:

Please enclose copies of all relevant documentation.i.e. Copies of Letters of Offer(s) received.

We have submitted an application to the Challenge Fund which we called 'A Beautiful South' this application was for Educational Programmes and the construction of a water feature , minibeast hotels & nature trails , seated areas , planters , repainting of abandoned shop fronts etc. We hope that we are successful in this funding application in order to kick start this initiative, it is hoped that we are then successful in this Alpha Application in order to complete and add value to this very important piece of work.

Groups are expected to raise a minimum 10% of the project costs, please give details of how this will be accomplished: (Contributions can either be in monetary terms, 'in kind' support or a mix of both). .

GVRT will coordinate and have overall responsibility for managing this project – covering financial, operational and administrative management. It will further provide staff to man and provide assistance in the start-up period when the new trail gym is installed to ensure that local people get the maximum value and usage from the equipment. It will engage with the local community groups and schools to ensure that they get the correct training programmes drawn up and that everyone benefits from the new equipment. GVRT has a policy of valuing this at 10% of the cost of the project.

GVRT will achieve the operational delivery through the Blythefield Park Allotments Committee and our key community volunteers using a structured approach of planning meetings, consultation, monitoring and review. The Allotments Committee has six members, who have each agreed to commit 12 hours to the success of the project. A total of 72 hours of volunteer time will be given to this project. (The government recognise a value of £52 per day for a volunteer's contribution to volunteering); as such, the volunteers' contribution will be £624 (approximately).

GVRT will also make its facilities available for meetings and training. In the form of room hire, stationary, tea, coffee and refreshments. GVRT charges its board room out at £30 per meeting, and it is anticipated that there will be four meetings over the course of the project delivery: i.e. £120.

Total Project Cost (include VAT if appropriate):	£21843.60
How much Alpha funding are you seeking (include VAT if applicable):	£19899.60
Do you anticipate any income will be generated from the project?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, how much income per annum is expected (to the nearest £1,000)?	£0

Please outline the project budget, highlighting which aspects are to be funded through the Alpha Landfill Tax Programme and any other funding contributions (including 'in kind' support). Include as much detail as possible:

Item (Capital items)	Cost £	Alpha contribution	Other funding secured (please specify)	Total
Creation of 2 woodland areas with timber pergola archways	£1200	£1200		£1200
Wood Chip path edged with logs through trees including steps and chipped seating areas for seating	£1200	£1200		£1200
Living Willow arches plus tunnel along pathways	£900	£900		£900
Plant 50 6ft native trees	£1250	£1250		£1250
Pro Fit Club Outdoor Trail Gym Package	£9999.60	£9999.60		£9999.60
Benches	1000	1000		1000
Educational Programme	£4350	£4350		£4350
Outdoor Gym Instructor - £25 per hour x 3 hours per week x 40 weeks per annum	£1200		In Kind GVRT	£1200
Meeting Facilitations and Hospitality	£120		In Kind GVRT	£120
Volunteer Time	£624		In Kind GVRT	£624

Total Project Costs:	£21843.60	£19899.60		£21843.60

We certify that the information contained in this application is correct and confirm that this project will be carried out as described in the application.

We acknowledge that this application will be subject to regular monitoring/auditing and undertake to keep adequate records for this purpose.

We will inform the funding body responsible for supporting this project of any significant changes.

We understand that providing wrong or misleading information is an offence and such information will be used against us in any subsequent criminal investigation.

Signature:	S Bowden	Print Name:	SARAH BOWDEN
Position within group:	MANAGER		
Date:	7 th September 2015		

In order to support your application it would be helpful if you could provide details of the anticipated benefits your project will generate. Where a benefit is not appropriate please indicate this by entering the answer N/A

Benefit	Answer			
	Yes	Yes	No	
Where applicable, will the project use any type of recycled material?				
Where applicable, please estimate the number of new or existing jobs as a result of the development of this project.	0			
Where applicable, please estimate the number of full time jobs that will be created or maintained once the project has completed.	0			
Where applicable, please estimate the number of part time jobs (less than 18 hours per week) that will be created or maintained once the project is completed.	0			
Where applicable, please estimate the number of people who will obtain training qualifications or recognised skill, directly linked to the development of this project.	40			
Where applicable, please estimate the number of users that currently use the site per year.	200			
Please estimate the number of users that will use the site per year after the project has completed.	500			
Where applicable, please estimate the current footfall of the site per year.	na			

Please estimate the footfall of the site after the project has completed	na
Where applicable, please estimate the number of schools which currently visit the site.	0
If you anticipate that the project will increase school visits once completed, please estimate by how many.	3
What is the total value of LCF funding that will be used to make improvements or provide improved facilities for people with disabilities?	na
Will this project make changes which result in improved energy efficiency?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If you are able to, please estimate the estimated total utility cost saving of the project per annum once the project is complete.	na
What is the local authority area for the project site?	Belfast City Council
Number of volunteers expected to help in the delivery of this LCF project.	50
Number of youth volunteers working on this project	40
Number of youth volunteering days created by this project	72 hours approx.
If you are improving areas of land (excluding land for building development), please estimate the number of hectares that will be worked on as part of this project.	Approx. 2 hectares
If you intend to plant trees as part of this project, please estimate how many will be planted.	50

CHECKLIST

For all applicants

You must include all items on this checklist with your application.

All items must be included with your application

1	A copy of your organisation's constitution
2	A copy of your organisation's latest accounts / management accounts
3	Supporting project photos / project plans
4	Letters of support / evidence of community consultation (if applicable)
5	Evidence of support of project from Landowners/Landlords
6	Proof of VAT status (if applicable)
7	A copy of all funding confirmation letters received
8	Copies of planning consents (permissions / building regulations)