

North Yorkshire County Council

Business and Environmental Services

Executive Members

21 February 2020

Allerton Waste Recovery Park Landscape and Cultural Heritage Fund

Report of the Assistant Director - Transport, Waste and Countryside Services

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To report to the Corporate Director - Business and Environmental Services (BES) and to the BES Executive Members on the expenditure profile for the Allerton Waste Recovery Park (AWRP) Landscape and Cultural Heritage Fund (LCHF).
- 1.2 To seek approval from the Corporate Director – BES for release of funding for the project highlighted in Appendix A of this report.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Section 106 Agreement for AWRP was signed on 14 February 2013 and included the requirement for the Council to establish a Landscape and Cultural Heritage Fund (LCHF).
- 2.2 The LCHF is to be used towards reducing the visual and landscape impacts of the development and the delivery of enhancement and strengthening of the local landscape character, biodiversity and/or features of cultural heritage prioritised within a 3.5km radius of the Site. It is informed by the Landscape Management Strategy developed by Amey and approved by the Planning Authority which includes a Conservation Management Plan and Outline Habitat Management Plan. The value of the LCHF is £839,500
- 2.3 On 18 September 2015, a report was approved by BES Executive Members to enter into a contract with Two Ridings Community Foundation (TRCF) to manage distribution of the LCHF on behalf of the County Council. The contract began on 1 October 2015 and ended on 1 October 2019. The contract has been extended for one year until 1 October 2020 in line with the original contract provisions.
- 2.4 The small grants fund (£100 to £1,000) was launched in October 2015, the large grants fund (£10,001 to £50,000) was opened in December 2015 and the medium grants fund (£1,001 to £10,000) was opened in early 2017 (the upper limit for medium grants has subsequently been extended to £25,000).
- 2.5 The large grant element of the fund was over-subscribed and the fund was consequently suspended for large grants. The large grant fund was not reopened due to the amount of applications made to the small and medium grant funds.
- 2.6 Funding for small grants has been released by TRCF providing that the projects meet the necessary requirements set out in the guidance information and application process. The small grants fund is now closed.

2.7 Applications for the medium grant fund are normally assessed at an independent panel meeting. The panel is made up of NYCC and HBC Councillors, the local community, technical advisors and TRCF. Two meetings have been held per year to maximise scope for delivery of projects taking into account planting and seasonal activities. The last panel meeting was held on 29 January 2020 and the medium grants fund is now closed.

3.0 Outcome of Panel Meeting (Medium Grants)

3.1 The ninth panel meeting took place on 29 January 2020 and considered seven medium grant fund projects. Five of the seven projects are recommended for award of funding. Details of the projects and Panel recommendations are summarised in the table below. More detailed information on these projects can be found in the Panel sheets in Appendix B.

Applicant	Project	Amount recommended	Panel comments and amount awarded
Priest Carr Lodge Farm	Funding to create new hedgerow, plant trees and restore a historic pond on farm land near Marton Cum Grafton.	£9,713.00	£9,713.00 Awarded – subject to oversight by the NYCC ecology team, revised planting plan to be provided and agreed with NYCC ecology team
Ferrensby Parish Meeting	Funding for works to improve the village pond area in Ferrensby.	£20,000.00	£22,000.00 Awarded – The higher gross amount was offered with the aim to reclaim the VAT. Work is taking place to have the land registered as common land. NYCC Highways do not have responsibility for the collapse of the road. Funding is not offered towards the cost of the duck raft as this does not provide ecological enhancement or provision of an information board.
Majestic Farm	Funding to restore a historic pond and undertake tree planting in fields close to Marton Cum Grafton.	£8,335.09	£8,335.09 Awarded – subject to a second quote for pond work to be provided. Also oversight by the NYCC ecology team and revised planting plan to be approved by HBC.
The Old Cornmill	Funding for tree planting in the village of Staveley	£2,640.00	£2,640.00 Awarded – The Panel were happy with this revised application which has support from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

Applicant	Project	Amount recommended	Panel comments and amount awarded
West View	Funding to create a small copse and gap up hedgerow in Arkendale.	£1,452.00	£1,452.00 Awarded – subject to the planting plan being amended
Moor End Farm	Funding to purchase equipment to assist with the maintenance of a local wildflower meadow in Staveley.	£14,520.00	£0 Rejected – This is a large amount of money to be made available for equipment which will be in individual ownership.
School House	Funding to create a community wildlife area including extensive tree planting in the village of Lower Dunsforth.	£15,000.00	£0 Rejected – Rewilding is difficult to achieve. Local volunteers are very limited in relation to other community initiatives.

Total amount bid for to the Panel £71,660.09

Total amount awarded by the Panel £44,140.09

Total amount not awarded by the Panel £27,520

- 3.2 Since the launch of the fund in October 2015, thirty-three medium and large grant projects have been awarded funding totalling £612,836 (not including the projects detailed in 3.1 above). Appendix A summarises all of these medium and large grants awarded.
- 3.3 In addition, the Panel also agreed to recommend for award the sum of £10,000 to Boroughbridge High School. This was for funding to regenerate the school's wildlife area and pond to remove overgrown vegetation, provide a pond dipping platform, new seating and refurbished pathways to provide a safe and accessible outdoor classroom resource. This was discussed at the Panel meeting in August 2017 and was then rejected as the application sits marginally outside the area of benefit (3.5km radius of the AWRP site), but that the application may be considered at a later time if demand for funding reduces. Although the school itself is outside the area of benefit its catchment area takes in four primary schools in the area of benefit and therefore the Panel agreed to recommend award of the funding. There have been other projects which sit outside the area of benefit which have received funding which met the grant criteria and were approved based on the merits of the individual applications. This project is also included in Appendix A and the Panel sheet can be found in Appendix B.
- 3.4 As the fund is coming to an end the Panel discussed how they would like to see the remaining fund and any underspent grants allocated. If the funds are approved for release at this meeting (the five medium projects plus the Boroughbridge High School medium project), then there remains less than £5,000 available.

- 3.5 The Panel recommended any remaining money left in the fund is administered by NYCC, in consultation with the NYCC Waste Planning Authority. It was also suggested by the Panel members that the remaining monies were distributed to the local Parish Councils for them to spend on projects in accordance with the LCHF project principles. This option might depend on the amount of funds remaining and may be appropriate if any of the recommended projects are not funded or if projects already awarded are not fully spent. The spend would be documented in the annual report to the NYCC Waste Planning Authority.

4.0 Small Grants Update

- 4.1 The small project grants (£100 to £1,000) are being managed by Two Ridings. Since the launch of the fund in October 2015, forty nine projects have been awarded funding totalling £43,731. Appendix A summarises all of these small grants awarded. Below summarises the awards made since the last update to BES Executive Members on 23 August 2019:

Applicant	Date awarded	Amount	Project Description
Private individual	Apr 19	£810	Funding to cover the cost of compost, labour and planting flowers and perennials that encourage wildlife – birds, butterflies and bees (pollinators).
Private individual	Apr 19	£552	Funding to purchase wild flowers, bulbs and timber to make bird nesting boxes to encourage wildlife to the area.
Private individual	Apr 19	£1,000	Funding to convert a garden into a wildlife pond to attract more birds / wildlife. The property is situated in a conservation area.
Private individual	Aug 19	£438	Funding to plant 40 meters of new native hedgerow.
Private individual	Aug 19	£550	Funding to plant 60 meters of native hedgerow.
Private individual	Sep 19	£1,000	Funding to create new native hedgerow and gap existing hedgerow.
Private individual	Dec 19	£869	Funding to undertake tree & hedgerow planting.
Christ Church, Marton Cum Grafton	Dec 19	£744	Funding to replace a rotten tree stump with a semi-mature rowan tree.
Private individual	Jan 20	£1,000	Funding to plant trees and shrubs to encourage wildlife and improve local biodiversity.
Private individual	Jan 20	£1,000	Further planting of trees in back garden to create screen and encourage further wildlife into the garden and area.
Private individual	Jan 20	£1,000	Tree planting to encourage wildlife and increase biodiversity.
Private individual	Jan 20	£1,000	Funding for planting and to create a pond to encourage wildlife.

5.0 Progress update

- 5.1 Appendix A provides details of all projects, project spend to date and a progress update on the various projects. End of grant reports have been received for the majority of the completed projects.
- 5.2 The last annual contract review meeting between NYCC and TRCF will take place in the spring of 2020.
- 5.3 All AWRP Landscape Cultural Heritage Funds have now closed. The contract with TRCF to deliver the LCHF ends on 1 October 2020. TRCF will now spend the remaining time ensuring all projects which received funding are successfully completed and end of grant reports received.
- 5.4 TRCF will also produce an impact report explaining what the fund has been spent on and will include the carbon savings. This will then be promoted and will be available on the TRCF, Amey, NYCC and CYC websites.

6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1 In accordance with the previous report, funding release for large and medium projects will be subject to the standard NYCC Terms and Conditions.
- 6.2 Claw back provisions are included as part of the grant agreements which will protect the longevity of the funds impacts and projects undertaken.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 The fund was launched in October 2015 and to date 82 projects have received funding comprising of 49 small grants (£43,731) and 33 medium and large (£612,836). A total of £656,566. If the funds are approved for release at this meeting (the five medium projects plus the Boroughbridge High School medium project totalling £54,140), then the total funding for projects awarded will be £710,706. Allowing for fees paid to TRCF to administer the fund, there remains less than £5,000 available to be allocated.

8.0 Equalities Implications

- 8.1 TRCF has a robust equalities policy in place which is used as part of the fund assessment process. The equalities information is collected through the application forms for the medium and large grants fund and proportional information is collected in relation to the small grants fund. Information about funding awards to date is used to inform specific targeted marketing/outreach activities to ensure that the LCHF process is accessible to the widest audience given the parameters on the fund set by the planning process.
- 8.2 Following the annual contract review meeting an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed by TRCF on the LCHF. The outcome is no adverse impact and therefore no change needed. Information on the TRCF equalities policy has also been provided to NYCC.
- 8.3 An Equality Impact Assessment screening form has been completed by NYCC and it concludes a full EIA is not relevant or proportionate. The completed form is in Appendix C.

9.0 Recommendations

- 9.1 That the Corporate Director - BES approves the release of funding for the project highlighted in Appendix A – LCHF project spend to date.
- 9.2 Subject to such approval, that the AD TWACs releases project funding to the successful projects in line with the conditions set by the panel.

IAN FIELDING

Assistant Director – Transport, Waste and Countryside Services

Author of Report: Suzanne Williamson

Background Documents: None

Appendix A
LCHF project spend to date and progress update

Small Grants

Date	Amount received	Narrative	Status	Progress
Jan 16	£957	45 Bird boxes - Marton cum Grafton Woodlands Group	Awarded	Complete
Feb 16	£1,000	Landscaping works around Whixley cricket club	Awarded	Complete
Mar 16	£1,000	Repair work to the Estate boundary wall	Awarded	Complete
May 16	£1,000	To create a seating area and floral display on the entrance to the village (Little Ouseburn)	Awarded	Complete
Jun 16	£1,000	Funding for initial consultancy work for the development of landscape and ecological enhancements in Great Ouseburn.	Awarded	Complete
Oct 16	£996	Funding for the costs of carrying out isotope testing on a Roman skeleton found at Grafton	Awarded	Complete
Oct 16	£600	Funding to pay for landscape architects fees to prepare a planting scheme to provide screening.	Awarded	Complete
Feb 17	£996	To remove a leylandii hedge and replace with native beech.	Awarded	Complete
Feb 17	£1,000	Project to help promote improved for hedgehogs and other species.	Awarded	Complete
Mar 17	£900	Marton School – Connecting to our Woodland Classroom	Awarded	Complete
Jun 17	£1,000	Wildlife pond and related planting	Awarded	Complete

Appendix A
LCHF project spend to date and progress update

Jun 17	£1,000	Mass planting of Daffodil bulbs in the grass verges around Marton cum Grafton	Awarded	Complete
June 17	£990	Replacement of Leylandi hedging with Portuguese Laurel	Awarded	Complete
Oct 17	£1,000	Removal of leylandii hedge. Planting of new orchard / soft fruit trees.	Awarded	Complete
Sep 17	£996	Funding to replace rotten fencing with a native species hedge along with planting native shrubs and trees to encourage more wildlife	Awarded	Complete
Aug 17	£730	Funding for a disused telephone box to house a defibrillator.	Awarded	Complete
Nov 17	£939	Funding to supply and plant new native hedging.	Awarded	Complete
Nov 17	£1,000	Funding to supply and plant new native hedgerow	Awarded	Complete
Nov 17	£1,000	Removal of nuisance species and supply and planting of native hedgerow	Awarded	In progress End of grant report chased Aug 18 Dec 19
Jan 18	£715	Funding to restore a wall and gate post which is a heritage asset in the local community.	Awarded	Complete
Feb 18	£1,000	Creation of 30m hedgerow and natural pond	Awarded	In progress End of grant report chased Aug 19 Jan 20

Appendix A
LCHF project spend to date and progress update

Mar 18	£1,000	Landscaping a garden to benefit wildlife - enhancement of orchard, creation of wildflower meadow, infill planting of hedgerows, native shrub planting, installation of bird and bat boxes.	Awarded	In progress End of grant Report chased Jan 20
Mar 18	£500	Children's kitchen garden development	Awarded	Complete
Feb 18	£400	Creation of a mini apple orchard	Awarded	Complete
Aug 18	£1,000	Funding to create a wildflower meadow with grass mown paths for recreation at the Fishpond Bridge area of Ousegill Beck.	Awarded	In progress
Oct 18	£1,000	Planting trees to create a screen	Awarded	In progress End of grant report chased Dec 19
Sep 18	£1,000	Planting of native trees, provision of stock fence and natural hedgerows	Awarded	Complete
Nov 18	£984	Removal of unsightly non-native conifers and magnolia. Regenerate the area with fruit trees and native shrubs and bulbs	Awarded	Complete
Mar 18	£274	Purchasing and planting trees in Upper Dunsforth Village Green spaces to replace those chopped down	Awarded	In progress
Oct 18	£1,000	Establish a wildflower meadow within the orchard of the paddock adjoining Orchard House	Awarded	In progress
Nov 18	£821	Class 2 garden wildlife area	Awarded	Complete
Feb 18	£994.50	New hedges and fill existing Hawthorne hedgerow which has several gaps. Also, to plant trees	Awarded	Complete

Appendix A
LCHF project spend to date and progress update

Jan 19	£1,000	Funding for works to improve the pond area and village green in Ferrensby	Awarded	Awarded £1000 to undertake ecology report – complete.
Feb 19	£975	Planting hedges and fruit trees	Awarded	Complete
Feb 19	£1,000	Make pond safe	Awarded	Complete
Jun 19	£1,000	Hedge in garden to create a partition / screen	Awarded	In progress
Jun 19	£1,000	Redevelopment of front garden to provide a haven for wildlife and improve visual appearance of property and Whixley Village	Awarded	In progress
Apr 19	£810	Funding to cover the cost of compost, labour and planting flowers and perennials that encourage wildlife – birds, butterflies and bees (pollinators).	Awarded	Complete
Apr 19	£552	Funding to purchase wild flowers, bulbs and timber to make bird nesting boxes to encourage wildlife to the area.	Awarded	In progress
Apr 19	£1,000	Funding to convert a garden into a wildlife pond to attract more birds / wildlife. The property is situated in a conservation area.	Awarded	In progress
Aug 19	£438	Funding to plant 40 meters of new native hedgerow.	Awarded	Complete
Aug 19	£550	Funding to plant 60 meters of native hedgerow.	Awarded	In progress
Sep 19	£1,000	Funding to create new native hedgerow and gap existing hedgerow.	Awarded	In progress
Dec 19	£869	Funding to undertake tree & hedgerow planting.	Awarded	In progress
Dec 19	£744	Funding to replace a rotten tree stump with a semi-mature rowan tree.	Awarded	In progress

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LCHF project spend to date and progress update

Jan 20	£1,000	Funding to plant trees and shrubs to encourage wildlife and improve local biodiversity.	Awarded	In progress
Jan 20	£1,000	Further planting of trees in back garden to create screen and encourage further wildlife into the garden and area.	Awarded	In progress
Jan 20	£1,000	Tree planting to encourage wildlife and increase biodiversity.	Awarded	In progress
Jan 20	£1,000	Funding for planting and to create a pond to encourage wildlife.	Awarded	In progress

Total value of the 49 small grants awarded is £43,731

Appendix A
LCHF project spend to date and progress update

Medium and Large Grants

Date	Amount received	Narrative	Status	Progress
Mar 16	£5,389	To develop and improve a range of wildlife habitats on the site and install an additional outdoor classroom.	Awarded	Complete
Sep16	£23,058.62	Clareton Lane Residents planting projects in and around residential properties	Awarded	Complete
Sep 16	£30,131.28	Provision of new footpath in churchyard, creation of a community garden, communal seating area and improvements around the churchyard boundaries	Awarded	Complete
Sep 16	£26,052.00	Survey work to inform scoping for a tree planting and landscaping project and refurbishment of Arkendale phone box	Awarded	Complete
Sep 16	£35,717.32	New woodland and pond area in the paddock near Clareton Manor Barn and hedgerow planting	Awarded	Complete
Sep 16	£44,984	Creation of woodland paths and controlling the spread of Himalayan Balsam	Awarded	Complete.
Sep 16	£50,000	Repair to section of the Allerton Park boundary wall	Awarded	Not yet started – conditions to be met
Sep 16	£50,000	Works to the Temple of Victory	Awarded	Slight delays, due to complete early 2020
Feb 17	£47,000	Funding towards a project to replace and extend a decayed wooden boardwalk and fencing at Upper Dunsforth Carr nature reserve.	Awarded	Complete

Appendix A
LCHF project spend to date and progress update

Date	Amount received	Narrative	Status	Progress
Feb 17	£8,961	Funding to purchase trees and protective fencing to provide screening, make visual improvements to the local landscape and increase local biodiversity by creating new habitats.	Awarded	Complete
Feb 17	£8,725	Funding is required to provide a large scale planting project to provide screening and also create a length of new hedgerow to support wildlife and increase biodiversity.	Awarded	Complete – trees not planted, funds returned
Feb 17	£4,110	Funding is required to undertake the next stage of the Fishpond Bridge conservation area project to include ecological surveys and full technical drawings to be produced	Awarded	Complete
Aug 17	£9,999	Funding for the restoration of a heritage building in the village of Arkendale.	Awarded	Complete
Aug 17	£8,766	Funding to create a wildlife area within the school grounds to improve habitats and support children's learning about the environment. £9,566 was awarded at the panel but other funding was secured from elsewhere so £8,766 was awarded.	Awarded	Complete
Aug 17	£9,931	Funding to purchase equipment for use by the volunteers of the Harrogate Support Group in supporting the work of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust at the Staveley nature reserve and also to site a shipping container to store the equipment on site.	Awarded	Complete
Feb 18	£41,253	Funding for a large scale planting & environmental improvement project, gapping 1.05km of hedgerows, providing additional trees for screening and restoration work at the Mar, an important local wetland habitat	Awarded	Complete
Feb 18	£11,718.32	Funding to provide planting for screening and to improve local biodiversity	Awarded	Complete

Appendix A
LCHF project spend to date and progress update

Date	Amount received	Narrative	Status	Progress
Feb 18	£5,000	Funding to enhance common land area's within the parish including purchasing of equipment to assist volunteers in managing the land to encourage biodiversity and also install information boards about the flora and fauna in the area	Awarded	Complete
Feb 18	£10,000	A project to undertake coppicing in woodland near Goldsborough to increase biodiversity using volunteers as part of a woodland wellbeing programme	Awarded	Complete
Feb 18	£34,983	Funding to improve the footpaths through the woodland in the parish which form part of the Knaresborough round walk.	Awarded	Complete
Feb 18	£20,000	Funding to undertake a programme of hedgerow restoration work on the Ribston estate in Goldsborough parish	Awarded	In progress
Feb 18	£39,947	Funding to create a wildlife area at the school and also to purchase a strip of land which will link the school to the community woodland and plant native hedgerow along the boundary	Awarded	In progress
Jun 18	£3,048	500 seed packets (£1,050) and £15 voucher for each primary school child in catchment for bird / bat / hedgehog / bug box (£1,998).	Awarded	Complete
Aug 18	£7,958	Funding to install electrical equipment to power the clock and chimes.	Awarded	In progress
Aug 18	£8,870	Funding to create an outdoors classroom and sensory area at a school playground.	Awarded	Complete – Awaiting end of grant report
Aug 18	£8,087.50	Funding to support the Ouse Beck Wetland Himalayan Balsam Removal Project	Awarded	In progress

Appendix A
LCHF project spend to date and progress update

Date	Amount received	Narrative	Status	Progress
Jan 19	£10,000	Funding for the restoration of two stained glass windows in the Whixley church as part of a wider community heritage project	Awarded	Complete
Jul 19	£6,596.63	Funding to create 193 metres of new native hedgerow	Awarded	In progress
Jul 19	£4,885.00	Funding to improve the local landscape at the Fishpond Bridge area of Ouse Gill Beck by creating a wildflower area and pond.	Awarded	In progress
Jul 19	£7,456.00	Funding to repair the external rendering of a historic dovecote building by removing the existing badly damaged rendering and replacing with a lime based render.	Awarded	Awaiting conditions to be met
Jul 19	£3,393	Funding for works to improve the pond area and village green in Ferrensby	Awarded	In progress
Jul 19	£9,176	The grant will be used to improve the area around the village pinfold and the play area together with the replacement of a tree on one of the village greens and the refurbishment of the bt phonebox which is used to house the village defibrillator.	Awarded	In progress
Jul 19	£17,640.00	Funding to replace wrought iron fencing and undertake essential tree work at the entrance to Staveley village.	Awarded	In progress
Jan 20	£9,713	Priest Carr Lodge Farm - Funding to create new hedgerow, plant trees and restore a historic pond on farm land near Marton Cum Grafton.	Awarded / Not Awarded	Approval required from Corporate Director (BES) for release of funding

Appendix A
LCHF project spend to date and progress update

Date	Amount received	Narrative	Status	Progress
Jan 20	£22,000	Ferrensby Parish Meeting - Funding for works to improve the village pond area in Ferrensby.	Awarded / Not Awarded	Approval required from Corporate Director (BES) for release of funding
Jan 20	£8,335.09	Majestic Farm - Funding to restore a historic pond and undertake tree planting in fields close to Marton Cum Grafton.	Awarded / Not Awarded	Approval required from Corporate Director (BES) for release of funding
Jan 20	£2,640	The Old Cornmill - Funding for tree planting in the village of Staveley	Awarded / Not Awarded	Approval required from Corporate Director (BES) for release of funding
Jan 20	£1,452	West View Funding to create a small copse and gap up hedgerow in Arkendale.	Awarded / Not Awarded	Approval required from Corporate Director (BES) for release of funding

Appendix A
LCHF project spend to date and progress update

Date	Amount received	Narrative	Status	Progress
Jan 20	£10,000	Boroughbridge High School – This is for funding to regenerate the school’s wildlife area and pond to remove overgrown vegetation, provide a pond dipping platform, new seating and refurbished pathways to provide a safe and accessible outdoor classroom resource	Awarded / Not Awarded	Approval required from Corporate Director (BES) for release of funding

Total value of the 33 medium and large grants awarded (not including the projects highlighted in yellow) is £612,836

Total value of the 82 grants awarded to date is £656,566

Name of Group: Boroughbridge High School

Date Established: 1990
Main Contact:

Total Project Cost:	£10,543.92	Start:	07/05/2017	District:	Harrogate YO51 9JX	Org Size
Amount Requested:	£10,000.00	End:	07/05/2018	IMD Rank: (1 is worst)	26923 of 32,482	F/T Staff: 0 P/T Staff: 0 Volunteers: 0

No. of beneficiaries: 800	Primary issue: Education, learning and training
Primary age group: Children (5 – 12)	Primary beneficiaries: Children and Young People

Brief description of project:
Funding to regenerate the schools wildlife area and pond to remove overgrown vegetation, provide a pond dipping platform, new seating and refurbished pathways to provide a safe and accessible outdoor classroom resource

Breakdown of project costs:

Capital	Seating	£2,693.92
	Trolley for transport of resources needed for primary children to the area Resources such as Tarps for shading, primary identification sheets (minibeasts), extra pond dipping equipment etc New gate	£100.00 £400 £100.00
Operational	Landscaping/decking	£3000.00
	Paths.	£3000.00
	Pond dredging	£1000.00
	Water topping up of pond	£250.00
Total		£10,543.92

Grants Officer Comments:
This project will enable the school to regenerate their wildlife and pond area which is situated at the bottom of the school field. The project is led by the school's senior science technician and she is very keen to make the space into a useable resource for pupils to undertake outdoor learning. The area was developed in the early 1990's and over the years has become overgrown and the pond difficult to access although the potential for the area is huge. There is space for learning although the current log seating is very decayed and they are proposing to cut this up now and create log piles for insect habitats. They would like to build a pond dipping platform and purchase teaching resources to go with this. There is a path which runs around the perimeter of the pond although it has seen better days and would not be accessible for those with mobility problems so they are hoping to make a start on an accessible pathway to support their disabled students which will at least get them onto the site and to the pond. The current boundary to the area is a broken down fence with very tall and spindly hedgerow planting and the refurb will see this improved by cutting, staking and laying to fill in the gaps which will further enhance the local wildlife habitat.

The school itself is outside the area of benefit but their catchment area takes in 4 primary schools in the area of benefit, Great Ouseburn, Kirk Hammerton, Marton Cum Grafton and Staveley, they also have plans to develop stronger links with these schools by inviting them in to take advantage of the wildlife area and the pond dipping equipment to support their learning.

The school has made links with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust for advice and we have also recommended that they make contact with the ecologists at NYCC as there are a few things they will need to consider particularly in relation to the Great Crested Newts which are present in the pond and the topping up of the water level.

If funding is offered we recommend the following conditions:-

- School to make contact with NYCC ecologists to seek guidance on the delivery of the project particularly in relation to dredging and topping up the water level in the pond and pond dipping in an area inhabited by Great Crested Newts.
- Confirmation to be provided that all necessary permissions and licences are in place prior to draw down of funds. The school need to consider if a licence will be needed for pond dipping where Great Crested Newts are present.
- Details of the number of primary schools in the area of benefit accessing the wildlife area to be recorded and submitted with end of grant report.
- Photographs to be provided with end of grant report.

Name of Group: Priest Carr Lodge Farm

Date Established:

Main Contact: [REDACTED]

Total Project Cost:	£10,455.79	Start :	01/03/2020	District:	York YO51 9QF	Org Size
Amount Requested:	£8713.00	End:	31/03/2020	IMD Rank:	N/a (1 is worst)	F/T Staff: 0 P/T Staff: 0 Volunteers: 0

Brief description of project:

Funding is required to create 300 metres of new hedgerow, undertake tree planting and restore a historic pond on farm land near Marton Cum Grafton.

Breakdown of project costs:

Other	Thorpe Trees - hedging & trees £4,213.16 Fencing, stockproof - £5 mt x 300 mts - £1,500 Pond creation & scrapes, hire of digger - £2,000.00 Site clearance and preparation for planting - Labour - £1,000 VAT - £1742.63	£10,455.79
Total		£10,455.79

Amount Raised so far:

Grants Officer Comments:

The applicant is the tenant of Priest Carr Lodge Farm which is a NYCC owned farm close to the village of Marton Cum Grafton. The applicant moved into the property in spring last year and has been working to restore the land which has been neglected for many years. The application seeks to create new hedgerow, plant trees and restore a historic pond which is in a SINC area and must be managed carefully.

The property is very run down currently and there is much work to do but the applicant is very enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the history of the area having grown up in the village of Marton and returning now in semi-retirement. He appears to have a good understanding of issues relating to conservation and is keen to work with any advice and support available.

There are some items in the current planting plan which are a cause for concern for the NYCC ecologist in particular Leylandii, Lombardy Poplar and Red barked dogwood proposed for the pond area. In addition any tree planting within the SINC site must be subject to consultation with the ecology team at NYCC. It is also felt that the planting of bluebells and wild daffodils is unlikely to be beneficial.

The applicant is able to reclaim VAT on the costs and as such is requesting a contribution net of VAT. Costs for each element are supported by two quotes although only one quote for tree planting has been provided by Thorpe trees.

The land is situated very close to the AWRP development although it cannot be seen due to the undulating landscape but this together with the ecological and heritage benefits of this project make it a high priority for funding.

If funding is offered it should be subject to the following conditions:-

- The restoration of the pond must have ecological oversight to ensure it is managed well with expert guidance. Applicant to arrange with NYCC ecology team.
- Revised planting plan to be provided removing Leylandii, Lombardy Poplar and Red barked Dogwood.
- Full planting plan for the pond area to be provided and agreed with NYCC ecology team.

Name of Group: Ferrensby Parish Meeting

Date Established: 1950

Main Contact: [REDACTED]

Total Project Cost:	£24,330.20	Start:	02/01/2019	District:	Harrogate HG5 9JG	Org Size F/T Staff: 0 P/T Staff: 0 Volunteers: 4
Amount Requested:	£23,330.20	End:	30/09/2019	IMD Rank:	N/a (1 is worst)	

No. of beneficiaries: 150

Primary issue: Environment & improving surroundings

Primary age group: All Ages

Primary beneficiaries: Local residents

Organisation aims & main activities:

Ferrensby is a village and civil parish in the Harrogate district of North Yorkshire, England. Being so small we are a Parish Meeting rather than a parish council. We support our 150 residents with information from the Police, Council and Highways and over the years have held a variety of community celebrations.

Brief description of project:

Funding for works to improve the pond area and village green in Ferrensby to improve local wildlife habitats and enhance the village landscape.

Breakdown of project costs:

Operational	Soft Landscaping Pond Improvements Ferrensby ; To remove water, silt and some of the vegetation surrounding the pond - £9,945.00 Hard Landscaping To supply and install 36m of gabion baskets and fill with gabion stone, to fit along tarmac road in the pond - £7,711.00 Soft Landscaping Create floating Island/raft for ducks - £625.00 VAT on pond work - £3656.20 Noticeboard A1Px2 £1993.00 Installation approx £400	£24,330.20
Total		

Amount Raised so far: £1,000.00

Application Information

The village pond has had little or no work done on it in the last 30yrs and is now at a state of serious decline, silted up and becoming choked with weed and reeds. The grant will enable us to refurbish the pond bringing life back to the centre of the village and stop the collapse of the road into the pond. We wish to improve the surrounding area of the pond and offer a platform for the wildlife to rest in safety. The refurbishment will offer our 150 residents (and visitors) a place to rest and watch the wildlife. We hope to improve the soft landscaping with more appropriate shrubs to encourage more birds, butterfly's and bees.

Grants Officer Comments:

There has been much concern expressed by local residents about the decline of the village pond and the members of the parish meeting have been raising funds to address some of these issues. They have been impressed with the work that has been undertaken at The Mar in Arkendale and have met with the contractors to discuss what is needed at the pond in Ferrensby. They felt that the contractor had a good understanding of what they are hoping to achieve although the costs were much higher than they imagined.

At present they have not undertaken any ecological surveys, they felt that the water quality was not good enough to support wildlife and were quite certain that they do not have newts. They are hopeful that by undertaking this project the quality of the water and the surrounding planting will be improved sufficiently to attract more wildlife.

Part of the landscaping of the pond includes the shoring up of the side of the pond next to the road as it is collapsing into the pond. This will include installing gabion baskets full of stones at the edge of the pond.

The NYCC ecologist is not supportive of the project as it stands and recommends that an ecological management plan is developed to ensure maximum benefit as a wildlife habitat. The group may also need to liaise with the highways dept for advice working so close to the roadside.

In addition to the work on the pond, the project includes the replacement of the village noticeboard which is in a bad state of disrepair and sits on the 'village green' which is really a small corner of grass at the crossroads in the village. The group hope that these measures will improve the look and feel of the village centre for local residents as well as attracting wildlife to the pond.

This application was deferred in the previous meeting but a small grant was offered to enable the group to commission an ecology report to ensure that the project is undertaken sympathetically and maximises the opportunities for enhancement.

Following a review of the ecology report, the NYCC ecologist is comfortable with the recommendations of the report but feels that there is limited ecological benefit to be gained here from undertaking the enhancements outlined and does not support the use of a duck raft.

It is also unclear whether Highways are actually responsible for installation of or at least maintenance of interceptors/oil filters that prevent run off from the road from polluting the pond and this needs to be explored further.

The project does of course have value in terms of cultural heritage as an important feature of the village. If funding is offered it should be subject to the following conditions:-

- All work must be carried out in line with the recommendations contained in the ecology report. Any installation of gabion baskets must include some habitat mitigation such as coir rolls as outlined in the ecology report.
- Confirmation to be provided that NYCC Highways do not have responsibility for the collapse of the road or providing and/or maintaining oil interceptors/filters to help prevent pollution.
- Confirmation to be provided that any planning permissions or other permissions, for example from NYCC Highway, are in place prior to draw down of funds. This includes aspects in relation to any installation of gabion blocks along the roadside and also any proposed planting in the area.
- Funding is not offered toward the cost of the duck raft as this does not provide ecological enhancement.
- Second quote to be provided for pond work.
- Two quotes to be provided for the cost of the village noticeboard.
- Any VAT reclaimed to be repaid to the Allerton Park LCHF

2nd UPDATE

The application was deferred for a second time in July 2019 as the panel had concerns in relation to ownership of the pond and also requested an independent engineers report to comment on the need for gabion baskets and if this is the best way to manage the collapse of the pond bank.

A smaller grant of £3393 was offered at this time to cover the cost of the village noticeboards and the engineers report. The group have been unable to trace any owner of the land and are working to have the land registered as common land. Engineers report and update to be provided at panel meeting.

Name of Group: Majestic Farm

Date Established:

Main Contact: [REDACTED]

Total Project Cost:	£10,448.09	Start	01/02/2020	District:	Harrogate HG4 5AY	Org Size
Amount Requested:	£8,335.00	End:	01/09/2020	IMD Rank:	N/a (1 is worst)	F/T Staff: 0 P/T Staff: 0 Volunteers: 0

Brief description of project:

Funding to restore a historic pond and undertake tree planting in fields close to Marton Cum Grafton.

Breakdown of project costs:

Other	1) REMOVE CRASSUS HELMSII AND RESTORE POND BY EBSFORD ENVIRONMENTAL £4,740.00 2) SUPPLY AND PLANT 21 TREES BY THORPE TREES £963.09 3) GORSE MANAGEMENT BY JOSH RENNISON OR NICK SPENCE £2,160.00 4) ECOLOGIST ADVICE FROM DR CHARLOTTE SANDERSON £768.00 5) HIMALAYAN BALSAM PULLING (PER YEAR) £1,185.00 6) NATIVE SEED MIX – 4KG £672.00 TOTAL PROJECT COSTS £10,488.09 MATCH FUNDING 1) ECOLOGIST ADVICE (IN KIND) £768.00 2) HIMALAYAN BALSAM PULLING (PER YEAR – CASH AND IN KIND) £1,185.00 3) CASH CONTRIBUTION £200 TOTAL MATCH FUNDING £2,153.00 TOTAL SHORTFALL (TOTAL PROJECT COSTS – TOTAL MATCH FUNDING) £8,335.09	£10,488.09
Total		£10,488.09

Amount Raised so far: £2,153.00

Grants Officer Comments:

This is a strong application with much local support and expertise behind it, the application itself is well completed with supporting quotes for the more basic elements of gorse management and site clearance but only one at this stage for the pond management and tree planting. Thorpe trees have provided the quote for tree planting and they have been recommended a pond specialist by their ecologist for the single pond quote that they have.

The applicant is being supported by a local resident who is a highly qualified ecologist working in the field and who has relevant Natural England licences for working with Great Crested Newts. She also comes with the endorsement of Dan McAndrew, HBC ecologist, and is providing her services as an in kind contribution because she is passionate about improving local habitats and biodiversity.

This project is also supported by local residents, the applicant as the new owner of Majestic Farm has been asked if they intend to restore the pond because it is still in living memory as a working stock pond for many older residents. The pond is also easily accessible by a short walk for the local school who are very keen to make us of it to support their outdoor learning, a letter of support from the school has been provided.

The applicant is very passionate about the project and when I visited there was evidence of a large area on the hill where they had been removing Himalayan balsam.

As the pond is historic and long established, showing on the earliest OS maps, the NYCC ecologist did have some concerns and any restoration work will need to be managed carefully.

The heritage and biodiversity benefits of this project make it a high priority for funding subject to the following conditions:-

- Ecology survey of pond to be undertaken and any pond management to be overseen by NYCC ecology team.
- Planting plan to be supplied and approved by HBC ecology team.
- Possibly second quote for pond work to be provided.

Name of Group: The Old Cornmill

Date Established:

Main Contact: [REDACTED]

Total Project Cost:	£2,640.00	Start:	01/01/2020	District:	Harrogate HG5 9LE	Org Size
Amount Requested:	£2,640.00	End:	31/03/2020	IMD Rank:	N/a (1 is worst)	F/T Staff: 0 P/T Staff: 0 Volunteers: 0

Brief description of project:

Funding for tree planting in the village of Staveley.

Breakdown of project costs:

Capital	Supply and plant 60 6/8 standard trees to create shelterbelt to include all tree protection	£2640.00
Total		£2640.00

Amount Raised so far: £0.00

Grants Officer Comments:

This application is a scaled back version of the applicants original project plan which was rejected in the previous round due to concerns about the removal and replanting of ancient hedgerow, the proximity of the new woodland area to the ponds of the Staveley nature reserve and also the cost of standard trees in comparison to whips which would require less maintenance.

The applicant has removed much of the plan and in particular the costs relating to the replacement of the hedgerow but is still seeking to plant 60 standard trees.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust have had sight of and approved the planting plan at the time of the original application and the applicant has sought advice from both the Woodland Trust and also Dan McAndrew, HBC ecologist.

The applicant is very keen to support local wildlife and increase biodiversity and has undertaken to provide ongoing maintenance for the new trees which will be a mix of Birch, Oak, Rowan, Field Maple and Willow with some Crab apple and Cherry in the drier spots.

Name of Group: West View

Date Established:

Main Contact: [REDACTED]

Total Project Cost:	£1451.00	Start:	01/03/2020	District:	Harrogate HG5 0QU	Org Size
Amount Requested:	£1,451.00	End:	31/03/2020	IMD Rank:	N/a (1 is worst)	F/T Staff: 0 P/T Staff: 0 Volunteers: 0

Brief description of project:

Funding to create a small copse and gap up hedgerow in Arkendale

Breakdown of project costs:

Other	Clearance and preparation for planting - £685 Gapping up 52 metres of existing hedgerow and planting of 22metres of new hedgerow – 250 plants plus canes and shelters - £170 Planting 13 trees 180-240cm plus stakes, ties & rabbit spirals - £179.58 Planting & fixing guards - £175.00 VAT - £241.92	£1,451.00
Total		£1,451.00

Amount Raised so far: £0.00

Grants Officer Comments:

The applicant is seeking to make improvements to the small paddock area at the rear of his property in Arkendale. Two quotes have been provided for the work, the cheaper one being from Thorpe Trees. The project seeks to create a small area of new hedgerow and gap up another length of existing hedgerow along with creation of a small copse of 13 light standard trees within the field and 3 trees closer to the garden. This is a straightforward project just over the small grant threshold of £1000 although this applicant has received a small grant of £990 previously for the removal of a Leylandii hedge. This project is based in the priority area however and this is a modest request for support. If funding is offered it should be subject to the following conditions:-

- Planting plan to be amended, Red Oak and Italian Alder are not native species and not characteristic of the local landscape.

Initial equality impact assessment screening form (As of October 2015 this form replaces 'Record of decision not to carry out an EIA')			
This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.			
Directorate	BES		
Service area	Transport, Waste and Countryside Services		
Proposal being screened	Releasing funds from the Allerton Waste Recovery Park, Landscape and Cultural Heritage Fund		
Officer(s) carrying out screening	Suzanne Williamson		
What are you proposing to do?	Implement the Landscape and Cultural Heritage Fund for Allerton Waste Recovery Park (AWRP) (as set out in the section 106 planning agreement). The Fund is being managed and delivered through a third party organisation (Two Ridings Community Foundation) who have set up an independent panel to make recommendations on projects to receive funding through the LCHF.		
Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?	The purpose of the LCHF is to assist with mitigating the impacts of the AWRP development by using the fund to deliver projects to enhance and strengthen the local landscape character, biodiversity and/or features of cultural heritage prioritised within a 3.5km radius of the Site. The priority areas and types of projects which could be delivered through the LCHF are set out in two separate planning documents – the Landscape Management Strategy and Outline Habitat Management Plan.		
Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources? Please give details.	No – the total fund amount £839,500 was made available in 2014, with a view to the fund being spent within five years. This decision is to release funding for approved projects from the fund as per the recommendations from the independent panel		
Is there likely to be an adverse impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYCC's additional agreed characteristics? As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics? • Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important? • Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to? 			
If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be a significant adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your <u>Equality rep</u> for advice if you are in any doubt.			
Protected characteristic	Yes	No	Don't know/No info available
Age		✓	
Disability		✓	
Sex (Gender)		✓	
Race		✓	

Sexual orientation		✓	
Gender reassignment		✓	
Religion or belief		✓	
Pregnancy or maternity		✓	
Marriage or civil partnership		✓	
NYCC additional characteristic			
People in rural areas		✓	
People on a low income		✓	
Carer (unpaid family or friend)		✓	
Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts (e.g. disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.	No		
Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (e.g. partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics? Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.	No		
Decision (Please tick one option)	EIA not relevant or proportionate:	✓	Continue to full EIA:
Reason for decision	<p>Release of the project funding from the LCHF does not have adverse impacts on people with protected characteristics.</p> <p>Two Ridings have a robust equalities policy in place which is used as part of the fund assessment process. Information about funding awards to date is used to inform specific targeted marketing and outreach activities to ensure that the LCHF process is accessible to the widest audience given the parameters on the fund set by the planning process.</p>		
Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)	Ian Fielding		
Date	14 February 2020		