

MEETING 26/03/2020

Ref: 15602

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital**Froglife Trust****Adv: Sandra Jones****Base: Tower Hamlets****Benefit: London-wide****Amount requested: £280,330****{revised request: £244,330}****Amount recommended: £244,200****The Applicant**

Froglife Trust (FT) is a national charity which was established in 2002. Its mission is to support the conservation of amphibians and reptiles – frogs, toads, newts, snakes and lizards – and to save the habitats they depend on. It actively encourages people who are not usually involved in conservation and concentrates on “on the ground” action which directly benefits amphibians (e.g. through the care of habitats). It has been particularly successful over the years in delivering environmental education programmes and in incorporating new audiences.

The Application

Building on work undertaken in Glasgow, Somerset and Peterborough, FT wishes to involve people with on-set dementia in a project called Leaping Forward for Dementia. This project has three elements: wildlife gardening workshops; wildlife gardening sessions; and wildlife routes. This will be achieved by employing a full-time project manager and associated running costs. The initial budget had high overhead costs which the organisation has subsequently reduced.

The Recommendation

FT has built a good reputation for providing opportunities for people who would not normally get involved in conservation of wildlife. One such scheme, funded by CBT, used young offenders to improve habitats in London. They have developed the model for Leaping Forward for Dementia through three projects elsewhere in the UK, one semi-rural and two urban areas. Evaluation of this work shows increased quality of life for the participants. A grant is advised:

£244,200 over five years (£46,500; £47,400; £48,700; £50,000; £51,600) for the salary of a f/t Project Manager and running costs for the Leaping Forward for Dementia project.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
26/11/2015	£54,000 over two years (2 x £27,000) for the salary of a p/t (3 dpw) Project Assistant and related costs of the Dragon Finder project for London.
27/09/2012	£77,000 over three years (£35,000; £21,000; £21,000) towards the costs of the Dragon Finder project, including a p/t (3dpw) Project Assistant.

Background and detail of proposal

Identifying areas across London, some of which LT are already working in, people living with dementia will be taken on a wildlife journey through three activities. The first is wildlife gardening workshops, undertaken indoors where they build a wildlife garden using props. These sessions include young people who work with those with on-set/ mild dementia to gather wildlife memories and experiences through informal

chats, creating an anthology and introducing the other activities. One workshop will be dedicated to passing on skills to carers and social workers to deliver the workshops in future.

Participants will then get involved with the second activity – wildlife gardening. They will get involved with physical improvements to community green spaces including ponds, hibernacula, feeding stations, pond dipping. This will be one session per week for eight weeks. In year one there will be five groups with six groups in subsequent years. The final activity is wildlife routes, which is weekly specialised training sessions for ten weeks to improve confidence and self-esteem; this could include wildlife photography / filming, graffiti art, creating a sculpture.

FT will be working with a range of partner organisations who work with people with dementia as well as Local Authority social care departments.

Financial Information

Froglife has a diverse range of income streams and their income rose by £330,000 in 2019 due to an EU grant through the Biodiversity Fund, managed by the Scottish Natural Heritage, and the figure for 2020 includes a further large grant from Natural Heritage.

The unrestricted forecast for 2019/20 is cautious and in reality, the organisation is confident that their unrestricted income will exceed that stated in the table below. The organisation stated that budget was drawn up in September 2019 for the year October 2019 – September 2020 and it is difficult to forecast accurately. Since drawing up the budget for CBT they have brought in additional funding such as expanding the training courses on offer, we have also secured more contracts through FES which has brought in an additional £15,000 (Environment Agency) plus some smaller contracts.

Year end as at 30 September	2018	2019	2020
	Independent Examined Accounts	Independent Examined Accounts	Forecast
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	707,586	1,009,992	1,217,543
- % of Income confirmed as at 17/01/2020	n/a	n/a	63%
Expenditure	(709,616)	(833,441)	(1,204,540)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(2,030)	176,551	13,003
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(75,066)	65,287	142,668
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	73,036	111,264	(129,665)
	(2,030)	176,551	13,003
Total expenditure	709,616	833,441	1,204,540
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	158,220	270,094	140,429
No of months of totalled expenditure	2.7	3.9	1.4
Reserves policy target	177,404	208,360	301,135
No of months of total expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(19,184)	61,734	(160,706)