

## **CITY BRIDGE TRUST – Delegated Authority (Requests £50k to £100k)**

### **ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital Growing, greening and environmental projects**

**Rushey Green Timebank (RGTB)**

**Ref: 15883**

**Amount requested: £94,049**

**Adv: Kate Moralee**

**Base: Lewisham**

**Benefit: Lewisham**

**Amount recommended: £94,000**

**Purpose of grant request:** Continuation funding for developing and maintaining its community green space - The Wild Cat Wilderness

#### **The Applicant**

The Rushey Green Time Bank charity improves the wellbeing of individuals by enabling the local community to provide care and services for each other through a variety of activities that involve using people's skills and talents. As people start to help and get to know their neighbours, they rebuild a sense of trust and community belonging. It adopts an asset-based approach to involving people in volunteering to connect and create community cohesion. RGTB is well networked across the borough, has an excellent relationship with the Local Authority and attends a variety of forums, Boards and Consortium.

#### **Background and detail of proposal**

In 2017 you awarded RGTB £113,000 over three years towards the development of the Wild Cat Wilderness community green space in Catford, expanding both the size of, and range of local community members using, the site. RGTB has provided excellent and timely monitoring reports, been proactive in communication with your officer and responded effectively to changes during the last two years.

RGTB has strengthened its links with other local charities and groups and will be developing these further over the next two years. It has worked with Sydenham Garden to develop a pathway for people recovering from mental ill health transitioning from therapeutic session to community volunteering. It is currently developing relationships with Roar Pursuits CIC to provide opportunities for care leavers to be engaged with the project.

The budget is slightly higher than previously as RGTB have adopted a slightly different delivery model of Co-ordinator plus freelance sessional workers, to provide greater flexibility and ability to meet the increased demand for use of the site.

This project fully embraces City Bridge Trust's environmentally responsible value promoting environmental excellence through all of its activities – recycling, avoiding plastic, using natural light, reducing food waste, greening and growing redundant land and harvesting water.

Many of the activities delivered over the last three years have been driven by volunteers eg, a dye garden and the marketing of the chilli festival. The project has

adopted an Appreciative Enquiry model as part of the evaluation, this has provided real insight for planning. Feedback from users of the project includes:

“A year on now volunteering here, I am pleased that I was introduced to this place as an add-on from Sydenham Gardens”;

“I have enjoyed the social aspect and made friends. It has given me something to do reducing social isolation”;

### Financial Information

The charity is experiencing considerable growth and continues to diversify its portfolio of projects tailored to the needs and aspirations of the community. It is also adopting its new role of Voluntary Sector Infrastructure support in Lewisham. A three-year contract with the Local Authority awarded in 2019. The organisation is well managed and in a good financial position. Free reserves are slightly below the trustee's policy of 3-6 months of expenditure, however 75% of projected income for 2021 is already secured and RGTB will endeavour to increase unrestricted surplus.

Year end as at 31 March	2019 Examined Accounts £	2020 Forecast £	2021 Budget £
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	265,360	350,507	449,677
- % of Income confirmed as at 20/2/20	N/A	100%	75%
Expenditure	(279,577)	(320,909)	(436,789)
Total surplus/(deficit)	<b>(14,217)</b>	<b>29,598</b>	<b>12,888</b>
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(21,428)	27,758	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	7,211	1,840	12,888
	<b>(14,217)</b>	<b>29,598</b>	<b>12,888</b>
Total Expenditure	279,577	320,909	436,789
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	84,639	86,479	99,367
No of months of expenditure	3.6	3.2	2.7
Reserves policy target	69,894	80,227	109,197
No of months of expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	14,745	6,252	(9,830)

### Recommendation

This programme has delivered effectively over the last three years, creating meaningful opportunities for people to deepen community connections. Whilst your policy is usually to award one grant to each organisation this application provides an exception as RGTB is the most appropriate agency to host Lewisham Local Giving, whilst also delivering its own projects.

***£94,000 over 2 further and final years (£49,800, £44,200) towards the salary of a p/t (21 hpw) Co-ordinator and freelance sessional staff and associated costs of maintaining and developing the community green space.***

Approved.....  
Chief Grants Officer

Date.....

Approved.....  
Chair

Date.....

Approved.....  
Deputy Chair

Date.....