

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Improving London's Environment**Rushey Green Time Bank (RGTB)****Adv: Kate Moralee****Amount requested: £111,663****Base: Lewisham****Benefit: Lewisham****Amount recommended: £113,000****The Charity**

The Rushey Green Time Bank 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. Their aim is to help build a cohesive community where neighbours get to know and can rely on each other for help and support, and where people of different ages, cultures, backgrounds and abilities interact and bridge divides. RGTB is well networked across the borough, has an excellent relationship with the Local Authority and attends a variety of forums, Boards and Consortium.

The Application

City Bridge Trust is asked to support the development of the Wild Cat Wilderness community green space in Catford. This includes a part time project co-ordinator and part time assistant, a new polytunnel, outdoor kitchen shelter and other direct project costs. The staff will work with the local community, run regular activities and events, encourage volunteering, develop the community food growing space and run more cooking and preserving workshops to enhance the understanding of healthy, nutritious food for families.

The Recommendation

The organisation is the oldest surviving Time Bank, set up in the 1990's and has an excellent reputation locally, regionally and nationally. It implements its ethos of placing the community at its heart by developing projects in partnership with and driven by volunteers. RGTB secured the Wilderness Site in 2004 (it is owned by Leathersellers and managed by Colfe's School) and has a lease until 2022. It has recently been offered more land to explore and develop. This project was previously funded by People's Health Trust, funding ended September 2016, and through reserves since then, which has meant a reduction in the number of activities. The amount recommended is slightly higher than the original sum requested to rectify small budget mistakes noted during the assessment process.

Also under consideration today is a Strategic Initiative proposal from RGTB on behalf of The Lewisham Local Collaborative. Although usually only one grant can be awarded to an organisation at one time your policies allow you to consider a further application where the applicant is part of a consortium as is the case with the LLC.

£113,000 over three years (£41,000; £35,000; £37,000) for the salary of a Co-ordinator (p/t 16 hrs per week) and Assistant (p/t 8 hrs per week) and associated direct costs of the Wild Cat Wilderness project.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
05/04/2007	£73,200 over 3 years (£24,100; £24,200; £24,900) for the salary and project costs of engaging older people in time banking.

Background and detail of proposal

This proposal has been informed by learning from the delivery of the project since 2014. The site was originally an unloved rubbish strewn wilderness and has been cleared and developed with and by volunteers from the local community. The area is regularly used by the local community, schools, uniformed groups and children on the autistic spectrum, with one family using the “family days” as their only outing together. This project sits within a comprehensive portfolio of services and activities which complement each other and create cross fertilisation of volunteers.

Gardening and nature conservation is led by a Horticulturist Therapist and is used to promote health and wellbeing, with a core focus on food and healthy eating, sharing food, cooking on the campfire and sharing recipes. It is acknowledged that food is central to everyone’s lives and brings people together, breaking down barriers. This project complements the FoodCycle project and vice versa, with FoodCycle sessions held at the Wild Cat Wilderness encouraging individuals from each project to attend the other – cross fertilisation in action.

The Wild Cat Wilderness provides a safe space for children to experience nature; I witnessed 60 local young people using the site to develop their volunteering skills whilst on the visit. This proposal builds on previous work delivered by increasing the staffing resource, employing and training an assistant for 8 hours per week (a local person). The proposal will also increase food growing, cooking, sharing and learning opportunities.

Financial Information

RGTB operates with financial prudence; have low unrestricted operating costs due to ethos of volunteering and have a trusted supplier relationship with the LA.

Year end as at 31st March	FY 15/16	FY 16/17	FY 17/18
	Examined Accounts	Draft Accounts	Forecast
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	143,090	144,096	142,980
- % of Income confirmed @31/5/17	n/a	n/a	93%
Expenditure	(134,276)	(138,526)	(160,928)
Total surplus/(deficit)	8,814	5,570	(17,948)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	2,501	2,267	(21,363)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	6,313	3,303	3,415
	8,814	5,570	(17,948)
Cost of Raising Funds	0	820	1,000
- % of income	0.0%	0.6%	0.7%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	1,758	10,506	11,775
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	19,360	22,663	26,078
No of months of operating expenditure	132.2	25.9	26.6
Reserves policy target	67,138	69,263	80,464
No of months of operating expenditure	458.3	79.1	82.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(47,778)	(46,600)	(54,386)