Project Grant Fund 2021/22

**Aim** To support a wide range of partners to work together to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience through practical action, awareness-raising and engagement in Monmouthshire and Newport.

**How much?** The total fund available is approx. £10,000 p.a. for grants between £250 and £3,500.

**Who can apply?** The fund is open to all not-for-profit organisations with projects based in the Monmouthshire and Newport local authority areas.

**What we will fund?** We are looking for projects that will take practical action to:

* maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, or
* engage, enthuse and inspire people to better understand the benefits of the local nature on their patch;

Some projects undertaken in other areas have included hedgerow restoration, pond enhancement, supporting volunteer surveys, providing sand martin nesting boxes, heathland management and citizen science projects – but feel free to come up with something completely different!

Successful applicants will be required to provide a short report and documentation of how the money has been spent at the end of the project. For details on what information will be required please see Appendix 2.

**How will we fund it?** Due to way the grant is administered, we will reimburse applicants the spend they have made in support of the project when evidence of spend is submitted. If this is not possible for you, please contact the coordinators before submitting your application to discuss options.

Some projects may require suitable public liability insurance for any work carried out under the scheme. Please send evidence of public liability with the application.

**When will be funding?** Call for proposals will be open from:

* 1st July to 22nd July
* 1st September to 22nd September

If necessary, depending on remaining funds, further funding opportunities will be available in November and January.

Claims can be made as soon as required after the spend, and **no later than 28th February 2022.**

**How to apply?** If you have a suitable project idea, please outline it on the form below, or get in touch with the coordinators to develop your ideas further.

## Contact and Organisation Details

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Contact Name |  | |
| Organisation |  | |
| Address |  | |
| Phone |  | |
| Email |  | |
| Type of Organisation[[1]](#footnote-1) | |  |
| Registered Charity Number (if applicable) | |  |
| Does your organisation have a formal constitution? | |  |
| Does your organisation have a bank account? | |  |
| Is your organisation registered for VAT? | |  |

## Project Details

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Project Title |  | |
| Project Location[[2]](#footnote-2) |  | |
| Planned start date |  | |
| Planned end date |  | |
| Is the project primarily practical or engagement? | |  |
| Landowner details | | |
|  | | |
| Is any permission required before the project can start? | | |
|  | | |
| Please give a brief outline of your proposed project here (200 words max) | | |
|  | | |

|  |
| --- |
| **For practical projects (no more than 100 words apiece)** |
| Which species or habitats will benefit from the proposed works? |
|  |
| Which of the five aspects of ecosystem resilience will your project protect or enhance? Explain how |
|  |
| Will the project increase public engagement with or understanding of our natural environment? **Yes / No** If yes, please tell us how. |
|  |
| Who will maintain the completed project and how will it be funded in the future? (If applicable) |
|  |
| How will you monitor and evaluate outcomes? |
|  |
| **For engagement projects (no more than 100 words apiece)** |
| What steps have you taken to try to ensure that anyone who wants to can join your activity? |
|  |
| What are you hoping will happen as a result of the engagement activity? |
|  |
| Is the project location accessible to the public? **Yes / No** – please explain your answer |
|  |
| Will the project help highlight natural heritage and culture? **Yes / No** – please explain your answer |
|  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| What language will the activities take place in? | | | | | |
| English |  | Welsh |  | Bilingually |  |
| Please feel free to include any other relevant information here | | | | | |

## Budget

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Please itemise | **Quantity** | **Cost**  ***(exc. VAT)*** | **VAT** | **Total Cost** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total cost of project** | | | |  |

Please add more rows if necessary

## Declaration

**Please read the following statement before signing and returning the application**

“I certify that that all the information provided in this application is true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misleading statements whether deliberate or accidental could make the application invalid and therefore liable for the return of any money”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Signature** |  |
| **Name printed in block capitals** |  |
| **Position in organisation** |  |
| **Date** |  |

## Checklist

**Have you completed/included**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The application** |  |
| **A photograph of site** |  |
| **A business plan if applicable** |  |
| **A work plan if applicable** |  |
| **Evidence of public indemnity insurance** |  |
| **Signature on the application** |  |

### Appendix 1 Ecosystem Resilience

Resilience means the capacity of ecosystems to deal with disturbances, either by resisting them, recovering from them, or adapting to them, whilst retaining their ability to deliver services and benefits now and in the future. The Environment (Wales) Act recognises five attributes as building blocks of resilience which can be summarised as

* Diversity – ecosystems with a diverse mix of species are more likely to be resilient to pressures such as climate change or invasive species than those with only a few species.
* Extent - The larger an ecosystem is, the more likely it is to be able to tolerate small changes in parts of the system.
* Condition – an ecosystem in a healthy, functioning condition is more resilient to pressures than one which is already under stress.
* Connectivity - The ability of species to move between areas of suitable habitat is key to their survival if conditions at a particular site become difficult. The connections between natural areas are often therefore as important as the areas themselves.
* Adaptability – change is inevitable. The ability of systems to adapt to change is key in ensuring that the systems continue to support life on Earth.

### Appendix 2 Reporting and Required Information

So that we can demonstrate that your project provides value for money at the end of the project we will require a report on the works undertaken with the grant money. This can range from a couple of paragraphs for small grants to a more formal report for larger sums of money. Photographs would also be welcomed.

We will also require you to record specific metrics to quantify the achievements of the project, such as

* Number of volunteers involved
* Number of volunteer hours contributed
* Area of habitat
* Other benefits (communities engaged, attendees at events etc.)

Evidence will be required to demonstrate how the money has been sent, which will include invoices or receipts, for example

* Materials,
* Tools,
* Publicity
* Volunteer expenses
* Transport
* Staff time
* Contractor time

If applicable, please give details of any other funding – including money from your own funds – that will be used to match this grant. Match can also be provided through volunteer time or staff time.

1. Voluntary, public sector, registered charity, private individual, private company [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. If site based please provide an OS grid reference and map/photograph; if not site based, state extent of land / parish included. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)