

<b>BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL LOCAL INNOVATION FUND</b> <b>"Doing things differently in neighbourhoods to make better places to live"</b> <b>WARD PROPOSAL FORM</b>					
<b>WARD:</b> East Handsworth Lozells	<b>INNOVATION</b> <b>TITLE</b> ...Grow Together				
<p><b>Innovations have to meet the LIF priorities and add value to the City-wide core priorities listed below.</b></p> <p>(Tick all those that apply)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 50%;"><u>City Core Priorities</u></th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 50%;"><u>LIF Priorities</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Children - a Great City to Grow Up In</b> <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• <b>Jobs &amp; Skills a great City to succeed in</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• <b>Housing a great City to live in</b> <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• <b>Health a great City to lead a healthy &amp; active life</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> </ul> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Citizens' Independence &amp; Well Being</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• <b>New approaches to investment</b> <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• <b>Active citizens &amp; communities stepping up</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• <b>Clean streets</b> <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• <b>Improving local centres</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> </ul> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>City Core Priorities</u>	<u>LIF Priorities</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Children - a Great City to Grow Up In</b> <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• <b>Jobs &amp; Skills a great City to succeed in</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• <b>Housing a great City to live in</b> <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• <b>Health a great City to lead a healthy &amp; active life</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Citizens' Independence &amp; Well Being</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• <b>New approaches to investment</b> <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• <b>Active citizens &amp; communities stepping up</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• <b>Clean streets</b> <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• <b>Improving local centres</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>
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<p><b>What is your innovative idea and how does it show collaborative, partnership working and active citizenship?</b></p> <p>Our idea is to create an outdoor community space in the heart of Handsworth. The need is for a multi-functional space that adds to the ascetic appeal of The Crick Project's existing garden, while also serving practical purposes.</p> <p>It will be a covered workspace for those wet and windy days that currently limit the productivity and activity of the garden. Local individuals and groups will be able to access the space for meetings, community workshops and other activities. It will be a bespoke structure commissioned from, a professional who specialises in ecological builds.</p> <p>For the garden space at Crick lane to be accessed by the wider community and used to its full potential we are also need to build a compost toilet. All the construction will be completed as a series of participatory workshops with volunteers and representatives from across partnership groups, so participants can learn new skills.</p> <p>The structure will be made of wood and will be a semi enclosed shelter with a seating capacity for 20/30 people. Furniture will be made from reclaimed wood – already on the site and collected locally.</p> <p>Innovation is built into the design and use of the actual structure; turf /sedum roof to attract beneficial insects to add pollination of plants in the garden and rainwater collection all attainable through the sensitive design.</p> <p>The project carries on the historical use of the site as a designated area for the wellbeing of the local community. Initially the site was used to carry out childcare and training provision to the local community. Since no longer operating as a nursery, the building has been pulled down and subsequently the site has been cleared to develop a community garden offering</p>					

opportunities for residents to engage in socialising and sharing outdoor skills. With a new housing scheme completed beside the site area The Crick Project is hoping to encourage very local residents to get involved in the community space opened up to them.

The site is currently managed wholly through the volunteering of time and resources. The Crick Project is run by a group of individuals with skills and expertise in Youth and Community; working with children and young people with special needs; vulnerable adults; delivering art projects and event management. As well as practical skills in gardening and woodland management.

The Crick Project is a unique site in the Handsworth area, as a covenanted site, once the main infrastructure has been installed, it has long term viability as there are low ongoing annual costs. Maintenance and use of the site is achievable through volunteer input.

Collaborative working has been essential in getting the site to its current state. Early work was supported by BCC Waste Management Team, who helped us clear rubbish and are keen to work in partnership in future; Mercian Housing who last year completed a new housing development at the rear of the site and donated resources, they 'continue to share information about opportunities we offer through their newsletter.

We have key partnerships with;

- Eco Gardeners - a local gardening enterprise, they share their expertise and skills and we give them space on site to store their equipment and to compost the majority of the garden waste they produce. They have been instrumental in running some of the community workshops – Furniture Pallet Making and Creating Compost. We have secured funding from 'Aging Better,' to enable us to pay for their expertise on site and work with participants for 4 hours a week.
- 'Community Markets' – Is a local enterprise run by Abi Isaac a local Handsworth resident. She has managed the market for two years, offering local people products for sale from craft makers and suppliers of health products. There is a cultural theme to the markets that reflect the interests and tastes of the people who come to buy the products. The markets also offer great networking opportunities and are used by some service providers to connect with the community about certain issues i.e. health checks, carbon monoxide units. Using the Crick Project site to deliver future markets will open up new opportunities for community producers, so alongside of the traditional arts and crafts, there will be local providers of herbs, flowers, honey etc. extending 'Community Markets' customer base.
- Ashebo – a local community based training organisation, developing training for the voluntary sector; who will use the site as a venue to deliver their community, youth and play development programmes; this partnership offers the opportunity for income generation, this will go towards the ongoing sustainability of the site as well as the training offered being complimentary to the needs of individuals and groups who access the garden.
- ATHAC - working with children and young people with learning disabilities, the garden is a secure site which is ideal for their use. We are working to explore ways we can create enterprising opportunities for local young adults whose access to training and

employment are often restricted due to the disadvantage of disability.

- Birchfield neighbourhood forum – are interested in utilising the site as a meeting place and to hold community events if the Birchfield boundaries change to include Crick Lane. Their committee is happy to support the project in the meantime by sign posting residents to our activities.
- University College Birmingham- Early Years course students are using the site as part of their course work to research and build a 'Mud Kitchen' and would like to deliver other projects from the site in the future.

Broader network –

Handsworth helping hands – regular attendance at our events, very supportive in sharing events through local social media networks

Mercian Housing (Anne Knight = Housing Officer)- our main point of contact to advertising our activities to residents.

Handsworth Park Rangers – Donate plants and topsoil to the project.

Eat Well – local Vegan take away supply catering for our events

Boat Café – Handsworth Park

### **Enterprising opportunities:**

Garden tools maintenance – tools exchange for residents

Eco Gardeners - Planters, bird boxes, composting, hanging baskets for sale

Community Markets – local crafts, Organic fruit and vegetables, Home blended health products from plants, plants & herbs for sale at regular markets throughout summer months

### **Period -**

One off event/programme

Implement and complete within 6 months (2016)

Implement and complete within 12 months (2017)

X

**How will the innovation be implemented?**

- The physical infrastructure of the site will be developed through commissioning a wood expert Chris Wooding, who specialises in ecological structures
- Building and installation of a bespoke sheltered community structure - through the delivery of 3 participatory workshops facilitated by an expert
- Build and install a compost toilet – through the delivery of 3 participatory workshops facilitated by an expert.

When completed we will be able to fully address the health and safety needs of the site, areas will be accessible to meet the needs of partner groups and individual residents.

The development of an annual calendar of events and opportunities will be established.

- Offer regular training opportunities and events for local residents- to include volunteer skills.
- Support more local enterprises
- Build other relationships with more partners in the area
- Open the garden weekly throughout the year and offer opportunities for leisure, wellbeing, gardening for local people of all ages.
- Advertise locally as a venue for meetings, community markets and events etc.

**What outcomes will the proposal achieve?**

Building the structure and toilet facilities at The Crick Project will help us to develop our partnership work and activities in all areas.

**Children - a Great City to Grow Up In**

- Developing a children's area with Early Years College students; regular family workshops and open days
- Partnership work with ATHAC (Access to Arts, Heritage, and Culture) working with children, young people, and their families
- 

**Jobs & Skills - a great City to succeed in**

- The project will provide opportunities to develop new skills in workshops especially building the toilet and shelter.
- Events and work days where people can share skills
- Local enterprises will be supported to utilise the site to expand their business.

- **Housing - a great City to live in**

- Residents have seen the site being cleared and developed and through the passing comments we receive we know it is appreciated.

- **Health - a great City to lead a healthy & active life**

Residents will have the opportunity all year round to participate in gardening and physical activity as well as seeing the impact of their labours on the area.

- **Citizens' Independence Well Being**
  - Residents involved with the project so far have improved their physical and mental wellbeing. It has given individuals purpose, responsibility, and companionship and fresh veg to eat!
- **New approaches to investment**
  - The project reuses waste items such as pallets, timber, tyres for planters etc.
  - Network and work in partnership with other organizations and individuals.
- **Active citizens & communities stepping up**
  - The Crick Project is run entirely by volunteers.
- **Clean streets**
  - We take part in City councils street clean up days and recycle any useful items dumped on the Crick lane.
- **Improving local centres**
  - The shelter will greatly improve the appearance of Crick lane site and attract more partnership work.

**What will success look like and how will its impact be measured?**

We will monitor and evaluate the ongoing impacts of the project by:

- The number of new opportunities developed as a direct response to the installation of toilet and shelter
- The number of existing and new users of the site
- Shared feedback from current users about improved access and facilities
- Work with partner groups to develop new projects and opportunities for strengthening and identifying joint initiatives and funding bids.
- Local enterprises improving their activity and custom
- Increased capacity of the Crick Project to work with more volunteers.
- Impact on the individuals who are on the Crick Project committee by creating potential to generate income and enterprise opportunities.
- Improved health and wellbeing for volunteers recorded anecdotes.
- Evaluation of all activities delivered on site by the Crick Project, partner groups and others to collect feedback in relation to soft outcomes i.e. reduce isolation for vulnerable individuals, improved health, support to reduce reliance on medication.

Attract more residents of all ages to participate in ongoing sustainable and accessible opportunities on the site.

Document with film, blog and photographs, comments book at events, record numbers at all events and log voluntary hours worked.

Communication with members through group pages on social media

**How will you ensure legacy/ continuation and what learning will the project provide?**

The Crick Project is unique site in the local area, as covenanted site, once the main infrastructure has been installed, it has long term viability as there are low ongoing annual costs. Maintenance and use of the site is achievable through volunteer input and so the legacy of the innovation fund is secure.

The installation of the permanent shelter and toilet is the key that will enable wider access to the project by diverse groups of individuals and communities. We will be well placed in maintaining a site that builds and increases the capacity for community cohesion; providing a neutral, welcoming space where diverse groups will come together, creating shared values, and understanding.

Collectively the partner groups represent broad areas of expertise within the Handsworth community and voluntary sector. The Innovation Fund offers all partners the opportunity to work smarter and creatively in addressing the complexity of needs that arise within a community faced by the challenges of socio – economic disadvantage.

**The Crick Project - Mission Statement**

Through the Crick Project we aim to create a sustainable community garden in the heart of Handsworth, for the improved health and well-being of local people and the wider community. To raise awareness and enable participation for people to improve their own health and that of others, through sowing and growing opportunities.

The Crick Project has grown from the opportunity to develop an in unused, derelict piece of land and turn it into a space that could be a community asset, by turning it into a community garden; a hub for learning about organic food production and healthy lifestyles.

**Medium Term sustainability****Medium term goals of The Crick Project**

- To make the site safe and accessible, through the removal of hazardous materials and surfaces.
- To provide basic amenities so that all those working or visiting the site will have the use of toilets, water and shelter
- To install and create designated areas on the site for tool storage, growing food, composting, preparing and cooking food, recreation and learning
- **Increase opportunities for partnership working:**  
 With a large proportion of the physical infrastructure constructed through LIF this enables joint working across local partnerships, generating new opportunities for collaboration and to be in a significantly stronger position to apply for joint funding applications.
  - Example - ATHAC will regularly bring groups of young adults with special needs to Crick Project to develop their skills, foster their connection to their community, explore potential of local green spaces. It is important for this vulnerable group to have an inclusive space to feel supported and that they are making a difference

while forming wider friendships.

- Example – ‘Eco Garden Services’ to gain funding to have regular weekly sessions with ATHAC groups and other visitors to the site, to share skills, creativity and knowledge in growing food and flowers. They will also gain more visibility and extend their client base in the area as the users of the Project increase.
- Example - ‘Community Markets’ will put on regular markets throughout the summer inviting local businesses, makers and health providers, and information providers. Through this we will encourage more partners to connect to the Community Garden in different ways
- Example ASHEBO will have space to put on training in community cohesion and wellbeing for groups and individuals
- Birchfield neighbourhood forum will sign post residents to the project and will hold meetings and events

The Local Innovation Fund will help us to achieve these goals.

- By creating the shelter and compost toilet through participatory workshops
  - Provide opportunities to **learn new skills** in construction and ecology.
  - Immediate visual impact in area, **improving the general appearance of the area**
  - addressing the chronic current issues of **fly tipping**, we have seen it reduced over the last year as our activity on site has increased, and residents have all made positive comments on the improvements to the site and surrounding area
  - Creation of a Community Hub, used by different community groups, representing diverse groups of local people
  - LIF will immediately increase the physical accessibility of site for groups and individuals
- Long Term Sustainability**

1. Learning - Children, young people and adults will share skills and learn how to produce a healthy food source in a shared community space. We will do this through a drop- in facility, educational/training workshops and community events.
2. Economic – we will address and reduce food poverty, and work with our local partners to promote volunteering, skills sharing, training, for developing sustainability of the Project.
3. Environment - communities will learn about sustainable living and environmental factors for producing edible, healthy food.
4. Health - community members will have increased opportunities to improve their physical, mental and emotional health and well-being; through meeting with others with like-minded interests, having a more active lifestyle and being supported to learn how to grow healthy food and develop a lifestyle for healthy eating

People and groups able to connect to it in different ways, both formal and informal, place to sit

and socialise, place to learn and share skills, place to develop new enterprise, reduce isolation and loneliness, increasing a sense of wellbeing and belonging.

**Have you considered other sources of funding and whether the project can be used to leverage further funding from elsewhere (please specify funding sources)?**

We are in the process of applying for –

Postcode lottery funding application to pay for costs towards for community workshops.  
Awards for All Lottery funding to pay towards improving site security fencing.  
Arts Council funding for artist in residence.

**What resources will be required?**

Cost to commission a series of participatory workshops for volunteers and representatives from across partnership groups, that will lead to the construction of a bespoke environmentally friendly shelter to seat approx. 25 £5000

Compost toilet building workshop £1000

**Recycling and further enhance citizens activities £500**

- Capital	6,500
- Running costs	3,000
- People power volunteers	500

Amount required from LIF £... 10,000.....

Have you got any match funding – in cash or in kind?

In kind volunteer's costs and time

**Contact person for proposal**

Name: Faith Pearson

Telephone: 07807713839

E-mail: [faith@faithpearson.co.uk](mailto:faith@faithpearson.co.uk)

**The additional £500 has been awarded for recycling and further enhance citizens activities.**



**Which residents or community groups was the proposal discussed with and when (please give details of any meetings and which councillors attended)?**

Crick Project AGM Spring 2016 –

Attended by.

1. Residents,
2. Handsworth Helping Hands
3. ATHAC.
4. Eco Gardeners.
5. Earth House,
6. Eat Well,
7. ASEHBO,
8. Councillor Henrietta Quinnen

Birchfield Environmental Summit Nov 2016 –

Attended by,

1. residents
2. Community groups,
3. Andrew Simmons, Birchfield Big Local
4. BRAG
5. Birchfield Neighbourhood Forum
6. Westminster Rd School, PA
7. Handsworth Helping Hands
8. Jericho Foundation
9. Handsworth Park Rangers
10. Henrietta Quinnen,
11. Neil D'Costa,
12. Nick Reid,
13. Lisa Trickett

Ward Meeting, Handsworth Leisure Centre, Dec 2016 –

1. Henrietta Quinnen,
2. Waseem Zafar,
3. Mahmood Hussein

Ward Meeting, Welford Primary School, Jan 2017 –

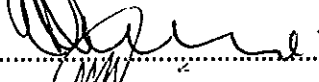

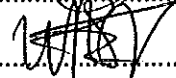
1. Henrietta Quinnen,
2. Waseem Zafar
3. Mahmood Hussein
4. Neil D'Cotsta

**Discussed at**

Ward meeting ...at Welford Primary School,

.....  
Date ...Jan 2017.....

## Signatures of all 3 Ward Councillors

Name Hendrina Quinnen Signature  Date 6/4/2017  
 Name MAHMOOD HUSSAIN Signature  Date 6/4/2017  
 Name WASEEM ZAFFAR Signature  Date 21/4/2017

**Internal use only**

Received: Date .....

Go to Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership for decision: Date .....

Approved

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>