

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL LOCAL INNOVATION FUND**  
**"Doing things differently in neighbourhoods to make better places to live"**  
**WARD PROPOSAL FORM**

**WARD** Bournville.....

**INNOVATION**

**TITLE** Friends of Stirchley Library (FOSL):  
volunteer development

**Innovations have to meet the LIF priorities and add value to the City wide core priorities listed below.**

(Tick all those that apply) Tick all apart from clean streets please

**City Core Priorities**

- **Children** - a Great City to Grow Up In ☒
- **Jobs & Skills** a great City to succeed in ☐
- **Housing** a great City to live in ☐
- **Health** a great City to lead a healthy & active life ☒

**LIF Priorities**

- Citizens' Independence & Well Being ☒
- New approaches to investment ☐
- Active citizens & communities stepping up ☒
- Clean streets ☐
- Improving local centres ☐

**What is your innovative idea and how does it show collaborative, partnership working and active citizenship?**

We are seeking LIF funding to support the development of our volunteer network, including:

- Training for volunteers as specified by Birmingham Community Libraries, likely to include health and safety, customer service, equalities, familiarisation with physical and online library resources, bid-writing skills
- Communications support to allow FOSL to reach a wider and more diverse range of local residents and community organisations
- Online library system to adopt volunteer mode
- A paid volunteer coordinator to initiate this activity and establish new systems for FOSL
- Extending the current programme of activities , to include firstly, a programme of events with a view to having a activities year-round
- A self-service kiosk for the library
- Other equipment as necessary

Friends of Stirchley Library (FOSL) has been set up by local residents who are committed to protecting Stirchley Library, by increasing its opening hours and footfall, and extending the range of community activities offered in the Library. FOSL works in partnership with the staff of Stirchley Library and Birmingham City Council (BCC) and aims to supplement, not replace, the current service provided by Birmingham Community Libraries. FOSL has grown out of a

residents' campaign prompted by BCC's Community Library Consultation which proposed closing the Library building and relocating its services. The council has revised its proposals in response to the large numbers of responses from Stirchley residents, and the Library remains open in its current building. FOSL would like to extend the opening hours of the Library by developing a sustainable network of active volunteers. We are asking our group members to take the next step by committing to volunteer regularly in the library and to complete any training required to enable them to meet this challenge.

This is the first time that a Friends Group has supported Stirchley Library and our innovation is the development of an active volunteer network. By extending the opening hours of the library and their programme of activities we will make it more accessible and attractive to local residents and create a sense of place. This is a new and innovative approach for Birmingham Community Libraries.

#### **How will the innovation be implemented?**

We would employ a volunteer coordinator to establish the volunteer network within Stirchley library. The volunteer coordinator would be hired on a freelance basis and not an employee of FOSL or Stirchley Library. The volunteer coordinator would be responsible for liaising with FOSL, library staff, volunteers and BCC, , implementing a volunteer training programme, organising rotas and overseeing the implementation of a 'volunteer mode' for the library's circulation system.

A self-service kiosk installed in the library will enable books to be issued and discharged by volunteers and the public - it will revolutionise Stirchley Library and will mean that the volunteers can help undertake tasks which support the staff, as well as improving the library services for users into the next generation. The Volunteer Coordinator will ensure that any new volunteers are given training to use the system. We would suggest a volunteer coordinator produces a 'checklist' for volunteers - and kiosk training would be part of that list.

FOSL will be able to continue when the Volunteer Coordinator's project is complete, by having established systems and processes in place that can be followed in the future. We anticipate that this will be vital learning, and we will share resources, knowledge and experience with other Friends of Libraries networks and the wider library and volunteer communities via our blog.

**What outcomes will the proposal achieve? What will success look like and how will its impact be measured? How will you ensure legacy/ continuation and what learning will the project provide?**

**Outcomes**

- Self sustaining FOSL volunteer network
- Established systems and processes that can be self managed by FOSL volunteers
- Successful programme of events and activities
- Equipment that can be reused for future events and possibly hired out to other local organisations

**Success**

- Increased membership of Stirchley Library
- Increased usage of Stirchley Library
- Increased opening hours of Stirchley Library

**Impact**

- Statistics will be available via the library's online system to enable us to measure this data

**Legacy/continuation**

- We will share our knowledge and experiences of setting up a Friends group on our website so that other Friends of groups, library groups and local community groups can learn from FOSL

**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 experiencing difficulties because the building is council owned, which means there are many funding pots that we cannot apply to.

Looking into:

- Barrow Cadbury Trust
- The Carbon Trust
- Arts Council England - Grants for the Libraries
- Section106 - Tesco funding - Stirchley Town Team
- Awards for All
- Big Lottery Fund
- Potentially National Trust/Heritage England as the library is a Grade Two listed building

We plan to talk to / meet with John Ellery from local fundraising business GetGrants (see Emma Woolf LIF application) .

We have a great deal of support in-kind from FOSL members/residents such as:  
 Graphic Design pro bono (value £600-1000 for logo, multiple posters and flyers)  
 Printing at reduced community rate for posters and flyers (value £265)  
 Social Media support pro bono (daily support on twitter / instagram to answer questions)  
 Free venue hire for our monthly meetings from Stirchley Community Church  
 Free publicity via online hyperlocal news blogs: Stirchley.co.uk / B14 News / B31 Voices

### What resources will be required?

£

18250
6750
??

- Capital
- Running costs
- People power volunteers

Amount required from LIF £25,000

- Volunteer co-ordinator fee : £4,500 for 30 days work (job description to be written and confirmed)
  - *We have explained above why we feel a volunteer coordinator is vital for FOSL's development*
- Self-service kiosk : £15,000
  - *Also described above is the reasoning behind a self-service kiosk to future-proof the library service and FOSL activity*
- I-pads : £700
  - *We would require portable access to the internet within the library and also at our volunteer recruitment sessions such as at Stirchley Community Market. The library does not have access to iPads. These would be used by FOSL and the volunteer coordinator*
- Fold away chairs : £300
  - *In order for the volunteer coordinator to give training we need plenty of seating - these foldaway chairs will also be an important asset for FOSL because it means we can have bigger events within the library thus bringing more footfall to the building. This would enable us to be able to be innovative, as we can then hire*

*them out thus generating income*

- PA system and projector : £2000
  - *We'd like a PA system in order for us to put on training sessions and events within the library building*
- Keys : £50
  - *We need to get sets of keys for the core FOSL members in order to set up for events / training sessions when the library is not open*
- Public liability insurance : £300
- Running costs for a programme of summer events £1200
  - *speakers / performers / etc*
- Signage: £500
- Equipment insurance: £250
  - *(we do not have a quote, so this is an estimate)*
- Report / training costs: £500
  - *We will expect the volunteer coordinator to produce a report / training documentation to refer back to. We will budget for this to be produced accordingly*

Have you got any match funding – in cash or in kind? Gifts in kind for loan of venues and marketing costs? No

**Contact person for proposal**

Name .....Theresa Summerfield.....

Telephone .....07974987684.....

E-mail .....summerfieldta@gmail.com.....

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

Tuesday 14th April, 7.30pm - Stirchley Community Market & FOSL discussion

Tuesday 18th April, 11am, Kerry Leslie meeting with Emma Woolf - Friends of Cotteridge Park

Thursday 27th April, 12noon-1pm, FOSL & Stirchley Library Staff

Saturday 29th April 11am-1pm, public FOSL meeting, councillor Mary Locke in attendance

also post-meeting discussion between FOSL Chair, Secretary & Sustainability (to be elected) officers.

Sunday 7th May 12pm-3pm, FOSL visit to Thimblemill Library

**Discussed at**

Ward meeting Bournville

Date 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017

**Signatures of all 3 Ward Councillors**

Name M A Locke Signature M A Locke Date 20/9/17  
 Name Robert Sney Signature [Signature] Date 20/9/17  
 Name Timothy Huxtable Signature Timothy Huxtable Date 20/9/2017

**Internal use only**

Received: Date .....

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

Yes	
No	

Approved