

Project name:

Goose Green Gardens Community Orchard.

Project summary:

Thanks to the construction of a footbridge, we now have access into an area of land which has been disused and derelict for some time. We wish to convert this into a community orchard, landscaped with benches, providing a peaceful and tranquil green space which can be accessed by all residents of Beccles.

Costings breakdown:**Amount requested - £3,500**

This money will go to the initial preparation of the site. Here's a loose running order

1. Ground clearance (skip & plant hire)
2. Fencing along town drain/allotments & other necessary safety/security requirements
3. Preparing area for planting
4. Planting trees
5. Installing benches, shed
6. Further landscaping to the area and installing noticeboards

Should there still be money spare, costs moving further into the project will include the addition of other complementary areas (bug hotels, community composting as examples)

Secured approx. £3500 from Enabling Communities Budget (Councillors Elliott & Topping)

How this project will address the Community Partnership priority:

Outdoor activity of any kind improves physical wellbeing. The initial period will be hard work and potentially too physically demanding for some. However once the orchard is in place the vast majority of ongoing jobs will be low impact. This means that they can be undertaken by volunteers of varying ages & abilities, enabling people from across the community to improve their physical health. Furthermore, we will be growing local, organic produce for the consumption of the local community. This is not only healthy from a food point of view but also lowers the carbon footprint.

More importantly, green spaces such as this have the potential to greatly improve mental health & wellbeing. We have a large elderly population in Beccles and see this area as a meeting point, reducing social isolation. We will also reach out to schools and other youth

groups, inspiring new generations not only to interact with those in different age groups but also to take ownership of the project into the future.

Location and land ownership:

Goose Green West, Beccles. Owned by Beccles Fenland Charity Trust.

Accountable body:

Beccles Fenland Charity Trust.

Time scale (approx.) for delivery:

Want to start work as soon as funding is in place, especially as the weather is now improving. Trees will only be planted in the appropriate season but aim to have area prepared by Summer 2020.

Partner groups involved:

Beccles Town Council & Beccles Fenland Charity Trust. We will be reaching out to various groups across the Beccles area to volunteer and support the project, including (but not limited to) scout, guide & cadet groups, local schools, May Centre, Waveney Centre, Waveney Enterprises, Men's Shed, Community Gardeners. A Goose Green Gardens Facebook page has also been set up to share information.