

Project name:

Reclaiming Bungay's Old Cemetery (Working Title)

Project summary:

Based on the aspirational work carried out by the charity Caring For God's Acre, to engage local community volunteers to convert the overgrown, neglected and derelict Bungay burial ground into a tranquil green space. Situated in the centre of a large residential area close to the High School, this site links the Kings Road estate with Hillside Road West and is a pedestrian route to and from the town centre.

It has the potential to be of significant value to the health and well-being of not just the volunteers but for all those living in the vicinity who would enjoy sitting or strolling through a quiet and peaceful re-wilded space close to home. As a managed site its decline would be reversed; it would encapsulate the heritage value of the community and offer a much-needed refuge for wildlife.

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

Difficult to estimate at this stage so following is indicative only

Item	Number	Total cost
Glasdon Benches (incl. base)	3	£1,310
Storage shed for equipment (incl. base)	1	£700
Tree surgery advice/work		£500
Glasdon Litter Bins	3	£390
Petrol Grass Strimmer	1	£200
Assorted Garden tools	1	£150
Bat/Bird boxes	several	£100
Total cost for initial outlay		£3,350

It is anticipated that once a project group is established it will be financially independent. The God's Acre website is very informative of grants and funding opportunities and Bungay residents are practised at sourcing finance for community projects e.g. Falcon Meadow.

Match funding 'in kind' will come from the Town Council who will be supporting the installation and maintenance of the furniture and contributing to maintaining the grounds as an ongoing cost.

Maintaining this area to keep it clear of rubbish and pathways etc. will cost an estimated £780.00 per annum and over 5 years = £3,900

There is also a commitment to spend £2,000 on Green Spaces in the Town Councils 2020/21 Budget from the Planning, Environment & Highways Committee meeting 2nd January 2020.

How this project will address the Community Partnership priority:

This site has the potential to be a beautiful tranquil environment where people might sit or stroll through. It has many mature and possibly ancient yew trees and with careful husbandry it would open up the opportunity for residents to explore local history, and come together in a project to protect and further establish a habitat for wild flowers, small mammals, bats, birds and insects on their doorstep.

- Links between BTC and the High School have already identified a number of students who are keen to develop and promote positive action in response to the climate emergency and care of the local environment
- The NPPF identifies a direct link between open green space and people's wellbeing. According to the WLP Bungay does not have sufficient green space and has lost more with the new community centre taking the site of the field on Old Grammar Lane. Regenerating the cemetery will open up an alternative green space
- Whilst small sites that provide residents within the town centre some access to tranquil natural areas/gardens e.g. pathway from Trinity Street to St. Mary's Street through the churchyard, Dinky's Garden or the small garden at the library, there is little at the densely populated southern end of the town. To have a project centred here focused upon enhancing the immediate environment for residents would provide more balanced amenity across the spread of the community of the town.
- This would provide a project for, and owned by the local community supported by BTC
- This project has already been successful on a number of other sites within the country and we therefore have access to practical guidance, information and support. See Caring For God's Acre, <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/>.

Location and land ownership:

The old cemetery is separated from the functioning current cemetery to the west by a footpath that links Kings Road with Hillside Road West and therefore sits centrally within a highly populated residential area close to the High School. We believe it is owned by East Suffolk Council but this needs to be verified. See attached map.

Accountable body:

Bungay Town Council will be the accountable body to receive funds from ESC for this project and provide oversight in the formation of a sustainable project group who will take responsibility for developing and maintaining the site.

Time scale (approx.) for delivery:

As soon as funding is confirmed councillors will be advertising and supporting the formation of a volunteer group.

Partner groups involved:

Bungay Town Council, Caring For God's Acre, Bungay High School,