



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Revenue Grant Application Form¹

CONTACT DETAILS

Name of Organisation	Haslemere Biodiversity Group (part of Haslemere Vision)	
Contact Name	Philippa Guest.	Diane Moses
Position in Organisation	Chair of HBG, Director of HV	Treasurer HV
Address		
Telephone		
Email		

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name of organisation	Haslemere Vision
Amount applied for from HTC	£10,000
What will the revenue grant money be used for – please be as specific as possible and use a separate sheet if necessary.	<p>Completion and delivery of the Haslemere Nature Recovery Strategy (HNRS)</p> <p>Ground-truthing, mini-projects, outreach and communications activities.</p> <p>see attachment for further details</p>
What specific benefits for the Haslemere community do you expect will result from the grant? ²	<p>A solid and detailed information base on Haslemere’s rich and special biodiversity assets.</p> <p>Identification of opportunities, priorities and actions to support nature recovery in Haslemere that can be carried out by local landowners/managers, other community groups and the wider public.</p> <p>Mini-projects on rare and endangered species will boost local populations and improve species diversity.</p> <p>Measurable improvements in the condition and management of our local green spaces for nature with wider environmental benefits (e.g. better water quality, flood management, improved resilience to climate change, pollution, development and non-native species, etc.).</p> <p>Support for HTC in meeting its Biodiversity Duty as set out in the Environment Act 2021 as well as its Climate and Biodiversity Emergency commitments.</p> <p>Increased awareness of nature recovery issues and activities in our town and enhanced community engagement.</p>

¹ Delete as appropriate

² Use a separate sheet if required

	see attachment for further details
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FUNDING DETAILS

Have you or will you be applying to other bodies for financial assistance?	Yes
If yes please state: To whom applied	The LOBs Charity Surrey Climate Commission Waitrose Bug-Life
Amount(s) applied for	The LOBs charity - £50,000 for 2022 - 2024 Surrey Climate Commission - £877 Waitrose - £400 Bug-Life - initial meetings to scope out potential for funding for creation of wildflower habitats within the Haslemere B-Lines to support pollinating insects and other wildlife.
Amount(s) received	The LOBs charity - £17,000 (June 2022) expect to receive £17,000 for 2023 shortly with a further £16,000 in 2024. Surrey Climate Commission - £727 (March 2023) Waitrose - £400
What fundraising activities will your organisation be doing to fund this project?	We will continue to seek funding from other organisations. Past funders, in addition to the ones detailed above, include CPRE and Haslemere Society.

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Is your organisation a Registered charity or trust? (If yes please provide Registration Number)	No - company limited by guarantee with asset lock. Registration Number:
Is it affiliated to a National Body? If yes please specify.	No
What are the aims and objectives of the organisation?	The Company is established for the purposes of a) assisting and enabling those who live or work in Haslemere and neighbouring villages to create a vision of how they wish the town and the villages to develop and to prepare plans for the realisation of that vision, b) assisting those who live or work in Haslemere and neighbouring villages to address issues of interest or concern in order to secure the long term viability of Haslemere and neighbouring villages as a centre for social, business and cultural activities and to maintain its particular character and heritage. c) undertaking and delivering projects that preserve and enhance the well-being of those who live and/or work and/or play in Haslemere and neighbouring villages, d) seeking to ensure that Haslemere and neighbouring villages are and continue to be places in which residents of all ages are free to live fulfilling lives within a community which welcomes diversity.
What is the geographical area covered by your organisation?	Haslemere and neighbouring villages
Bank account to which payment should be made This must be in the name of your organisation. Payments cannot be made to individuals.	

VALIDITY CHECKLIST

For your project to be considered you must be able to confirm the following statements:

Criteria	Tick to confirm
The revenue grant will be used to specifically benefit to residents of the Council's electoral area	X
You hold a bank account in the name of the organisation applying, not an individual	X
This application is accompanied by either the latest audited financial report or, where this does not exist, a forecast budget of income and expenditure relating to the grant application.	X
The grant is not to contribute to a surplus for charitable distribution or to increase your organisation's reserves	X
You consent to acknowledge HTC's contribution in your marketing / promotional material	X

DECLARATION

<p>In submitting this application on behalf of the stated organisation I certify that all statements made or enclosed to be true. This application and all supporting information may be made publically available</p>	<p>Signed: _____ Print name _____</p>
<p>Date 14/9/23</p>	

September 2023

Application to HTC for funding to support the Haslemere Biodiversity Project Phase 2

Background

- Haslemere has a rich natural environment with 45 designated wildlife sites lying wholly or partly within the Neighbourhood Plan area. Haslemere also sits within Surrey's network of Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) where targeted conservation action is expected to deliver the greatest benefit. It borders the northern edge of the South Downs National Park and lies partly within the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- The green spaces surrounding the town are an essential part of its overall character and an expanding visitor economy.
- The Haslemere Biodiversity Project (HBP) was set up to conserve and enhance these special biodiversity assets at a time when wildlife across Surrey is disappearing at alarming rates. It seeks to protect, maintain, restore and enhance important wildlife sites and the vital wildlife corridors that connect them. It also aims to boost resilience to future pressures such as climate change, development, pollution and invasion by non-native species.
- The HBP currently operates under the auspices of Haslemere Vision but a separate legal entity will be formed in the coming year retaining key volunteers including the project chair, Dr Philippa Guest and treasurer, Diane Moses.

What have we achieved so far?

- Phase 1 began in April 2020 with the primary goal of establishing the biodiversity baseline for the Neighbourhood Plan area. The resulting Haslemere Ecological Network (HEN) maps were incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan and underpin policy that seeks to guide location, layout and design of new housing development while protecting/enhancing essential elements of the HEN and delivering net biodiversity gain. They are also now part of Waverley Borough Council's decision-making process for planning and development applications.
- Three 'mini-projects' were set up to help assess the prevalence of dormice, riparian mammals and newts in the Plan area and to identify habitat management practices that can boost local populations of protected species. These are ongoing and have proved an effective way of raising awareness of conservation issues with local landowners and the wider community.
- We are currently preparing a Haslemere Nature Recovery Strategy (HNRS) with assistance from professional ecologists and extensive consultation with local stakeholders. This will identify opportunities and priorities for nature recovery along with practical and achievable action plans that can be used by local landowners, managers, other key stakeholders and the wider public.

What are we asking for now?

- We are budgeting expenditure totaling £35K for 2024 followed by a further £27K per annum from 2025-2026. We are requesting £10K from HTC for 2024.
- A detailed breakdown of the Phase 2 work program and budget for 2024 is provided in the Appendix.

What will the community get for this funding?

- A solid and detailed information base on Haslemere's rich and special biodiversity assets.
- A detailed Nature Recovery Strategy and Action Plan which will set out practical and cost-effective measures to conserve, restore and enhance Haslemere's Ecological Network. Delivery of actions will be monitored and reported. There will be a review and update of the HNRS every 5 years.
- Mini-projects on rare and endangered species will boost local populations and improve species diversity.
- The Action Plan will deliver measurable improvements for nature across the HEN and contribute to wider environmental goals (e.g. better water quality, flood management, improved resilience to climate change, pollution, development and non-native species, etc.).
- The HNRS will support HTC in meeting its Biodiversity Duty as set out in the Environment Act 2021 as well as its Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Motion commitments. It will also make an important contribution to the Surrey Nature Recovery Strategy that is being led by Surrey County Council and the Surrey Nature Partnership.
- The project will raise awareness of nature recovery work in our town and increase participation through creation of a dedicated website, continuing engagement activities such as fayres, social media, specific training events and "thought leadership" articles.
- It will deliver tools and resources to help:
 - Inform local planning/development decisions and help small and medium-size developers find ways to meet the expected requirement for 10% biodiversity net gain in the Environment Act 2021;
 - Support improvements in the condition and management of local green spaces;
 - Support the creation of a trained group of local conservation volunteers.

Other sources of funding

- The LOBs charity have committed £17,000 for this year and a further £16K for 2024 and the Surrey Climate Commission has funded community engagement and training materials.

APPENDIX - Biodiversity Project Phase 2: Overview of key tasks and proposed budget - 2024

Task	What, Why and How	Est Cost
T1 Haslemere Local Nature Recovery Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop & deliver Haslemere Nature Recovery Strategy (HNRS) which sets out local opportunities & priorities for nature recovery, maps the most valuable existing areas for nature and defines specific action plans for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals. Led by 2 consultant ecologists in consultation with local stakeholders Will be formally integrated into the Surrey Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Will be reviewed/updated every 5 years. Will support HTC in meeting its Biodiversity Duty as set out in Environment Act 2021 as well as its own Climate & Biodiversity Emergency commitments. 	£7K
T2 'Ground-truthing' the HEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More detailed surveying of key sites and wildlife corridors to validate/strengthen HEN maps & identify priority areas for protection, restoration or enhancement through the HNRS. Covers survey work on up to 150 corridors & up to 18 Local Wildlife sites with incorporation of data into the HEN GIS maps over 2-3 year period. Led by consultant ecologists supported by trained volunteers. 	Corridors £30K (over 2-3 years) LWS Sites £15K (over 2-3 years)
T3 Existing and new mini-projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue & expand existing projects on rare and endangered species (dormice, riparian mammals) to boost local populations & develop better habitat management practices. Set up 2-3 new projects (e.g.B-lines wildflower meadows, Haslemere Tree survey) Led by consultant ecologist with support from trained local volunteers & other specialist consultants in close co-operation with local landowners and other key partners. 	£8.5K
T4 Biodiversity policy development and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop tools & resources to support development & implementation of biodiversity policy including monitoring & enforcement. Undertake biodiversity audits of selected HTC-owned or managed green spaces, identify opportunities for improving biodiversity through better management practices. Develop new biodiversity policy for town's open green spaces + trees and hedgerows. Working with key local partners including HTC and WBC. 	£3.5K
T5 Develop Communications platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop communication tools to raise awareness of local biodiversity issues & activities, build new & strengthen existing partnerships and promote community engagement. Including development & maintenance of website & social media, articles in local newsletters, e-mail campaigns & surveys with local community groups, stands at local community events. 	£3K
T6 Develop outreach platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop portfolio of education and training tools to build biodiversity knowledge and skills across the wider community. Establish training courses + series of community events (e.g. BioBlitzes) to help create a core team of trained volunteers. Working with key local partners in SWT, HNHS, National Trust, South Downs National Park and CPRE Surrey. 	£3K
Total		£35K¹

¹Assumes T2 (Ground-truthing) includes corridors only and spread over 3 years, ie no LWS sites surveyed