

Vale of Glamorgan Nature Partnership Project Community Grant 2021/22

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The Vale of Glamorgan Nature Partnership are looking for projects which will deliver upon our aim to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems.

**Maintain and enhance biodiversity** means looking after those special places for wildlife through management and survey and creating new areas through changing how they are managed. It may be by planting trees and shrubs, putting up nest boxes, changing the mowing of grassland, digging a pond, creating a new meadow – there are lots of ways of improving things for nature.

**Resilience** means the capacity of ecosystems to deal with change, by resisting them, recovering from them, or adapting to them. There are **five** attributes of resilience which can be summarised as:

1. ***Diversity****:* Habitats with more species are more able to adapt to change
2. ***Extent****:* In this case, bigger is better, as habitats are less vulnerable to change
3. ***Condition****:* a healthy habitat is more resilient to pressures than one which is already under stress
4. ***Connectivity****:* The ability of species to move between habitats is key to their survival. The connections between natural areas are as important as the areas themselves
5. ***Adaptability****:* The ability of ecosystems to adapt to change is key in ensuring that they continue to support life on Earth

Projects which address as many of these attributes as possible will be looked upon favourably.

The *Vale Nature Partnership grants scheme* allows local organisations and groups in the Vale of Glamorgan to apply for £500 worth of resources to support projects that deliver upon our aim of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in the Vale of Glamorgan.

**Notes for applicants:**

* **Please note this scheme does noes not provide cash grants**
* This scheme provides applicants with up to £500 of resources which is selected at application stage.
* The Local Nature Partnership will purchase materials and equipment of up to £500 on behalf of the applicant, please outline carefully what it is you wish to be purchased in Section 4. Please include supplier details, a product weblink, quantities and cost.
* Please see supporting documents to help you complete your application:
* Please see the list of suggested suppliers, however other suppliers can be used. We encourage applicants to support local business and source products locally where possible.
* In the interest of equal opportunities, you will not be able to submit a new application if you have received a grant from this scheme in the last 12 months.
* Projects must show value for money and preferably draw in cash or in-kind contributions from other sources. Applicants should also indicate how their project will deliver lasting benefits, especially if ongoing management would be required after the grant funding is spent.
* Recipients must have suitable public liability insurance for any work carried out under the scheme and must ensure that all work carried out complies Welsh Government guidelines and regulations to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

**Top tips for creating a nature project!**

1. Gather baseline data about the types of habitats and the biodiversity which exists in your project area and surrounding areas.
2. Think about the current threats and pressures on local nature (i.e., ground pollution, invasive species, and habitat loss/change).
3. What are your goals?

Example goals:

* Improve understanding of nature and ecology within your community.
* Develop and enhance suitable habitat for a priority species important to your local area.
* Restore and maintain local habitat to promote a range of biodiversity.
1. Who will be responsible for delivering and maintaining the project? (i.e., community groups, schools, students etc.)
2. How will you monitor change to see if your actions have been successful?
* Use native species and source locally.
* Create a mosaic of different habitats to support greater biodiversity.
* Record wildlife and submit your data to [SEWBReC](https://www.sewbrecord.org.uk/), the local environmental record centre.

Examples of projects that have been undertaken in the Vale previously are hedgerow restoration, pond enhancement, supporting volunteer surveys, meadow creation, Adder monitoring and citizen science projects – but feel free to come up with something completely different!

**Get help before you apply!**

If you would like some advice on developing your nature project before you apply, please get in touch with either of the contacts below:

Alexis Alders (Natural Resources Wales) alexis.j.alders@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
Kerry Rogers (Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales) K.rogers@welshwildlife.org

**Application Form**

1. **Contact details**

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| Applicant name: Ann Example | Applicant address:ABC Primary SchoolVale of Glamorgan |
| Phone: 02920 123456 | Email: A.Example@gmail.com |

1. **Project details**

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| Project Title:Wildlife Garden | Project Location: ABC Primary School |
| Project start date: June 2021 | Project completion date: August 2021 |
| **What existing wildlife and habitats have you seen in your project location?**Playing field with daisies, dandelions, red clover, white clover and hawkbitBeech hedgerowsHolly tree and ornamental trees (cherry)Birds: Blackbird, robins, sparrows, blue tits, great tits, pied wagtails, gull sp, crows and jackdawsMammals: Hedgehogs, woodmice/house mice, foxInsects: Bumblebees, honeybees, woodlice, worms, shield bugs |
| **Please give a brief outline of your proposed project here:**We have an area of unused land on the school site of around 700m². It is currently maintained as a lawn area to the side of the classrooms. We have planted apple and plum trees there as part of the Fruitful Orchards project but would like to create a mix of habitats to encourage wildlife and give the students an area to learn about wildflowers and natural habitats. We plan to let the grass under the established trees grow by mowing bi-annually – once in March and once in August to allow wildflowers to gradually re-establish. We plan to work with The Conservation Volunteers local group to have a community hay rake. The cuttings will be piled near the hedgerows to provide habitats for insects and reptiles. During the summer months a 1m wide path will be mown through the orchard to allow access. We hope to create a wildflower meadow with the remaining open area. We plan to plant a wildflower strop alongside the tarmac path by planting wildflower plug plants of UK origin from HabitatAid. We will allow the rest of the grass to grow with a reduced frequency of mowing and raking with the same timings as the orchard. A path will also be mown through the meadow to allow access for classes to use the meadow as part of lessons and to create different lengths of grass to increase insect and plant diversity. We have a second area of grass with an activity trail through it. We would like to create a wildlife pond here (see map) to increase the diversity of habitats present on the school grounds. We have asked The Conservation Volunteers local group and parents to help with constructing the pond. To attract insects early on we will plant some native pond plants around the edges and place a pile of logs/stones nearby for amphibians to shelter and hibernate. We would also like to plant a native hedgerow to help screen the area from the adjacent houses. We plan to use blackthorn and hawthorn as these are relatively fast-growing and will provide habitat and food for birds. We will use RSPB free online resources to take part in the big schools bird watch on a yearly basis.The pond will also form part of science lessons and classes will take turns to survey the pond through pond dipping sessions. Plant and invertebrate species will be recorded using the pond dipping guides.Classes will have some science lessons outside to identify what wildflowers and insects are present throughout the summer months. These will be tailored to the age group with younger pupils making use of the Wildlife Trust’s spotter sheets to record wildlife and older children taught to use a basic identification key and use FSC identification guides to identify wildflowers and insects. The class results will be submitted to the local environmental records centre (LERC) using the LERC Wales app so that the pupils can experience contributing to citizen science.   |
| **Which species or habitats will benefit from the proposed works?**We hope to create a wildflower meadow which will benefit invertebrates, and a pond which will benefit aquatic invertebrates and amphibians. Planting the new hedgerow will benefit birds and insects through providing habitat and foraging opportunities. |
| **Which of the five aspects of ecosystem resilience will your project protect or enhance? Explain how:****Diversity** - we hope to enhance the areas of grass by allowing the grass and forbs to grow through reducing the frequency of mowing and raking the cuttings off of the grass. We plan to introduce some wildflowers to the area, which will increase the diversity of flowering species for pollinators. This will hopefully increase the number and diversity of pollinator species. By building a pond we will be increasing the types of habitats present which should support an increased diversity of species. We will also be adding new species of pond plants.**Extent –** we will be increasing the extent of the hedgerows and the amount of pollinator-friendly habitat.**Condition** - by increasing the number of species present in the grassy area and improving it for pollinators, we are improving the overall condition of the habitat. We are improving the condition of the hedgerow by planting native species which support wildlife.**Connectivity –** we will be improving the connectivity of the hedgerow around the edge of the site by filling in the hedge where there is currently a gap so that it connects to the hedges/scrub in the park opposite. By building a pond we will be creating a ‘stepping stone’ for amphibians and insects which rely on freshwater as part of their life cycle. This will help them move around the local area.**Adaptability –** by allowing a more natural ecosystem to establish the school grounds should be better able to adapt to changes in climate and weather patterns in future  |

1. **How you will evaluate and record the success of your project?**

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| **How you will assess the progress your project makes for wildlife?** Classes will have some science lessons outside to identify the wildflowers and insect species that are present throughout the spring and early summer months. These will be tailored to the age group with younger pupils making use of the Wildlife Trust’s spotter sheets to record wildlife and older children taught to use a basic identification key and use FSC identification guides to identify wildflowers and insects. The class results will be submitted using the irecord or LERC Wales app so that the pupils can experience contributing to citizen science. The pond will also form part of science lessons and classes will take turns to survey the pond through pond dipping sessions. Plant and invertebrate species will be recorded using the pond dipping guides.COVID-19 regulations allowing we hope to hold an annual summer event to record wildlife on the school grounds combined with a family picnic event at the school to encourage families to enjoy nature together. |

1. **Project budget**

Please outline how much funding you require, what it will be spent on and what other sources of cash or in-kind funding you will draw in.

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| --- | --- |
| Details of costs | Cost (Exc VAT) |
| Wildflowers for heavy soils (1 tray, 104 plants, [HabitatAid)](https://www.habitataid.co.uk/products/wildflower-plug-plants-heavy-soils)[B&Q pond liner](https://www.diy.com/departments/hozelock-pond-liner-w-4m/189604_BQ.prd) x 1Wildlife pond plant collection ([HabitatAid](https://www.habitataid.co.uk/collections/pond-river-plants/products/pond-plant-collection))4 x Hawthorn trees ([woodland trust](https://shop.woodlandtrust.org.uk/hawthorn))4 x Hazel trees ([woodland trust](https://shop.woodlandtrust.org.uk/hazel))4 x Blackthorn trees ([woodland trust](https://shop.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blackthorn))Small Schools Pond Dipping Kit Large Nets ([Wildforms](http://www.wildforms.co.uk/small-schools-pond-dipping-kit-large-nets.html))10 x FSC Insects of the British Isles guide ([FSC](https://www.field-studies-council.org/shop/publications/insects-of-the-british-isles-guide/), £3.30 each)5 x FSC Botanical bundles ([FSC](https://www.field-studies-council.org/shop/publications/botanicals-bundle/), £10.00 each)1 x Bee Barn ([ArkWildlife](https://www.arkwildlife.co.uk/product/bee-barn/))  | £75.00£55.00£82.50£14.95£14.95£14.95£145.95£33.00£50.00£18.95 |
| Total cost | 505.33 |
| Grant requested | 505.33 |

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| Details of any other sources of funding for your project. State ‘None’ if the project is to be solely funded by the Vale Nature Partnership grant. |
| We have funding from the Forest Schools Grant for a few hedgehog house kits and bird box kits which the pupils will put together |

1. **Other**

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| --- |
| Is the project location accessible to the public? **Yes / No** |
| Does the project increase public engagement with or understanding of our natural environment? **Yes** It will improve the understanding of 200 pupils in the school |
| Please feel free to include any other relevant information here including how you will deliver your project in line with Covid-19 regulations:Only one class bubble at a time will use the area, equipment will be wiped down with anti-bacterial and anti-viral wipes before and after use.When constructing the pond social distancing measures will be in place. We will ask parents to bring their own tools and not to share tools although disinfectant wipes will be available. We will also encourage everyone to use hand sanitiser regularly |

1. **Declaration**

I have read and understood the ‘Notes for Applicants’. To the best of my knowledge the information supplied with this application is correct.

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| Signed: Ann Example | Date: 10 August 2021 |
| Print name: Ann Example |

All information contained in this application will be handled in accordance with the council’s privacy policy.

**Please send your completed application and any supporting documents to** eshaw@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk by the 13th September 2021

 