

Project Brief	
<p>The Project Brief is the first thing to do. It should be completed before any activity of any sort takes place. This is because the Brief is the document that subject to authorisation triggers the development of the Business Case.</p>	
Project Name	Selby Town Community Pond Enhancements
Project Manager	Peter Murphy
Document Author (if different from Project Manager)	
Organisation Name	Groundwork North Yorkshire



Benefit

Why would the community benefit from this project? Is there clear evidence of need for this project- detail any consultation, statistics or reports that back up for project brief.

Selby Community Pond is sited on the Scott Road Memorial Fields and is centrally located within Selby Town, close to Sainsbury's, the Community Centre and the Leisure Centre. It is therefore highly visible to the community and is an important naturalistic space within the Town Centre.

The Pond can be readily accessed by pedestrians, who are able to walk around the pond and enjoy the wildlife. The waterfowl (e.g., ducks, moorhen) are usually visible, with many other birds making use of the water or the reeds and trees in the area. There is a host of visible wildlife including dragonflies and many different wildflowers that add colour and interest to the site for the local community.

In June 2017, Martin Hammond an Ecologist working for North Yorkshire County Council conducted an ecological survey of the pond. He found that the pond narrowly missed meeting the criteria for a Priority Pond (one of the *habitats of principal importance* defined in Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006) but indicated that it potentially meets the criteria for a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. The main management recommendation from his report is:

Selby Town Pond is a valuable resource for biodiversity but it suffers from siltation and poor water quality. This is presumably due to the inflow of road run-off or other urban surface water. High silt and nutrient levels encourage growth of tall, competitive plants like Reed Sweet-grass and Greater Reedmace, which then need managing to maintain habitat diversity. Vegetation management is difficult because the pond is reported to have a butyl liner, which prevents use of machinery. The most sustainable way to alleviate these problems would be to intercept silt and nutrients before they enter the pond.

The proposed project will therefore help to remove the silt and create a new reed-bed to trap future silt and its associated nutrients, helping to address the concerns about the current water quality and in turn raising the biodiversity of the pond to a higher status, helping to ensure its future protection.

Given the high profile nature of the site, we believe that it is critical to ensure that the project is delivered in such a way that the local community understands the need for the works and are given the opportunity to participate either through undertaking practical works or through educational activities, so that local ownership and understanding of this valuable resource is raised. We are therefore asking the Central

Area CEF to provide funding to support activities that will allow local schools and families from Selby Town to engage.

Details of the Project

Please list the details of your project

Selby Community Pond is centrally located and highly visible within Selby Town. The pond is managed by Selby Community Trust, who are being supported by Groundwork North Yorkshire to deliver the project outlined below.

A recent survey of the Pond has highlighted it is ecologically rich, but suffering from poor water quality. Our project will clear the vegetation and silt from the reed-bed adjoining the pond, to allow water run-off from the nearby road to be collected and filtered prior to reaching the main pond, to improve the water quality and hence the ecology.

The excavation work will be undertaken by contractors using a mechanical digger. We will then replant the reed-bed, working with local school children and volunteers, who will also plant additional wildflowers to enhance the local biodiversity and do some clearance work to the margins of the main pond to help facilitate pond-dipping.

Some works to enhance the existing site signage and wildlife interpretation and some minor repairs to address trip hazards and improve access around the pond will also be delivered to complete the project.

We will aim to have the main works delivered by the contractor in February/March which will then allow the planting work to follow in April/May.

To celebrate completion of the work, we will run some community events with local primary school children in June/July, including mini-beast hunts, wildflower identification and pond dipping activities to help raise awareness and appreciation of the wildlife value of the site.

Project Objectives

What will the project deliver, or what changes will it bring about and how are these linked to the CEF's Community development plan (CDP) for the area?

Objective 1 – Tidy Environment

The works will provide a range of practical measures to the Town Pond and its environs, which will help to make the area look aesthetically more attractive including:

- Managing the reed-bed
- Planting wild flowers
- Repairing worn areas of the path and boardwalk

Objective 2 – Promoting the Economy

As a centrally located resource within the Town, the Pond is an attractive resource that is used by the local community and visitors.

The proposed works include:

- Improving access around the pond, making it safer and easier to use
- Replacing damaged interpretation signage with new signage, to help raise awareness and understanding of the resource

We also anticipate that the works will see the status of the pond enhanced, by getting the biodiversity improved, which will allow us to promote the value of the area more widely, which in turn will attract more visitors.

Benefits

Outline any key financial or non-financial benefits the project will deliver and how this will impact the community.

Financial

The project will attract £12,500 of external grant funding

Non-Financial

It will improve the biodiversity of a key wildlife site in Selby Town

It will generate opportunities for volunteers to participate in its delivery

It will improve accessibility and safety around the pond

It will enhance the local interpretation and help to educate more people about its wildlife value

Project Approach / Delivery Options

Outline any initial ideas for how the project might be delivered including external delivery, consultants, governance arrangements etc.

The project will be managed by Groundwork North Yorkshire and primarily delivered using our contracts team, Selby Garden Enterprise, who work with adult volunteers with additional needs. The interpretation panels will be commissioned via our landscape design team and the educational sessions will be run by our countryside rangers.

Project Timescales (Milestones)

Outline the overall timescale for project completion and include delivery phases together with milestone dates and funding deadlines, if appropriate. Your knowledge may be based on assumptions at this stage.

Feb – March 18	Contractor to clear the silted up reed-bed and remove arising from site Contractor to clear vegetation from around pond-dipping platform Contractor to make improvements to path and boardwalk
April – May 18	Planting wildflowers and reeds with volunteers Interpretation boards commissioned
June – July 18	School activities to include pond dipping, mini-beast hunts

Project Resources (people and money)

These will be indicative at this early stage. However, on the basis of what you expect the project to look like, indicate your estimates together with the assumptions made in making the calculations.

Cost Element	Cost (£)
Reed-bed clearance and disposal of arisings	7,700
Wildflower plants	600
Interpretation Signs	900
Footpath repairs	800
Community Events	2,500
Contract Management	1,500
Project Overheads e.g., insurance, printing, vehicle	500
Total Cost	£14,500

Funding

Where do you expect the money to come from, e.g. revenue or capital budgets, external grants, all from CEF funding or a combination? Please state if you don't know at this stage where the money is coming from. Please include any quotes you have received.

A grant of £12,500 has been secured from the Postcode Local Trust towards the capital costs of the project and Groundwork will meet the project overhead costs, leaving a shortfall of £1,500.

Risks / Issues

Identify what you consider to be the main risks at this stage. Also indicate any issues you may be aware of that the project will resolve.

Due to the nature of the proposed works, it will be necessary to ensure that the works to the reed-beds are undertaken before the end of March to avoid any disturbance to nesting birds. Inclement weather in February/March may delay this phase of works, which would not then happen until the following autumn.

Links and Dependencies

Does this project link to any others in the area or services already available? Is its success dependent on the completion of other projects, funding from elsewhere, interest from volunteers etc?

As funding has not yet been fully secured, we have not approached local schools to confirm their interest in participating in this project, however we know that schools have participated in similar schemes in the past, so don't anticipate that this will be a problem.