

Meeting: Better Places Partnership

Date: 22 October 2009

Report Title: Update on Successful Greenest Borough Innovation Fund Bidders

Report of: Adam Hunt, Executive Policy Development Officer

Purpose

To update the Better Places Partnership on the successful bidders to the Greenest Borough Innovation fund.

Summary

The successful bidders were:

- The 'Markfield Travellers' project, led by the Markfield Project
- The 'Haringey Sustainable Environment Project', led by the BME Carers Support Service
- The 'Jamboree Playhuts Community Garden', led by Transition Finsbury Park
- The 'Hornsey Community Orchard and Edible Woodland Garden', led by NHS Haringey in partnership with Growing in Haringey

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Background

2. Organisations that were successful in their applications:

1. The 'Markfield Travellers' project, led by the Markfield Project.

Project Sponsor: LB Haringey (Learning Disabilities Service)

Funding allocation: £12,112

Brief description of project:

Markfield is a registered charity based in Tottenham which provides a range of services for disabled people and their families. They run daytime and

evening social sessions for adults with Learning Difficulties, as well as youth sessions to promote independence skills for disabled young people.

The aim of the project is to provide support for young adults with Learning Difficulties to enable them to travel to and from sessions at Markfield using public transport, with the aim that they will learn over time to travel independently on public transport. This will reduce the need for service users to be transported in taxis and in the Markfield minibus.

2. The 'Haringey Sustainable Environment Project', led by the BME Carers Support Service

Project Sponsor: BME Carers Support Service (Community Link Forum representative and the Vice Chair of the Better Places Partnership Board)

Funding allocation: £32,000

Brief description of project:

The Haringey Sustainable Environment Project will create a community garden which will be managed by the community members that are considered to have a disability and their carers. It will be a site that is inviting, with free public access and attractive, with easy-to-find entrances and appropriate signage. Access issues for people with disabilities will also be considered and the garden will be created to appeal to a wide range of members of the community whom consider a disability. The garden will include a sensory trail for the those have lost one or more of their senses.

The Haringey Sustainable Environment Project will also address the Home Energy Conservation Act and deliver under it's priorities to:

- promote energy efficiency, Warm Front/Warm Front Plus grants and Energy Efficiency Commitment schemes to the community
- provide energy advice for households
- understand fuel poverty, the importance of energy efficiency and how to refer householders for additional assistance

This will be acheived through a qualified advisor that Haringey residents can arrange an appointment and obtain independent reliable advice and guidance regarding their household's energy efficiency.

3. The 'Jamboree Playhuts Community Garden', led by Transition Finsbury Park.

Project Sponsor: HAVCO

Funding allocation: £4,500

Brief description of project:

Low-maintenance soft fruits and herbs will be planted in eight large planters inside the Jamboree Playhuts space enabling children, their parents and other park users to learn more about food growing and to improve our access to local, fresh and organic food. Multilingual information signs will be placed inside and outside the perimeter fence explaining how to plant and maintain organic herbs, fruit bushes and vines as well as their health benefits. The parents and staff at Jamboree will have an additional resource for children's

activities as they will be able to involve children in watering, weeding, observing and eating the produce.

4. The 'Hornsey Community Orchard and Edible Woodland Garden', led by NHS Haringey in partnership with Growing in Haringey

Project Sponsor: NHS Haringey

Funding allocation: £34,000

Brief description of project:

This project will develop a community orchard and edible woodland garden, vegetable and herb gardens and wild-life area on the disused land that is part of Hornsey Central Health Centre. This will be a community-led project that will engage local residents, health service users, local schools and other voluntary sector organisations in recreational and educational activities in a safe and enclosed outdoor space. The focus of the project will be to promote health and wellbeing through growing food and therapeutic interaction with nature, promoting healthy eating and physical activity, increasing safe access to outdoor space and through community participation and involvement. Food produce grown at the site will be shared amongst volunteers and surplus distributed through community outlets with the potential to develop social enterprise and not-for-profit ventures.

Once established the community garden would involve the GP practices and community health services based at Hornsey Health Centre to refer patients who may benefit from gardening and outdoor activities to enhance health and wellbeing. Other site users would be potentially vulnerable groups who would benefit from a safe, enclosed outdoor environment, including children and young people from local schools, mental health service users, older people and other vulnerable adults from community and voluntary organisations. The therapeutic and educational value of interaction with nature and participation in gardening activities has long been recognised. There is also much local enthusiasm and interest in creating community food growing spaces and the project would link with the Growing in Haringey initiative as well as other local and regional networks, such as the Mayor of London's Capital Growth scheme. Development of a community orchard would meet a large gap in current provision as there is no such resource in Haringey. The site is ideally suited for this purpose as it is an enclosed and protected space attached to existing community facilities and services.