

Leechwell Garden Association

Community Spaces Grant Application (Stage 2)

URN: JWES-7VGG56

Supporting Document No. 4

Letters of Support

Letters of Support

This document contains facsimiles of letters from:

- Jill Tomalin, Chair, Totnes and District Community Strategy Group
- Sheila Braithwaite, 9 Castle Court, Totnes
- Hilary Priest, Head of the Grove Primary School, Totnes
- David Edwards for Totnes Town Council
- Kath Davies, Chair, Totnes Old Peoples Rest Home Association
- Councillor Anne Ward, South Hams District Council
- Councillor Judy Westacott, South Hams District Council
- PCSO Jason Vasey, Totnes Neighbourhood Policing Team
- Lou Brown, Transition Town Totnes
- Emma Gorbutt, Young People and Community Sustainability Officer, SHDC
- Gill Till, Children and Young People's Officer, SHDC
- Alex Whish, Landscape Officer, SHDC

And emails of support from:

U3A Garden Group
Totnes Allotments Association
Totnes and District Society
AgroForestry Research Trust
King Edward VI Community College

Letters of Support

TOTNES & DISTRICT COMMUNITY STRATEGY GROUP (a company limited by guarantee)

Registered company no. 4838523

Registered charity no. 1101284

Registered office: E The Scope Complex, Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN

Chair: Jill Tomalin, 4 Glendale Terrace, Northgate, Totnes TQ9 5NY

Email: tomalinmandj@hotmail.com Tel: 01803 849414

31st March 2010

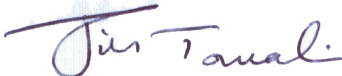
To whom it may concern

RE Leechwell Garden Development

I am writing to express the support of Strategy Group Trustees for the Leechwell Garden project which is being delivered by the Leechwell Garden Association. Totnes is widely recognised as lacking adequate provision for public open space and many families with young children and older residents lack their own garden space. This project will provide a much needed facility for the whole community to enjoy.

I would also like to commend all those involved who have put enormous effort into finding out what the community required, and have done their utmost to plan for the garden accordingly. We are confident that the group has both the capacity and support from local community partners to deliver the project and sustain it in the future.

Yours faithfully



Jill Tomalin

Chair, Totnes and District Community Strategy Group

Letters of Support

Leechwell Garden
Association

2 Castle Court
Totnes TQ4 5PD.

Dear Madam -

I am writing in support of the garden project and to say how glad I am to see it progressing so well.

I joined in with the planning in the early days so I know the background not left it to the more able to carry it on -

I think it is such a good idea to have an oasis of green in the heart of the town - our eyes need a rest from the density of buildings -

I live in the centre of Totnes - now 80 years old, but still love walking without getting into the car - so it will give me the greatest pleasure to walk to the Leechwell Garden, take a rest on a seat - possibly take a book or sketch pad -

All Good Luck and Best Wishes

Yours sincerely Shula McBrattin

Letters of Support



Headteacher Hilary Priest
Deputy Head Sam Wilkinson
Business manager Bee Griffiths

The Grove . Totnes . Devon . TQ9 5ED
Telephone 01803 862018
Fax 01803 868262

22nd April 2010

Dear Sue Holmes,

Just a note to say how pleased we are as a school to be working with you on the Leechwell garden project. There is such a shortage of green child friendly spaces available in Totnes and to have a chance of being involved with the design and contents is thrilling for me and the children. The children feel that they are very short of play areas and areas where they can easily watch the natural world around them. We can't wait for it to be complete as we will be using the area as a school for our studies and as families for relaxing and enjoying a little pocket of peace in a busy town.

Many thanks again,

Hilary Priest

Letters of Support



TOTNES TOWN COUNCIL

The Guildhall Offices

5 Ramparts Walk

Totnes, Devon TQ9 5QH

Telephone 01803 862147

Fax 01803 864275

Email office@totnestowncouncil.gov.uk

Website www.totnestowncouncil.gov.uk

Shirley Prendergast
The Secretary
The Leechwell Garden Development
20 South Street
Totnes
TQ9 5DZ

14 April 2010

Dear Shirley

Re: Leechwell Garden Project

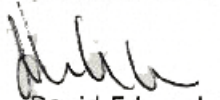
I write to inform you that at the Council Meeting on Monday 12 April 2010. The Council resolved to give support and approval to this project.

This is an excellent example of community groups and local residents working in partnership with the Local Authorities. The project provides a much needed open space for the Town and its location is convenient for the town centre allowing both local residents and visitors to enjoy this amenity.

The Council is appreciative of the work undertaken by the members of the Group, who have given their time voluntary to achieve a valued resource for the benefit of all.

I wish you well in your project.

Yours sincerely


David Edwards
Town Clerk

Town Clerk & Treasurer: David Edwards

V.A.T. Reg No: 585 8135 05



Letters of Support

TOTNES OLD PEOPLES REST ROOM ASSOCIATION
BIRDWOOD HOUSE
HIGH STREET TOTNES

Chairman, Mrs Kath Davies,
27 Parklands,
Totnes, Devon, TQ9 5HZ.

14th April 2010

Groundwork South West
c/o Town Hall, Castle Circus,
Torquay, TQ1 3DR.

Ref: Leechwell Garden Development.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing on behalf of the Members of the above Association and myself to express our support for the Leechwell Garden Project which is being delivered by the Leechwell Garden Association.

This project will not only regenerate an area of rundown and underutilised public space through the creation of a garden and natural play area, but provide a much needed facility for the whole community to enjoy.

We believe that the group have the capacity and the support from the local community and partners to deliver the project and sustain it in the future.

Yours Sincerely,

Kath Davies, Chairman.



Letters of Support

Cllr Anne Ward
South Hams District Council
Flat 2, Birdwood House
44 High Street
Totnes
TQ9 5SQ
Date: April 8 2010

Dear Sir/Madame

I would like to give my full support to the 'Leechwell Garden Project', a community garden created through the efforts of the Leechwell Garden Association, a group of dedicated and hard working volunteers who have wide community support and many partners and collaborators including: Natural England, the Environment Agency, BCTV, Devon Wildlife Trust, English Heritage, the Groundwork Trust, South Hams District Council, the Countryside Agency as well as the expertise of Landscape design consultant Charlotte Rathbone.

There is a great need for this community garden as Totnes town centre has a very limited amount of green open space. This is due in part to its dense urban grain and historic street pattern but also because of the incremental build up of urban infill development over recent years.

Many parents of young children and elderly residents have no or very small gardens within walking distance of their homes, so an amenity like a community garden within walking distance will bring great benefit to people's quality of life.

Community gardens increase social inclusion and access to nature promote lower blood pressure, reduce stress and improve mental well being. And the kind of natural play area which is planned for the garden will allow young children to develop balance and co-ordination much faster than in a more conventionally designed playground.

There is compelling evidence now for the value of urban green spaces like these for quality of life improvement and because of the major positive impact they have on local communities.

I hope you can support this exciting project which will benefit the town of Totnes enormously.

Yours sincerely



Anne Ward

Letters of Support



South Hams
District Council

Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5NE
Telephone: (01803) 861234
Fax: (01803) 866151

Website: www.southhams.gov.uk
DX 300050 TOTNES 2

Miss J Westacott
4 Cherry Cross
Totnes Devon TQ9 5NE
Totnes
Devon
TQ9 5NE



19th April, 2010

Re: LEECHWELL GARDEN DEVELOPMENT

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my support for the Leechwell Garden Project which is being delivered by the Leechwell Garden Association. This community driven project will regenerate an area of rundown, underused, public space and provide a garden and natural play space close to the Town centre for the whole community to enjoy.

I believe the Group have the capacity and support from their partners and the community to deliver the project and sustain it in the future.

Yours faithfully,

Judy Westacott MBE,
Town and District Councillor,
Totnes (Bridgetown)



2004-2005
Promoting Sustainable Tourism
2005-2006
Affordable Housing

Chief Executive - Ruth Bagley



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Letters of Support

Building safer communities together



DEVON & CORNWALL
CONSTABULARY

Totnes Neighbourhood Policing Team
Totnes Police Station
Ashburton Road
Totnes

9th April 2010

Ref: Leechwell Garden Development

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to express my support for the Leechwell Garden Project which is being delivered by the Leechwell Garden Association. This project will not only regenerate an area of rundown public space through the creation of a garden and play area, but also provide a much needed facility for the whole community to enjoy.

As a representative of Totnes Police I believe that the Association have the capacity and support from the local community/ partners to deliver the project and sustain it in the future .

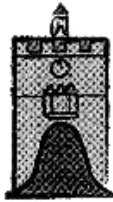
Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Vasey" with the number "30077" written below it.

PCSO Jason Vasey



Letters of Support



Transition Town
TOTNES

43 Fore Street
Totnes
Devon
TQ9 5HN
Tel: 01803 867358
Email: transitiontowntotnes@gmail.com

April 28th 2010

To the Community Spaces:

I'm writing in support of the application for funding to Community Spaces for the Leechwell Garden.

The Leechwell Garden have skilfully, imaginatively and determinedly campaigned and designed for this wonderful open space to be available to the public in a town that has a notable shortage of such resources.

The garden is of particular interest to Transition Town Totnes (TTT) as it will provide invaluable opportunities for practical volunteering for TTT members, through schemes like our 'Nut Tree Planting' project and Edible Landscaping. Leechwell Garden also features in our recently published Totnes and District Energy Descent Action Plan as a future place of learning for growers, as well as a healthy central resource for our local community.

This hard-working and deeply committed group are in the process of have transforming this space into a public (and in parts edible) oasis, bringing together experienced growers and novices to create something quite extraordinary. I work with Transition Town Totnes, an organisation promoting creative community responses to peak oil and climate change, and one of the key things we promote is local food and growing, and we therefore see the these gardens as being a highly valuable, and hard-won, community asset.

Yours sincerely

Lou Brown
Office Co-ordinator, Transition Town
Totnes



Letters of Support

Please reply to: Emma Gorbutt
Service: Landscape & Recreation
Direct telephone: 01803 861234 Direct fax: 01803 861478
E-Mail: emma.gorbutt@southhams.gov.uk

Mr Jim Carfrae
Leechwell Garden Associate
1 Ashleigh
Kingsbridge Hill
Totnes
Devon TQ9 5SZ

Your Ref:
Our Ref: EG/AW/P/PSS/15-TAS
Date: 29th April 2010

Dear Mr Carfrae

Leechwell Garden Project – Community Space Bid

Further to discussions with my colleague about your project to further improve children's play facilities in Leechwell Garden, I write to offer my support.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Gorbutt
Young People and Community Sustainability Officer
Landscape and Recreation Team

Letters of Support

Please reply to: Gill Till
Service: Landscape & Recreation
Direct telephone: 01803 861234 Direct fax: 01803 861478
E-Mail: gill.till@southhams.gov.uk

Mr Jim Carfrae
Leechwell Garden Associate
1 Ashleigh
Kingsbridge Hill
Totnes
Devon TQ9 5SZ

Your Ref:
Our Ref: GT/AW/P/PSS-56

Date: 30th April 2010


Dear Mr Carfrae

Leechwell Garden Project – Play

Further to the update by my colleague on the above project, I am pleased to offer my support for these important improvements to the Leechwell Garden. In particular, the proposed informal play space will significantly improve the opportunities to play within the town centre and clearly meets with actions of the South Hams Public Space and Play strategies.

I wish you every success with your application.

Yours sincerely



Gill Till
Children and Young People's Officer
Landscape and Recreation Team

Letters of Support

Please reply to: Alex Whish
Service: Landscape & Leisure
Direct telephone: 01803 861234 Direct fax: 01803 861478
E-Mail: alex.whish@southhams.gov.uk

Mr Jim Carfrae
Leechwell Garden Associate
1 Ashleigh
Kingsbridge Hill
Totnes
Devon TQ9 5SZ

Your Ref:
Our Ref: L&R/AW/P/PPS-56
Date: 29th March 2010

Dear Mr Carfrae

Leechwell Garden – Community Spaces Grant Application


I am writing on behalf of South Hams District Council in support of the Leechwell Garden Association's Community Spaces application to provide improvements to Leechwell Garden, Totnes. This will involve the creation of specific community led garden improvements and delivery of an informal natural play space. This project will provide a valuable facility for the community.

As the landowner, SHDC gives full permission for the project to be carried out and confirm that the District will be responsible for maintaining and insuring the site under South Hams District Council's Public Liability insurance.

All proposed works are in accordance with agreed plans within the Planning consent for change of use for public use, as granted to application 56/2251/05/DC, dated 9th December 2005.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information

Yours sincerely



Alexander Whish
Landscape Officer
Landscape and Recreation Team
Enc. Planning Permission Notice – 56/2251/05/DC
Certificate of Public Liability Insurance

Emails of Support

From: pckiddle@yahoo.co.uk
Subject: Support for Leechwell Garden
To - Sue Holmes, Leechwell Garden Association

Dear Sue,

Members of the U3A Garden Group were fascinated by your talk about the new community garden. We think it is an excellent project, which will provide a much needed haven for Totnes people at the top of the town, where there is so little open space. We will be glad to help with the project in any way we can and give your association our wholehearted support as you seek funding. We appreciate the way that you are seeking to involve all parts of the community in this project and look forward to enjoying many hours in the garden in the future.

Yours Cathy Kiddle
for the U3A Garden Group

From: pckiddle@yahoo.co.uk
Subject: Leechwell Garden
To: susieqi@hotmail.com

Dear Sue - I am sending this message to you as Chair of the Leechwell Garden Association to say that the Totnes Allotments Association gives its full support to the development of the new community garden at the top of the town. We know very well, from our own searches for allotment land, how little open space there is in the town for the enjoyment of residents. The Leechwell Garden will provide a real new asset for the town for generations to come. We have been following the progress of the garden through all its planning and design stages and have appreciated all the consultations and the chances to get involved with how the garden is shaped. It has been and continues to be a real community project. We give you our support and wish you every success with the next phase of development.

Yours Kiddle
For Laurie Taylor, Chairman, Totnes Allotments Association

From: Paul Bennett <paulandsuebennett@btinternet.com>
Subject: Leechwell Garden project
Date: 25 April 2010 18:09:06 GMT+01:00
To: Dave Mitchell <dave@zenonic.demon.co.uk>

Dear Dave

On behalf of Totnes & District Society (TOTSOC) I would like to congratulate the Leechwell Garden Association on its tenacity and imagination in bringing this exciting project forward to the state where can begin to see how it will be realized.

TOTSOC has always been supportive of the provision of this additional public open space close to the centre of the town which I am sure will be greatly valued by everyone, both those who live here and the many visitors. Open space of this kind has been sadly lacking and the new garden will go some way to alleviating this.

Best wishes
Paul Bennett
Secretary Totnes and District Society (TOTSOC)

From: mail@agroforestry.co.uk

Emails of Support

To: susieqi@hotmail.com
Subject: RE: [SPAM] Leechwell Garden
Date: Tue, 27 Apr 2010 21:22:35 +0100

Dear Sue

Thanks you for sending the information about the Leechwell Garden Association plans.

I strongly support your aim to create a green space. Such spaces are very important both for the community (bring many well known benefits) and well as biodiversity. It is vital that there are more opportunities for people to learn about sustainability close to hand, and how important the soil is to all life.

Regards
Martin

Martin Crawford
Agroforestry Research Trust
46 Hunters Moon, Dartington, Totnes, TQ9 6JT

From: Jackie Veale <JVEALE@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk>
Date: 7 May 2010 15:39:53 BST
To: "jim@carfrae.com" <jim@carfrae.com>
Subject: Leechwell Garden Development

Dear Sir/Madam

Leechwell Garden Development

King Edward VI Community College (KEVICC) is the large local secondary school for Totnes and district. Many of our students and their families will benefit from the Leechwell Garden Project which is being designed and developed by the Leechwell Garden Association. We are delighted that it now coming to fruition and would like to offer our full support.

It is good to see how the design reflects historical aspects of that area of Totnes and the creativity that has gone into its preparation. As the project progresses we hope there will be opportunities for students to participate in helping create the play space, enter the public art competition, observe wildlife, etc. Environmental issues are very important to KEVICC and this project will complement the garden, poultry unit, orchard and Forest school area we are developing here.

Yours sincerely

Chris Harris
Business Manager

King Edward VI Community College
Ashburton Road | Totnes | TQ9 5JX | Devon
Tel: 01803 869205
email@ charris@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk