



NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

AREA COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPROVAL FORM

1. Committee: **Baldock & District Area Committee**2. Date: **6 Jun 2016**3. Summary of application: **Funding to help meet the costs of a Poly Tunnel for the Green Shoots project**Name of organisation: **Letchworth District Gardeners Association** Sum requested: **£2,200**Total project cost: **£4,000 est**

Brief details:

Green Shoots is a joint project between North Herts College (NHC), Tapps Garden Centre and Letchworth District Gardeners Association (LDGA).

It has been set up to give local (North Herts Area) vulnerable students access and support to a safe working environment, where they will be able to create and cultivate a market garden with raised beds and a poly tunnel.

The produce grown will be sold at current market prices to Tapps Tea Rooms and Farm Shop and the money earned re-invested back into the project for seeds and other garden essentials. It is hoped that the project will provide locally grown fruit and vegetables for local people and hence reduce food miles.

It is envisaged that the project will be long term (months/years) with new students coming on board. One of the critical elements the project is seeking assistance for is funding for a poly tunnel as this would allow the project to run throughout the year, extending the growing seasons and giving protection for winter crops and preparation for an early spring start.

Matched / linked funding: **£1,800**Funder: **Fundraising and local contributions**Matched /linked funding : **£**
or DRR

Funder:

Comments from Community Officer:

Support is being given to the students from NHC. The use of the land and professional guidance is from Tapps Garden Centre and administrative support including banking facilities is from LDGA.

The project coordinators will also be applying to local companies for support for specific items. These will include a Tool & Potting shed, tools, boards for raised beds & compost etc.

The project will also encourage and help appreciate the benefits of a healthy sustainable lifestyle that can be adapted to a home environment and a green gym.

Learning about the environment in a hands on way, such as the importance of insects, damage by chemicals, fly tipping, water conservation and over use of natural resources may change people's views and habits.

Socially it is hoped that by understanding and taking part in a project like this will help each student and their friends to respect living spaces of other people and communities.

The project team is primarily seeking Area Committee funding to assist in the purchasing of the Poly Tunnel which is estimated at an overall cost of £2,200.

The Community Development Officer has examined this application against the Authority's Area Grants Policy, the organisation's accounts and grant history, and considers it an eligible application.

Amount recommended: **£1,000**