



URN:

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

AREA COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPROVAL FORM

1. Committee: **Southern Rural Area Committee**2. Date: **02/03/2017**3. Summary of application: **Funding to assist with the provision of an outside shelter**Name of organisation: **Down the Woods Forest School**Sum requested: **£3,995**Total project cost: **£5,435**

Brief details:

Within the Walls Garden Project is part of Down The Woods Forest School which focuses on improving the physical and mental health of children and adults by getting them outdoors.

The group enable people to participate in activities and games designed to build self-esteem, communication skills, independence and self-confidence through an appreciation of the natural environment. Their aim is to encourage physical and emotional development through outdoor play and activities, children and young people have the opportunity to learn about the natural environment, how to handle risks and most importantly to use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others.

At the garden project the group intends to offer opportunities for older people to participate in growing, gardening, building and learning new skills. For example young people Not in Employment Education or Training, older unemployed people, people living on their own possibly suffering from mental health issues and / or dementia.

The Forest School meets in various woodland and outdoor locations and the Within the Walls project is situated in St Pauls Walden.

Matched / linked funding: **£1,000 tbc**Funder: **Postcode Local Trust**Matched /linked funding: **£1,000 tbc**
or DRRFunder: **Luton Airport Community Fund**Matched / linked funding: **£tbc**Funder: **Other fundraising sources & events**

Comments from Development Officer:

The group is seeking funding for an outdoor classroom in the form of a yurt to be used at the project's site which is on part of an estate with crops and animals.

The group plan to add a wood burning stove for the colder months and equally in summer the sides can be rolled up for ventilation. Their whole ethos is about being as environmentally aware as possible, plus offering opportunities to people both local and further afield. Ultimately the yurt could be removed without leaving a footprint.

Currently there is a small shed and a greenhouse on site, but the yurt would provide a base for staff and volunteers (briefings/training/meetings).

The group could also offer more activities if it was certain that they would not run the risk of cancelling anything because of bad weather, eg felt-making, woodland craft, floral wreath making. Other activities which need to be outside such as hedge-laying, pole-lathe wood turning and willow weaving would also benefit from being able to offer its participants somewhere dry to go.

The application is criteria compliant