

Appendix 3: Friends of Norton Common

=Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6025			
Name of Organisation	Friends of Norton Common			
Organisation Type	CIO			
Ward	Covers the whole of Letchworth			
Project Type	New equipment for members			
Green option considered?	/			
NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest	None that we are aware of.			
Previous financial support within six years	/			
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	Yes	Accounts	Yes
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes		
Total applied for	£2,165	Total project cost	£2,165	
Officer Summary				
<p>Friends of Norton Common host volunteer activities on the common that range from building a boardwalk, a bridge, replacing old seats, clearing paths, renovation of woodland, repairing hedges, clearing of fallen trees etc building a wildlife pond, and maintaining streams. They have a lock up shipping container in the car park.</p> <p>Much of their tool stock is showing its age, the majority being purchased at the inception of the group in 2007. They need to replace almost all of it to maintain the quality of work required. New tasks such as replacement of benches and boardwalks require additional tools. In addition, PPE is essential for the group and is being continually replaced as it wears out or is supplied to new joiners.</p> <p>The need for this activity is determined by the GAP plan which contributes to winning the Green Flag award. Residents of Letchworth Garden City and beyond who use Norton Common for leisure activities and the fauna and flora of this part of North Hertfordshire who find a home there.</p> <p>Their role is to maintain and improve the common as a facility to enable visitors such a runners, dog walkers, toddler groups and the forest school to enjoy the common. They value their volunteers who are of all ages and abilities, and newcomers are always welcome.</p> <p>The friend's contribution to the common assists with the long-term health of the whole space. During the time they have been active the common has regularly attained Green Flag status. Their work substantially reduces council spending and provides a pleasant green space for the residents. Regular maintenance such as coppicing, clearing streams, scrub clearance and the planting of trees are ensuring Norton common will thrive for the residents and the fauna and flora of North Herts.</p>				

*Funding will only be released on receipt and approval of all supporting documentation