

TVNP Grant report

1. Purpose of this report

This report is to provide more information on an examination of the TVNP Community Grant from its formation in 2020.

2. Background

At the beginning of the development of the Tees Valley Nature Partnership (TVNP) in 2016, then Nature Partnership Manager Susan Antrobus consulted with local groups to see how TVNP could best support the groups. The feedback from this suggested that the support that whilst groups can find funding for large projects and events they struggle to find funding for the smaller more everyday things. It was decided that a small community grant to provide seed funding to groups in Tees Valley would be the best way to support local groups. The grant was established in 2020 with 2 deadlines a year one in March and one in September.

3. TVNP grant panel

The TVNP grant panel is made up of 3 volunteers involved with local groups in Tees Valley.

4. 2020 grant round

In 2020 the two rounds of the TVNP Community Grant funded 17 grant projects within the Tees Valley including projects that improve access to sites, created an intergenerational gardening project, a nature connectedness art project, and the development of a community wood.

- Bright Minds Big Futures
- Friends of Drinkfield
- Eston Arts
- Friends of Bluebell Beck
- Friends of Fairy Dell
- Friends of Redcar Cemetery
- Saltburn Friends of the Valley
- Friends of The Denes
- Friends of Zetland Park
- Grangetown's Generations
- Greenlinks
- Harbron Community wood
- Pallister Park Bowling Club
- Vision 25
- EPICH
- Friends of Nature's World
- Friends of Redcar

4.1 Findings from this grant round

We had over 20 applications for the TVNP grant for the March 2020 grant round, this led to the grant panel deciding to part-fund most of the eligible applications instead of fully funding a small selection of grants and rejecting a large number of applications. The second round had only 3 applications all of which were successfully fully funded.

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This community grant is funding work on the pond which is something local families have wanted for a long time. It is doing something that can be enjoyed and used by families and school groups, as well as being a wonderful wildlife habitat.” – Anne Dawson, Friends of Bluebell Beck

“

It was fantastic for the Friends group at Drinkfield Marsh to hear that we were awarded a grant, which we applied for, by Tees Valley Nature Partnership. We will use the grant to develop a new trail around the nature reserve, which will include brass plaques of various plants and animals that are indigenous to the marsh. The plaques, which are mounted on oak posts, are raised to allow children and adults to use wax crayons and paper to do rubbings of the designs that Tees Valley Nature Partnership have funded. This will be a fun and creative way for visitors to the marsh to learn more about the wildlife that inhabits the nature reserve. We are hoping to open the trail this summer for the visitors of Drinkfield Marsh to enjoy.” – Mark Bennison

You can read more on the TVNP Grant with these [case studies](#).

5. 2021 grant round

In 2021 sixteen groups received funding for projects including path works, creating a wildlife pond, planting, maintenance, and tools. The groups that received funding from the third grant round were:

- [Friends of Borough Park](#)
- [Friends of the Lower Path](#)
- [Friends of Snipe Pond](#)
- [Saltburn Countryside Volunteers](#)
- [Bright Minds Big Futures](#)
- [Friends of Guisborough Forest and Walkway](#)
- [Stillington and Whitton Parish Council](#)
- [Friends of Blue Bell beck](#)
- [Friends of the Valley Saltburn](#)
- [Friends of Fairy Dell](#)
- [Hartlepool Chinese Association](#)
- [Our Greenways](#)
- [Friends of Natures World](#)
- Petch Street Community Garden
- [Friends of the Lower Path](#)
- [Friends of Snipe Pond](#)

5.1 Findings from this grant round

IN 2021 we had more than 10 applications to the September grant round. However, 7 of the applicants were asked to reapply to a special grant round in December with some more information. 6 of those asked to reapply did and were successful

“ On behalf of the Friends of Guisborough Forest and Walkway, I made an application for funding to cover the cost of extensive flood damage at the Walkway.

I was impressed by: 1. the simplicity of application process, a letter. 2. the speed by which the application was assessed, and the award was granted. This was not what I expected when I applied for funding. No four sides of a form, or more, to complete etc; marvellous.

”
Well done - Ted Amos

When asked about the grant Katie from Saltburn Countryside volunteers said “ The grant we received from TVNP has allowed us to buy tools for our winter holly project. The holly is thinned in the winter as it has taken over Rifts wood. Light cannot reach the woodland floor so smaller plants are suppressed. By allowing light in these plants can grow, creating more biodiversity. We are also planting more different varieties of native tree in their place.

The tools and equipment we have purchased are bump caps to keep volunteers safe while working within the trees. A wheelbarrow to carry tools onto site. More bow saws and loppers to cut back the Holly, the bow saws are also fitted with green blades to make it

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easier to cut through the trunk.

“ As a Friends group, we have been working hard to restore and improve our local park over the last 12 years. Our current plan has been to increase the range of late and early flowering shrubs and flowers. Our aim was to support emerging wildlife and bring colour at a dark time. The pandemic curtailed our fundraising activities and thought all our planting would have to wait. Thanks to support from the Tees Valley Natural Partnership we have been able to purchase and plant a wide range of bulbs and shrubs throughout the park. ” - Michael Carling

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