



Small Grant Application

Name of Organisation Bedlington and District Red Squirrel Group	Contact Name Paul Brannan
Address for correspondence: [Redacted]	Position Coordinator
	Preferred contact for Grant Aid correspondence Letter () Telephone () Email (Yes please)
	Bank Details: Acc. Name – Bedlington and district red squirrel group [Redacted]

Please tick to show you have read and understood the Data Protection Statement in the attached guidelines ()

What is the status of your organisation? (Please tick)
Registered Charity () Voluntary Organisation () Community Group ()
Tenants' Association () Other, please specify

If applying for the first time, please give a brief description of your group/organisation:

BADRSRG was set up in March 2022 in response to the loss of a number of red squirrels in Gallagher Park through the squirrel pox. The pox is passed to our native red squirrels from grey squirrels imported from the USA in the 1870s. The greys are immune to it but the reds always die once they catch it. The only way to protect and nurture the red squirrels is to cull the greys. When the group was set up it only operated in Bedlington and Choppington parishes. However, as of January 2024, the group has taken on much of the territory previously managed by the Morpeth Group. This includes all of the woodlands and parks in Ashington (see attached map for all of the area covered by the group). We already have grey squirrel management happening in parts of Ashington, at Woodhorn, Longhirst and Wansbeck Riverside Park as part of the team inherited from Morpeth.

In the two years that the group has been operating it has culled over 500 greys and seen the return of our native reds to woodlands they had not been seen in for some years. We are now reaching out to the various town and parish councils as well as groups that manage woodland areas, including the Ashington Community Woodland team, to help us recruit additional volunteers and or provide funding for the equipment needed for our work.

Ashington Community Woodland (ACW) is a large forest and as recently as 3 years ago it was the home of a number of red squirrels. Grey squirrels were then observed and, as is often the case, they began to take over the woodland and the reds began to die and move away from the threat. Our experience in other woodlands leads us to believe that there will still be some reds in these woodlands and, with careful management of the greys they would make a return. However, time is not on our side. ACW will be our next focus in Ashington and we will move on to other woodlands and corridors in the district once a team is established there.

The approach used in newly adopted woodlands is tried and tested. First, a number of monitoring stations are established. These contain feed to attract the squirrels as well as a "sticky tab" which captures a fur sample. The volunteers check the monitors and report signs of grey or red squirrels. If grey squirrels are found then a trap is set nearby and the greys are caught and culled. We use video trail cameras and or wifi cameras to capture images of the squirrels and get a better understanding of what is actually in the woodland.



Small Grant Application

Please include the following with your application:

- ✓ Your constitution or governing document, or written aims and objectives.
- ✓ Up-to-date financial information, including latest accounts and bank statement.
- ✓ A set a basic core policies or statements:
 - ✓ Health & Safety
 - ✓ Equality and Diversity
 - ✓ Safeguarding
 - ✓ Data Protection and GDPR

Health and Safety needs for the group are covered in our code of practice attached
Our policy on Equality and diversity is included in our constitution attached

Please contact us if you are unsure about any of the above. We will support any group to achieve the required policies, in accordance with our work to promote Equality and Diversity in Grant Aid Allocation, and our obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty 2022.

Does your organisation work in partnership with any other organisations? Yes (please circle)

If yes, please give details below:

There are red squirrel organisations at national, regional and local levels. Those we work most closely with are Northern Red Squirrels (NRS), which covers Cumbria and Northumberland, which form the last line of red squirrel colonies in England before the greys migrate into Scotland. We also work with part of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust called Red Squirrels Northern England (RSNE). We work most closely and most often with the other groups in Northumberland, particularly the Cramlington group.

Please provide details of membership/users:

Number of Members	Do members/users pay a subscription fee?	Subscription Fee?
40	NO	
Number of paid employees (if any)?	Number of volunteers?	
None	40	

What percentage of members/users live in Ashington?

Approx 6 %, however the reason for this application is to enable the growth of local involvement.

Please use this space to tell us how your organisation serves the residents of Ashington or contributes towards the wellbeing of the town and residents.

Our woodlands and parks in Northumberland are very well used by both dog walkers and residents exercising for their health. The red squirrels are a favourite mammal of most people in UK and the people of Ashington would benefit from their protection and return to areas where they can see and enjoy them. This aids the well being of all those residents who use our woodlands and parks by encouraging them to take exercise outdoors. It also becomes a selling point for tourism to the area.



Small Grant Application

Amount of small grant requested (up to £500)

£ 486

Small Grants can be awarded towards specific projects, 'start-up' costs or maintenance/running costs (see Small Grant Guidelines) and must be spent in the financial year awarded, for the purpose given. You can only receive one small grant in any financial year.

Please give full details of the purpose of your Small Grant application:

To provide monitoring of ACW.

The initial monitoring of a woodland is done using monitoring boxes which the group build and supply themselves so that there is no cost for that step. We have funding for the maize which is used in these boxes to attract squirrels and the monitoring Velcro pads are also already covered.

Once it is established that the boxes have regular visitors, either red or grey, we would begin deploying trail cameras into the woods to either help protect the red squirrels or to identify and deal with the grey squirrels. This request is to cover the equipment costs for 4 such trail cameras, as follows;

4 x trail cameras	- £280 (unit cost £70)
2 x 8 pack rechargeable batteries	- £90 (unit cost £45)
2 x 6 pack SD cards 32 Gb	- £30 (unit cost £30)
2 x 3 pack SD cards 64 Gb	- £38 (unit cost £19)
4 x extending locks	- £48 (unit cost £12)

TOTAL - £ 486

Please attach a copy of your latest financial statement together with a copy of your most recent bank statement for each bank account your organisation maintains.

UNRESTRICTED BALANCES WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN AGREEING AWARDS



DECLARATION

- ✓ I confirm that to the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information in this application is true and correct.
- ✓ I agree to any disclosure or exchange of information about this application which Ashington Town Council deem appropriate for the administration, evaluation, monitoring and publicising of Small Grants.
- ✓ I understand that acceptance of this application by Ashington Town Council does not in any way signify that the organisation is eligible to or will receive a Small Grant.
- ✓ I have included the documents and policies required.



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- ✓ I have included an up-to-date Financial Statement and copies of bank statements.
- ✓ I understand that the Council will *freeze* or *withdraw* funding or *reject* future applications if certain conditions are not met and/or there is evidence of unlawful activity, malpractice, or other behaviour that the Council deems improper.
- ✓ I agree to verify that Grant Aid has been spent for the intended purpose.
- ✓ I agree to inform the council of any significant changes to the membership or running of the organisation.

Signed 	Print name 	Date 28/3/24
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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date application received	Application successful? Yes/No	Proposed Award £
Any additional information requested:		