

**GRANT APPLICATION FORM - Neighbourhood Portion of
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Bath**

Please return completed form to:
CONNECTING_COMMUNITIES@BATHNES.GOV.UK

1. Applicant Information

1.1 Name of Applicant
J. Wilkinson
1.2 Name of Organisation
Bath Allotments Association
1.3 Contact Address
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1.4 Contact Telephone Number
07969785929
1.5 Contact Email Address
Jackywilkinson99@gmail.com
1.6 Organisations Website Address
https://www.bathallotments.org/
1.7 Name of Bank
Co-op Bank
1.8 Account Holders Name
B&NES Allotments Association
9. Bank Account Number 65402452

10. Bank Sort Code Number 08 92 99

2. About your application

2.1 Title of your project
WatermyPlot Project – Year 2
2.2 Project Location
Allotments in Bath and run by the Council for residents of Bath. This includes Larkhall allotments, which is right on the city boundary, in Bathavon North, but the project on this site can be deleted if this is an issue.
2.3 Are you aware of any plans that will have an effect the premises or location where your project is to be located?"
No.
2.4 If this project has a reliance on support (including ongoing maintenance) from a B&NES Council Service this must have been agreed in advance of this application. Please provide details of the person that you have been working with and the details of what support has been agreed.
The overarching project in Year 1 was initiated with the support of the Parks Service. The ongoing projects for year 2 have been developed in cooperation with them. Where necessary, approval of the Parks Service is sought for individual projects.
2.5 Have you discussed the project with your local ward councillors?
As the project is spread across several wards, our practice has been to involve Ward Councillors at specific stages. However, we have engaged with key Councillors on the broad aims of the project. Support has been given by the Lambridge Ward Councillors. Responses from other Councillors and the Parks Service have been sought and will be forwarded.
2.6 How has the community been listened to and what support exists for your project?
The Association has individual site reps on most sites. These reps meet regularly with the Committee and issues arising have informed this years bid. On sites without reps, we email all members directly. We have also reviewed outcomes and achievements from WatermyPlot Year 1 and this is informing our Year 2 project.

2.7 Is this a new project or does it link with an existing project?
This project is Year 2 of the WatermyPlot project.
2.8 Has your organisation previously applied for funding from Neighbourhood Portion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Bath?
Yes – WatermyPlot Year 1.
2.9 Are there any planned changes in circumstances to your organisations operation that we should be aware of?”
No

3. Neighbourhood Portion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Bath Criteria

Important Note:

This section is a key test that must be met for Neighbourhood Portion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to be recommended for funding .

You will need provide an explanation of whether this project relates to infrastructure.
or
something else that is concerned with addressing the demands arising from development.

An explanation is needed to show of how in planning terms this project supports development within Bath.

3.1 How does the project address a specific impact of the new developments?

The Council requires that all occupants of new residential developments have a good standard of Green Infrastructure (GI). The appropriate provision of allotments GI, as set out in the Green Space Strategy (2015) has not been achieved despite money being given to the Council through S106 legal agreements/undertakings. The majority of sites have long waiting lists.

The Council is also about to lose a large site at Combe Down, which has increased the pressure on existing sites. In accordance with the requirements of the current Green Space Standards (as set out in the Green Space Strategy 2015) the area for allotments in the City of Bath (population estimated at 94,782 in 2024) should be 28.43 ha. The current allotment provision is 19.83 hectares. Minus Combe Down it would be 18.56 ha. The current provision is significantly below the adopted level.

This project aims to support the more efficient use of existing allotments by:

- increasing the numbers of people able to grow food by running smaller plots, rescuing hard-to-let plots and creating new plots.
- reducing wastage of plots caused by high rate first-time failures by running microplots for first timers.
- Improving the quality, sustainability and biodiversity of the sites through better water capture and usage and wildlife initiatives.

3.2 Does this project support the area where development that has taken place?

Yes. The whole of the city area is included.

3.3 Please provide any further details on how the proposal funds (a) the provision, improvement, replacement, operation, or maintenance of infrastructure or (b) anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.

(a) **Provision of allotments** – the project will make a contribution to the numbers of people able to gain earlier access to a growing space through our Microplots.

Improvement of allotments – the project will contribute to improvement of access to water by installing communal rainwater harvesting, encouraging individual rainwater harvesting (through sales of butts), initiating spring-water harvesting where feasible (a pilot project is underway) and by improving soil conditions through increased mulching and wider use of sustainable, regenerative growing methods.

Replacement of allotments. None is proposed.

Operation of allotments. The management of allotments in the City of Bath is the responsibility of the Council. The Association works closely with officers to ensure that the best management regimes are secured.

Maintenance of allotments. This project aims to improve the quality of communal facilities on sites.

4. About your project

4.1 Provide a brief summary of your project. Include the main objectives and goals. (a maximum word count 300 words)

Project summary

The project would be Year 2 of a three-year *WatermyPlot* project which aims to improve the capacity and quality of the current allotment green infrastructure of the city.

This would be done by:

- reducing the current voiding and loss of production to “first time failures” by inviting people on the waiting lists to learn/improve their growing skills on small (micro) plots whilst waiting for a permanent plot. These microplots are run by the Association.
- bringing “hard to let” plots, blighted and underused spaces into use,
- improving/changing growing skills to tackle the impact of climate change on water supply, plant types and biodiversity,
- Promoting sustainable soil management in all our work and working with partners to increase awareness of the importance of tackling the effects of loss of biodiversity.

4.2 Elaborate on the project in more detail. Include information about the problem or need your project addresses, the target audience or beneficiaries, and the significance of the project. (a maximum word count 500 words; photos can also be provided)

The project includes a number of elements:

- **Microplots – 3 hard to let plots will be turned into BAA run microplots.**
Target audience – people on the waiting lists for Bloomfield, Larkhall and Claremont sites.
The problem –“first-time failures” of inexperienced growers, causing excessive voids on plots while the Council goes through eviction procedures.
We have had very positive feedback from the first occupants of our microplots.
- **Plot rescue – we aim to bring 10 overgrown plots or unused areas into use.**
Target audience – people on the waiting list, specifically for Bath City Farm and Moorfields sites.
The problem – inefficient use of available land due to overgrown plots being turned down and therefore being unused.
- **Rain/spring communal water harvesting on 3 sites (Lyncombe Vale, Larkhall, and one other.**
Target audience – tenants on those sites. The problem – restricted access to water is reducing the quality of the sites. Use of mains water is unsustainable in the longer term.
- **Sale of water butts – all tenants on all plots + assembly demonstrations on 3 sites.**
Target audience – all growers on allotment sites in the City.
The problem is that mains water is an increasingly limited resource. The existing tanks and taps are often at capacity and this leads to problems, but adding more tanks simply overloads the existing mains supply.
- **4 talks/ demonstrations.**
Target audience – all growers on allotments in the City.
The problem is a slow take up of sustainable growing methods. Due to climate change allotments could contribute to carbon sequestration.
- **1 demonstration regenerative managed plot.**
Target audience – all growers on allotments in the City. Regenerative growing is seen as a way of contributing to tackling climate change and loss of biodiversity.
- **2 events – citywide target audience – general public and local gardeners/growers. The aim is to share knowledge and information. The first event will take place in National Allotments Week 10-16 August 2026. We will also support the Claverton Horticultural Society annual show in September 2026.**
- **Wildlife/pollinator areas created on Canal Gardens, Bloomfield, Moorfields.**
Target audience – tenants on those sites and wider local groups, who partner the sites.
- **6 ponds on plots and on communal areas.**
Target audience – tenants on sites and local wildlife groups.

The aim is to contribute to tackling the loss of biodiversity.

- **Review and report. We will publish outcomes of our talks and events on our website and social media, as well as providing printed handouts.**

4.3 Outline the key milestones and timelines for the project. Specify the start and end dates, as well as any important phases or deadlines.

**The project aims to take place over a year, from date of grant offer.
Key milestones will relate to the achievement of each element as set out above.**

4.4 Explain how the project will address the identified problem or need and the positive changes it aims to achieve.

The project aims to address in some way the significant shortfall of available allotments (as shown by long waiting lists). Realistically the high demand can only be fully satisfied by creating new sites, as required by the current policies, which is beyond the remit of the Association.

In executing the project BAA aims to raise awareness of the importance of sustainable growing techniques on allotments in tackling climate change and increasing urban biodiversity.

4.5 Describe how you will evaluate the success of the project.

Reviews will be quarterly. Project evaluation will take place at the end of the year.

4.6 Does your project require planning permission?
If yes, please include the status, dates, and reference numbers.

No.

5. Funding Information

5.1 Provide a high-level overview of the budget for your project. Include the overall cost of the project and the funding amount requested from Neighbourhood Portion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Bath.

**The overall costs are estimated to be £22,720
The amount requested from CIL is £19,500.**

5.2 Provide a detailed breakdown of the budget, specifying how the funds will be allocated to different aspects of the project (e.g., personnel, supplies, equipment, outreach, etc.).

See attached table.

5.3 Does this project benefit from any sources of matched funding. Include the sources, dates funds were agreed and funding which has been applied for but are awaiting a decision.

See attached table

5.4 Provide a breakdown of the efforts of volunteers in supporting this project. Please include number of hours , types of volunteers, geographical reach.

See attached table.

5.5 I confirm that I understand successful applicants will be required to participate in council publicity

I confirm this.

WatermyPlot Year 2 project costing, partners table.

	project	Wmp CIL fund	Match funding	Volunteer hours and partners.
1	<u>Microplots</u> creation on Bloomfield, Larkhall, and Claremont extension. Open to all people on the waiting lists.	£1,200	£600 (Larkhall microplot) BAA funds agreed.	300.(clearance, maintenance and admin).
2.	<u>Plot rescue/creation</u> x 10 (Moorfields, Bloomfield, Monksdale, Lower Common East, Bath City Farm}.	£10,000	£600 Moorfields. Councillor empowerment fund discussed – not determined)	250. (City Farm project partnered with Bath City Farm.)
3.	Rain/spring water communal harvesting on 3 sites. (Lyncombe Vale, Bloomfield, Moorfields).	£6,500		200+ Lyncombe Vale - Technical advice from University of West of England.
4.	<u>Spring water capture</u> – Claremont.		£600 Claremont. (Councillor empowerment fund approved)	40
4.	<u>Subsidised resale of 120 individual 220 L water butts</u> (including demos on 4 sites on installation - £1,500 deficit). Open to all, discounted for members.	£1,500		100 Partnered with Urban Garden.
5.	<u>Talks and demonstrations</u> x 4 Open to all tenants, free to members. Printed notes issued. Advertised on website, by email and through Transition, Climate Hub, Parks Service.	£300	£300 (BAA funds agreed.)	20 Urban Garden and Alice Park Community garden partners. Evaluation and review process for all talks and demos in place for feedback and impact assessment.
6.	<u>Regenerative growing</u> demonstration plot on Bloomfield. Open to all tenants, free to members.		£200 (RHS grant (not offered yet) or BAA small grant to be agreed when detailed costs assessed).	20

	Information to be posted on social media.			
7.	<u>Events</u> - target general public, all growers. 1. National Allotment Week 10-16 August 2026.To be advertised in National Allotment Association SW Region. Notifications also via Transition Bath, Climate Hub, Bath Organic Garden and Parks Service. 2. Claverton Down Horticultural Show. 2026		£500 (BAA funds agreed).	40 1. National Allotment Week events at two allotments sites open to the general public. 3. Claverton Down Horticultural Society Annual Show.September 2026.
8.	<u>Ponds and wildlife</u> areas developed on 3 sites.		£300 (BAA small grants agreed to be given for each individual project.)	50 Partners Avon Wildlife Trust, Bath Natural History Society, Froglife, GrowforLife, U3A, Good Gym.
9	<u>Crop-Drop collection</u> points		£120 (BAA funds agreed)	10 - partner with Crop Drop.serving local food charities, food banks across the city etc .
10	Review, reports, articles. Website/social media news and information.			40
	TOTALS	£19,500	£3,220	1,070 (134 person days)

Appendix 2

Microplot endorsements.

Sent to Councillor John Leach 11 August 2025

Hi John

I hope all's well. I came across [a campaign this week](#) calling on councils to not sell off allotments. This is in response to the press about Angela Raynor signing off 8 sales since the election and Jeremy Corbyn weighing in.

I wondered whether this was a discussion point for Bath & NE Somerset? We've recently taken on a microplot on Claremont Rd which has been great and the community around is excellent. But right behind our place (at the end of Beaufort Villas) used to be allotments and is now housing. The mixed use and space the allotments provide the neighbourhood is really important in my view.

I'd appreciate any quick notes on the council's position on this at the moment. Jonathon plot 5b1

Comment from Annelisa Sadler on Lower Common West

Having a Microplot this year has been brilliant! It has given me the opportunity to start allotment growing on a smaller scale, which was a lot more manageable (and less overwhelming) than taking on a full plot right from the start. I've been able to appreciate the time commitment, responsibility and work involved in maintaining an allotment, meaning I feel a lot more prepared for when I get to the top of the waiting list! Having Tim as a mentor has been great too, he is always around for advice (or just a chat) when I bump into him on the allotment.

Everything I've grown this year has been a bit of an experiment. Not everything was successful- I don't consider anything a failure (especially in the very challenging weather this summer!), but there are definitely things I will take away and do differently next year.

I've really enjoyed myself this year, just being on the plot has been a very relaxing way to decompress after a stressful day, and it is very satisfying eating a dinner which I have grown myself! Overall, it's been a really good start to what will hopefully be many years of allotment growing 😊

Verbal Comment made by microplot tenant on Lower East Common.

The microplot has been life changing for us. We would never have been able to take on a whole plot and we've really enjoyed growing our own vegetables together. Thank you to the Association for helping us get started.

End.