



## Pocket parks – Application form

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### Sections 1-3: Applicant

#### 1. Lead applicant from the community

Community group name	Moor Pool Heritage Trust (MPHT) A copy of the constitution is attached No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (please tick)
Name of project lead	Robert Sutton
Address	64 Margaret Grove, Harborne, Birmingham B17 9JL
Email	rob@moorpool.com
Phone	07904 924 609

#### 2. Local Authority partner details

Name of Authority	Birmingham City Council
Lead contact (name and role)	Darren Share Head of Parks
Address	Parks and Nature Conservation Birmingham City Council Kings Heath Park House Vicarage Road Kings Heath Birmingham B14 7TQ
Lead contact email	Darren.Share@birmingham.gov.uk
Lead contact phone no.	0121 303 4477



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Is the Authority willing to hold grant funding for you	No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Please tick)
	A letter or e-mail confirmation of this is attached <input type="checkbox"/>

### 3. Other partners you will work with

Partner name and lead contact	Contact phone no	Contact email	How will they support you?
Moor Pool Residents Association Sal Bourner		salbmoorpool@gmail.com	Promotion, Fundraising events
Moor Pool Wildlife Group Mike Foster		mikefosterwork@gmail.com	Ground clearance, wildlife development, maintenance and monitoring
Moor Pool in Bloom			Propagation of plants, planting advice, future maintenance.  New Chair being elected, details not available

## Section 4: Evidence of Need

### 4. Tell us about your area (up to 500 words)

<p>Why is a pocket park required?</p> <p>Please describe the area you are working in and how it meets the criteria specified; for example whether the area is deprived (IMD 2015) and current access to quality green</p>	<p>The Estate of 500 houses is an Arts and Crafts garden suburb built between 1907 and 1912. It is a conservation area with additional protection under an Article 4(2) Direction. It was the vision of John Sutton Nettlefold who was tasked with improving housing in Birmingham which in the late 1800s had many slum dwellings. At the same time Birmingham was rapidly expanding and incorporating many outlying villages such as Harborne. Nettlefold inspired by Ebenezer Howards Garden City movement and the garden suburbs such as Brentham and Hampstead wanted to show that garden suburbs were an affordable way for Birmingham to increase its housing stock whilst dramatically improving</p>
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space	<p>health and quality of life. Moor Pool has all the classic garden suburb attributes except a park. As such it does not have a secure green space where residents, local people or visitors can meet</p> <p>In the early days of the estate the original bowling green was located on the site and there are photographs of events being held particularly around May Day. The bowling green moved and the land became allotments. An attempt was made to secure planning permission in the 1990s and allotment use ceased with the land becoming overgrown. A further application for development was made in 2007. The application caused considerable opposition and the use of the area as a pocket park accepted in the planning officer's recommendations. The planning permission was subsequently sold on and the Moor Pool Residents Association (MRA) formed a close relationship with the new owners who agreed to transfer the park to the Moor Pool Heritage Trust which the MRA had set up. Initial work securing the area was carried out by the developer and also clearing trees which had self- set. However the land is now degenerating again although volunteers have worked to establish the ground conditions. A local resident produced a landscape plan of the park for the MRA and this has been out for public consultation since 2011. Proposed further enhancements include ensuring the park has pathways enabling all year use and addressing safety concerns caused by the proximity of the stream in a deep culvert.</p> <p>The park will provide opportunities for demonstrating composting and horticulture and providing information on local wildlife and the environment. A key aspect of the Today's Children, Tomorrows Community (TCTC) programme is bringing inner city children to the Estate to encourage and inspire them to seek improved developments and surroundings in their future lives. Already several schools have visited and taken part in Estate tours. This will be significantly expanded as the Educational Officer expands the TCTC programme.</p> <p>Moor Pool is not an area that could be considered deprived but Birmingham ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods nationally and the park will play an important part in inspiring the importance of inclusion of similar open space in other existing and future developments. The TCTC programme is funded for 3 years</p>
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	but it is intended to be continued beyond that.
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### Section 5: Site

#### 5. Your pocket park

Proposed name	Moor Pool Gardens
Address incl. postcode	Margaret Grove
Size in hectares	0.32 hectares
Owner (name, address)	Cala Homes Do you have the owner's permission to apply? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> A letter or e-mail confirmation of this is attached (tick) <input type="checkbox"/>
Is it already a green space?	No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Name of site now: Site B
	It is the whole site: <input type="checkbox"/> It is a part of the site: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please briefly describe the current state of the site	The site is currently overgrown and has not been used since the early 1990's. Some trees were removed by the company which is transferring the land to MPHT but the roots remain. They also put up a fence around the site to secure it. There are various items of rubble and a culverted brook which carries overflow water from the Moor Pool through the site. There are various mature trees and the area is bounded on 2 sides by a hedge.
Are there other green spaces within a 5 minute walk?	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, please explain what additional benefit this project will bring forward and attach a local map (ideally 1:25 scale).



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Is the site available and accessible?	Yes it is designated for use as a pocket park and is adjacent to pedestrian routes.
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### Section 6: Nature

#### 6. What do you propose to do to establish your pocket park? (up to 500 words)

We already have a sub-committee to take the project forward and we have cleared some overgrowth to establish the ground conditions. To progress further we wish to take the existing concept design produced by a local resident and draw up a plan detailing tree locations, pathway and railing routes and locations with a bill of materials. We will then need to clear the ground of extensive roots remaining from trees previously removed from the site and then level the central area. We have been advised the work to remove the roots will require heavy machinery as it has proved impossible using manual labour. We will then lay out a perimeter tarmac path although we will also investigate self-binding gravel as used on canal towpaths. The pathway will enable all weather use and in particular access by wheelchair and push chairs especially at community events. The top soil removed will be used to grade the border levels up to the perimeter hedge. We have already replaced fencing and pathways elsewhere on the Estate so we have suitable contractors in place to do this work. We will lay the grassed area up to the perimeter path and install the railings which will prevent access to the open stream. This is deeply culverted and unsafe if accessible. Over the stream we will place a wide deck to access the small area of the park on the other side. The main park is laid out so that the deck is a focal point for performance.

There are tennis courts close to one side of the park and a new hedge will be established alongside the courts so that play is not disturbed. The Club will have the opportunity to put an access gate into the park for the purpose of retrieving tennis balls as we have discovered a vast quantity in the undergrowth.

Alongside the stream beyond the fencing we will establish wildlife areas and corridors. Adjacent to the park is a larger area which will be specifically devoted to wildlife with controlled access from the park through a gate. At a later date we may set up a bird hide here and feeding stations as well as remote cameras to link to the educational classroom at the Nettlefold Ecology Centre.

At one end of the area is a large mound of soil which may have come from soil removed elsewhere from allotments to facilitate the building of garages. We propose to leave this and cover with grass as a play feature.

We have already worked with outside volunteer groups who have come to assist clearing allotments and will engage with them to work alongside our own groups to carry out much of the ground preparation work. We shall mostly propagate our own plants as our Moor Pool in Bloom group has much experience in this area providing all the plants for the annual Moor Pool Plant Sale in the spring.

### Section 7: Match-funding

#### 7. What match funding do you have or plan to secure?



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Source	Amount	Secured or to be sought?
Moor Pool Residents Association	£750	Sought
Moor Pool Heritage Trust	£1000	Secured
Grants	£3750	Sought
Fundraising	£3035	Sought

8. Would you like to add any further comment in relation to match-funding?

In the year leading up to December 2014 we raised over £325,000 to buy the local listed community hall and community shops which were scheduled for auction. This was as a result of a very active fundraising team which continues to raise funds for the restoration of the hall. Grants were secured from various organisations including HLF. In addition substantial sums were donated by private individuals. We will have in place from December 13<sup>th</sup> 2015 both a Hall Manager and Educational Officer both who have experience of asset management and fundraising with established heritage facilities. We are confident we can raise the additional match funding as the park will not only be of benefit to local people but be an important part of the architectural heritage delivery plan demonstrating the garden suburb principles of a mixture of allotments, green space and sporting facilities all put in place to encourage healthy living and lifestyle. We are therefore confident that we have the ability and support to raise the necessary match funding.

### Sections 9 - 12: Deliverability and value for money

9. How will you spend the DCLG money?

Item	Total
We will engage a professional landscape gardener to provide a finalised plan and bill of materials which will enable us to mark out the park and	£650
Land clearance. We will hire a digger to remove the tree roots and level ground and also excavate pathway trench for 2 days	£510



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Installation of perimeter path including MOT 1 base and 10mm grit 30/40mm thick top coat	£5,091
Installation of fencing alongside stream	£5,040
Installation of culvert bridge	£340
Provision of 2 Edwardian park benches	£1,435
Turfed lawn area to enable May Day opening	£1,050
Wooden handrail from entrance gate to perimeter path	£412
VAT (we are not vat registered)	£2,542
Total	£17,070
Please add rows as necessary	
Will you spend all of the DCLG money by end March 2016?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> (Please tick)  Please make sure your timeline (section 10) shows when the money will be spent by.

10. Please set out your timeline (showing such as when delivery will start, when delivery using DCLG money will be completed (no later than March 2016), and when the pocket park will open)



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What will happen?	When
Briefing of Trustees, park sub-committee and fundraising team	December 2015
Circulation of donation form restricted to successful grant application	December 2015 January 2016
Discussions with landscape architect	December 2015 January 2016
Obtain competitive quotes from pathway and railing and bridge deck suppliers	December 2015 January 2016
Place orders for pathways railings and bridge deck	February 2016
Clear roots and level land	February 2016
Lay bridge deck to access secondary area	February 2016
Excavate and lay pathways	Late February, March 2016
Install perimeter culvert fencing	March 2016
Turf grassed area	April 2016 weather permitting
Park opening	May Day 2016

11. Please describe the benefits you expect to see delivered through the creation of a pocket park (up to 500 words). For example, improvement in social wellbeing, community participation and engagement, healthy living, environmental and natural / biodiversity benefits.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Please note we are not looking for you to state all of these. These are examples and there may be others. All pocket parks will be different.





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The park will provide a secure area in which families and older residents can meet without risk of children getting onto roads.

It will provide a focus for the activities of Moor Pool in Bloom, the Residents Association sub group set up to support restoration and maintenance of the Estates green space. MiB has actively encouraged local growing of plants both for use around the estate and to sell to raise funds.

The park will support the work of the educational officer. A community garden or park is an important aspect of garden suburb design. Although a park was shown on early plans it subsequently became allotments and despite massive opposition recently developed for housing such that Moor Pool never had a park. If we are successful, visiting children taking part in the Today's Children, Tomorrows Community project will be able to see the benefits of a secure community park within a residential development. The park will provide an environmental study area with interpretation boards. The park will also provide a space for planting out the plants cultivated at the MPHT greenhouse at the Nettlefold Ecology Centre based at the old Estate builder's yard.

The park will provide access to wildlife areas supporting the activities of the wildlife group and also supporting aspects of the educational delivery concerned with wildlife.

The park will provide and open space for use by the residents association for community events. This will include May Day maypole dancing which took place on this land in the early 1900s and events linked to the annual Moor Pool Festival in September.

The park will also host occasional performance with the bridge area forming a focal performance for plays or music. Moor Pool has an established amateur theatrical group the Moorpool Players based at the Hall. The Moor Pool Residents Association puts on various social events which have included concerts.

Parks and green space are acknowledged as improving general and mental health and the value of these places for sport, recreation, art, culture, ecology and biodiversity is as just as important

12. Please ensure you attach a plan of the site now and another that shows how it will look after the work is complete.

### **Section 13: Sustaining delivery**

13. How will you sustain the management of the site?

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Secure Green Flag Community Award	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Please tick)
Register your site as an asset of community value	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Seek Local Greenspace Designation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dedicate (such as a Field in Trust) Park will be held by MPHT a charitable trust	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Seek English Heritage Parks and Gardens Registration	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please explain any further approaches you will consider (300 words)	

14. Please feel free to provide any further information that will support your application (up to 300 words)

The constitution of the Trust puts great store on ecology and open space because Nettlefold a local Councillor and first Chairman of the Birmingham Housing Committee and the founder of the Estate considered them essential elements in providing a healthy lifestyle.

### OBJECTS

1. The charity's objects ("Objects") are specifically restricted to the following:
  - 1.1 To promote, for the public benefit:
    - (a) the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment within the Area; and
    - (b) the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation for the benefit of residents of the Area through the use of community facilities; and
    - (c) the advancement of education, including promoting knowledge of the social and architectural history and heritage of the Area.

The Trust has raised the funds to buy the community hall and will be focused on their restoration. It does not have a budget to finance the proposals in this application. It will however provide a supporting contribution, management, insurance and maintenance. The park will be closed after dark by volunteers except when used for a special activity such as bat surveys.

The open space network of Moor Pool is integral to its design. An application to English Heritage was submitted by the Midland Office in 2010 for Parks and Gardens Registration something



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normally reserved for stately homes and parklands. A decision was deferred as we understand it, because of the ongoing planning application and its impact on the conservation area. With this now settled we would seek to resubmit this application. If successful, the registration of an urban area would not only be a very rare event but an encouragement to other urban areas. The theme for the Park will be based on Edwardian features and we will wherever possible use typical plant varieties from the period.

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Check list of added material to attach:

Constitution of your group (if available) (Q1)

Letter or email from your local authority partner confirming willingness to hold grant (Q2)

Owners consent (Q5)

Map showing site and any green spaces within 5 minutes' walk (ideally 1:25 scale) (Q5)

Plan of site now  Plan of what the pocket park will look like (Q12)

Any other items you feel will support your application (please list below)

Item	Format	What does this show
1	jpeg	Hampstead Garden Suburb community garden. A view of a garden suburb community area with seating.
2	jpeg	Whicker Tunnel play feature and climbing plant support.
3	jpeg	Whicker Tunnel 2. Supplementary view of playfeature.
4	jpeg	Wildlife Area. Existing area to the side of pocket park which will be left as wildlife zone.
5	jpeg	Self Bind gravel and handrail illustrating alternative path material and handrail style from entrance gate
6	jpeg	Initial Clearance. Volunteers clearing area of undergrowth to establish ground conditions.
7	jpeg	Bird Hide Interior. Secondary stage of project to create support for educational project and use by wildlife group
8	jpeg	Bird Feed Stations. Located near hide.
9	jpeg	Edwardian style bench to respect the heritage of the Estate and support progress with a Parks and Gardens application
10	jpeg	MPHT Wildlife Area. Map showing area within which pocket park will be located and wildlife area outside the park

Please return your application to us by e-mail to [pocketparks@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pocketparks@communities.gsi.gov.uk) by **5:00pm on Thursday 10 December 2015**

Thank you for your application.