

Application Form

The NGS Elspeth Thompson Bursary

Applicant Name:	ELSPETH BROADY LRSP Coordinator
Organisation (if applicable):	London Road Station Partnership (LRSP)
Address:	147 Ditchling Rise, Brighton BN1 4QQ
Telephone:	07709 069486 or 01273 605878
Email:	elspeth_broady@msn.com or lrsp@hotmail.co.uk
Is the application on behalf of an individual, group or organisation?	On behalf of a group
Date and duration of proposed project:	March 2012 – November 2012
Project summary Please outline in a maximum 500 words the details of your project and why you think it should be considered for an NGS Elspeth Thompson Bursary. This project focuses on the replanting and sustainable maintenance by community gardeners of four large planters situated at one of Brighton's most prominent and polluted cross-roads. The aim is to use plants to bring some beauty to an environment dominated by car traffic but much used by pedestrians and cyclists; to provide a focus for community engagement; and to raise environmental awareness. Brighton & Hove City Council erected the planters at Preston Circus (main junction of East-West/North-South roads) but are now seeking community support for their replanting: currently, there is minimal planting of <i>lavendula stoechas</i> and some stray nasturtium. The planters are approx. 125 cm x 75 cm x 100cm (see photos below). An existing gardening group (London Road Station Partnership - LRSP) proposes to build community interest/ownership to achieve replanting which has maximum visual impact for the public, but is also thought-provoking, drawing attention to how plants can work in challenging urban environments. LRSP brings together 15+ volunteers and has experience of transforming urban wasteland around a station into small community gardens (see blog at http://londonrdstationpartnership.wordpress.com/about/) Their aim is to establish a sustainable strategy for the planters in 2012 through: a) talking to local residents, traders and community groups (including e.g. local primary school) about plans for the planters b) setting up a specific group of volunteers to work on the planters c) organising some training for volunteers, to enhance plant knowledge, understanding	

- of sustainable planting, maintenance of soil and irrigation for containers
- d) researching and preparing a planting plan
- e) restoring the growing medium and investigating irrigation
- f) establishing a maintenance timetable for volunteers
- g) planting and maintaining the planters
- h) disseminating information about planters through a blog, local newsletters, local press, engagement with local primary school and information posters on site.

Through successful replanting in 2012, the project then aims to motivate further involvement in cash and kind by residents, local businesses, associations and schools to ensure sustainable maintenance of these planters.

Project costs and funding

Please outline in as much detail as possible the expected cost of your project and, where relevant, any other potential source of funding.

Note: applications without some supporting financial information/estimates cannot be considered.

Funding of **£1,000** is sought to kick-start the project:

- a) a local information campaign about the planters, focusing on the exciting challenge of achieving attractive and sustainable planting in an urban, polluted site;

printing of A4 leaflets x 1000	£35
A4 laminated street posters x 40	£15
 - b) a half-day workshop for volunteers on designing/planting for public raised beds

tutor/consultant costs	£200
documentation, tea & coffee	£50
 - c) purchase of plants and sundries for planting spring 2012, including perennials and small shrubs for sustainable structure and annuals for immediate impact

shrubs and perennials	£240
annuals	£200
sundries (soil improver, grit, mulch, irrigation etc.)	£160
 - d) purchase of frames for information posters to be placed by the planters, and related sundries (paper, printing etc.)

4 x A2 weather and tamper resistant frames	£70
printing costs etc.	£30
- Tools, storage, access to greenhouse space etc., can be provided by volunteers.
 - Brighton Community Resource Centre provides low-cost services (e.g. printing, laminating etc.) and equipment for community groups.
 - Local expertise is likely to be available from The Garden House (local business) or from Plumpton College.
 - Plants can be sourced from Brighton & Hove Stamner Nurseries at a 10% discount for community groups.
 - Brighton & Hove City Council's Environment Improvement Officer, Simon Bannister, has been consulted and supports this project.

Completed forms should be emailed to the Royal Horticultural Society at:

ngsbursary@rhs.org.uk



Four planters at Preston Circus, Brighton