

Grant application – Friends of Newton Arboretum

The Friends of Newton Arboretum wish to apply for financial support under the NSCPC 'Grant Giving Policy'.

The amount requested is **£893.88** for the following items. To purchase 2 new noticeboards to display an Arboretum Code of Conduct with important Health & safety information to be placed at both entrances. To provide Public Liability Insurance with Zurich Insurance that was understood to be previously covered by NSCPC.

Overview of the organisation.

The Governance and structure of the Friends of Newton Arboretum.

The arboretum remains in private ownership but since 2008 has been rented to NSCPC for a small annual sum. The tenancy stipulates that the arboretum shall be managed by a voluntary not for profit group, named Friends of Newton Arboretum. The Friends was constituted in 2010 and are a subscription-based non-profit organisation with approximately 130 members. There is a committee of officers who manage the arboretum on a day-to-day basis, assisted by a dedicated team of local volunteers. The committee includes all the expected officials as designated in the constitution as well as a tree manager who is an arboreal professional and a site manager. An AGM is held annually at which the work of the committee and volunteers is reviewed and aims for the next year are set. Regular committee meetings are held throughout the year to monitor and guide programmes of works in the arboretum, to consider and act on matters of health and safety and to manage public usage of the site. We also hold regular fund-raising events.

The History and background.

The arboretum was established in the 1760s by the Quicke family as a private facility and many specimen trees, often exotics, were planted throughout the decades. The Quicques (who remain an important land-owning and farming family in the parish) used the arboretum as a pleasure ground and botanical collection for more than 200 years, but it fell into disuse in the latter part of the twentieth century and became overgrown. Parishioners gathered to campaign for public access in the first decade of this century. Licensed to the parish council in 2008 by the Quicke's, after the formation of the Friends in 2010, the site was extensively prepared between 2010 and 2011 and opened to the public in 2011.

The Current activities and functions.

It is now a much-loved local facility, home to a diverse range of native and exotic trees and other flora which has open spaces and wonderful countryside views. The 9-acre arboretum welcomes everyone, regularly hosting groups from a local nursery school and our village primary school, as well as adult wellbeing groups, specialist talks and fund-raising events such as outdoor amateur theatre productions. Informal everyday usage by the public includes for exercise (human and canine), children's play and for artistic inspiration. The village does not have a public park at its core, and it cannot be over emphasised how important the arboretum is in fulfilling the functions of a council-owned park in terms of health, wellbeing and recreation. In addition, an accessible path for use by wheelchairs or mobility scooters has been created at the centre of the site.

The Arboretum Committee is currently reviewing the option to apply for status as a registered charity. This will be considered at next Committee Meeting and if agreed would need to be confirmed by Friends at an AGM.

The Friends of the Arboretum has 3 objectives.

1. To maintain and enhance the Arboretum in Newton St Cyres for the benefit of the public.
2. To manage the Arboretum on behalf of NSCPC in accord with the Licence agreement between the Parish Council and John Quicke.
3. To obtain and manage funds for the maintenance and enhancement of the Arboretum.

Membership is open to any person living in Newton St Cyres and the surrounding area.

A copy of the 2024 Accounts and an independent examiner's statement is attached.

The Arboretum holds two accounts with HSBC Bank in Exeter and has four different signatories.

The purpose of the grant funds requested.

- £150.00 to cover the cost of the renewal of Zurich insurance for Public Liability, Personal Accident and financial and Administration Liability. Last year the cost was £143.15. (See attached policy document for full details and cover.) The need for this cover was identified by NSCPC this year. Previously the Friends Committee understood that this was covered by the Parish Council's Insurance.
- A recent Health & Safety check by the Council and Friends Officers identified the need for a clear code of conduct to be visible to all visitors. Two new external noticeboards are required at both entrances by the gate to the Arboretum and the footpath from Quicke's. Please find attached a quote for 2 noticeboards of the correct size which are freestanding. The Arboretum Committee will arrange to locate as agreed and fix into ground.

The cost is £309.95 plus vat x2=£743.88

Total of £893.88

Marcus Iles

Treasurer of the Friends of Newton Arboretum

On behalf of the Committee of Newton Arboretum.

Please find attached to support this grant application.

- A copy of Friends of Newton Arboretum Constitution.
- A copy of the Licence agreement between John Quicke and NSCPC.
- The Arboretum's last year's financial accounts.
- The Independent examiner's statement of the Accounts.
- The Zurich Insurance document.

- Proposed external Noticeboards to purchase.