



LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND
Annual Report 2019

The Lancashire Environmental Fund was established in 1998 as a not-for-profit organisation to support community and environmental projects within Lancashire with grants generated by the Landfill Communities Fund. Funds are provided by SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd.

The Fund is an equal partnership between SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd, Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Community Futures. Representatives from each organisation serve on the Fund's Board and Application Assessment Group to ensure that the best projects throughout the county, which provide environmental, community and social benefits, are supported.



Landfill Communities Fund (LCF)

Tax on landfilling waste was introduced to allow for a small percentage of the tax to be donated to not-for-profit organisations who achieve environmental and/or social objectives. The LCF is managed by HM Revenue and Customs and is regulated by ENTRUST. To find out more about the Landfill Communities Fund visit www.entrust.org.uk



Community and environmental groups can apply to Lancashire Environmental Fund for awards up to £30,000 from three funding streams –



Green Grants (up to £1,000)



Small Grants (up to £15,000)



Main Grants (up to £30,000)

Projects to date have included improvements to community facilities, general environmental improvements, creation and management of habitats, improvements to parks, gardens, open spaces, play areas, recreational facilities, ponds, canals, rivers and natural biodiversity.

Lancashire Environmental Fund Board

CC Albert Atkinson – Cabinet Member for Technical Services, Rural Affairs and Waste Management, Lancashire County Council

John Wilkinson – Regional Director Energy North, SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd

John Drury – Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Frank McGinty – Community Futures

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Photography: Jennifer Tidy, Andy Rowett and project contributors.





Andy Rowett
Fund Manager
Lancashire Environmental Fund

12 months has flown by since the Fund celebrated 20 years of grant making. This year we'll be coming of age!

21 years of grant making is a long time and you would have thought that we'd have done it all, but apparently not. I sometimes refer to the projects we support as our 'bread and butter' schemes. Improving a play area, replacing a community facility kitchen or enhancing a greenspace or nature reserve, it's what we do. Each project however, has its own individual little quirk or twist. None more so than the Towneley Park inclusive play with its wheelchair accessible swing. The Fund has been involved with so many play areas over the years, but this is definitely a first.

It's always great to see a 'finished job' and a trip to Silverdale Village Institute, for their weekly coffee and cake event and chat with the locals or hiking up to the top of Pendle Hill to plant Cotton grass and heather with a group of young police cadets, were invitations too good to refuse. It gives us all a great sense of satisfaction at the Fund to see the projects we support come to fruition and meet the aspirations of the groups that apply.

I am only one part of the Fund and a huge thanks must go the Board, the appraisal panel and staff for their continued hard work and commitment to the Fund.

CC Albert Atkinson
Chair of the Fund Board
Lancashire County Council

Lancashire County Council has a long association with the Lancashire Environmental Fund along with other key partners, Community Futures, Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Suez Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd, the donating landfill operator. For 21 years the Fund has supported many high quality projects that have provided improvements for communities and the environment across the county. It's a real pleasure to be involved in the funding decision-making process and a personal highlight was attending the unveiling of the 'Walking Snake' on Beacon Fell Country Park.

Last year, at the 20th Anniversary event, it was inspiring to meet and talk with so many of the groups who have received support and to hear individual stories about the benefit and significant changes that our grants have made.

This year's report reflects on another positive 12 months of grant making. Whether the projects are large undertakings or small one off schemes, every one in its way is making a difference to the county's communities, greenspaces, play facilities and natural environments.

Finally, writing the foreword for the Annual Report gives me the opportunity to express my thanks to my fellow LEF Board members and the Fund staff for their continuing professionalism and commitment to delivering the funding.

Kitchen Refit, Silverdale Village Institute - £11,425

Silverdale Village Institute - www.silverdalevillageinstitute.co.uk

Silverdale Village Institute is a charity run for the residents of the village of Silverdale in North Lancashire and consists of a Village Hall and neighbouring playing field.

The Hall is available to hire for one off events or by regular user groups which include: a toddler group, foreign language group, tai chi and weekly coffee morning incorporating a thrift shop. The Hall also hosts music and performing arts events, Parish Council meetings and the annual Silverdale Sports Day, in addition to being a venue on the annual local Arts Trail.

This project has completely refurbished the kitchen, including: new floor, rewiring of electrics, new kitchen units, worktops, cooker and fridge, new window and redecoration. The improved catering facilities will benefit current user groups, encourage new regular community groups and will enable the hall to be used for private parties.





Development of Northbrook Barn, Leyland - £50,000

Wellfield Church, Leyland - www.wellfieldchurch.blogspot.com

Wellfield Church has operated out of Northbrook Barn since 2013 and is located on the Broadfield Estate in Leyland; one of the most deprived areas of South Ribble. Originally, Northbrook Barn comprised of a number of small, self-contained offices and was not suitable for the community outreach and other activities taking place in the facility.

The property has been internally renovated, with a larger meeting room, community room, refurbished toilets and a new kitchen which provides the capacity to cater for events and to provide cooking lessons for the wider community. The building can also be hired for social and other activities.

As part of The Fund's 20th Anniversary celebrations in 2018, five grants of an additional £20,000 were awarded to worthwhile projects chosen by the LEF Board of Trustees. This project was a beneficiary and the extra payment covered a funding shortfall.

Rhyddings Park Walled Garden Restoration - £30,000

Newground in association with Hyndburn Borough Council

www.newground.co.uk

Rhyddings Park is a community park near Oswaldtwistle town centre. The park is 4.4 hectares in size and is managed by Hyndburn Borough Council with help from the Friends of Rhyddings Park group.

This project turned the derelict walled garden into an educational garden with small plots, a more formal garden for schools/educational purposes and a larger community garden and orchard with a glass house. A former coach house was also developed into a community resource centre which incorporates a café, training facilities and an education hub.

The area will be used as a training venue for the community to get hands on experience of food growing and use the skills learnt to grow their own. The scheme is part of a wider £1.4M Heritage Lottery scheme to bring the historic park back to its former glory.





Theodore House Landscaping Project, Stonyhurst - £30,000 **The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst - www.christianheritagecentre.com**

The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst is an independent charity. Theodore House is on the site of a former working mill and is a grade II listed building which has recently been converted into a residential and day facility.

This project was to landscape the grounds of Theodore House for visitors to enjoy with stone paving, shrub and tree planting, sculpture, water feature and seating.

It is adjacent to a public footpath, woodland, eighteenth century gardens and the popular Tolkien Trail. The Christian Heritage Centre wanted to create a space where people can relax and recharge their batteries in peaceful surroundings. Theodore House is open throughout the year with access to the landscaped grounds.

Two Trees Community Orchard, Clayton le Woods - £1,000

Two Trees Community Garden

Two Trees Community Nature Reserve is an area of land rented from Chorley Council by the Two Trees Community Garden group. There are pathways leading from a pond into wildflower meadow habitat and areas planted with native fruit trees.

In 2017 the group planted an orchard with the help of members of the local community. This Green Grant project further developed the area with more fruit trees, wildflower planting and recycled plastic benches.

The beds were planted with soft fruit bushes including: blackberry, cherry, strawberry, gooseberry and the public are able to pick the fruit for their own use. Wildlife habitats have also been created including bug hotels, hedgehog houses and by using bee friendly plants.



Bancroft Mill Lighting and Signage Improvements, Barnoldswick - £960

Bancroft Mill Engine Trust - www.bancroftmill.org.uk

Bancroft Mill Engine Trust is a charity formed in 1980 to preserve the industrial heritage of the last working steam mill engine in the area.

This Green Grant project replaced the lighting with energy efficient alternatives to save energy, reduce costs and provide better light levels. The project has also installed new signage so that more visitors are attracted to the site and are better informed with a coherent and updated image.

Pupils at West Craven School in Barnoldswick were asked to design a new logo to launch the Mill into its second century - the engine was first officially started in March 1920. The winning logo was based on a design by Conor Holt who won a prize and officially unveiled the new logo on 24th March 2019.



Giant Bug Hotel, Walton Park, South Ribble - £700

Walton Park Friends Group

Walton Park is a green space on the edge of Walton Park estate, a popular development to the south of Preston. This mature park is well-used by the local community mainly for short recreational walking.

The Green Grant project created a giant bug hotel (2.5m x 2.5m) using large sleepers filled with natural materials including: bricks, clay pipes, logs, tiles, bamboo canes and pine cones offering a new habitat and safe haven for insects on the park. It is also providing an interesting feature for visitors to look at when they visit the park.

The structure was erected by the Community Payback Team and filled on a community day by members of the Friends group, the Eco-Committee from Lostock Hall Community Primary School and neighbourhood officers from South Ribble Borough Council.



Scotch Quarry Park Wildflower Meadow, Lancaster - £982

The Fruity Corners Project - www.fruitycorners.org.uk

The Fruity Corners Project is a community garden project aimed at improving public spaces, increasing habitats and food sources for wildlife, increasing public awareness of permaculture and providing community activities in the garden.

This Green Grant project has transformed an existing field within Scotch Quarry Community Park into a wildflower meadow, complete with seating area. Three separate paths lead from the edge of the meadow to the central seating area, allowing park users to experience the meadow in its fullness.



The main purpose of the project is to increase biodiversity and to ensure the stability of pollinators in the area. The work was carried out by volunteers who cut, scarified then planted wildflower seeds and plugs. Stone from the quarry was used in the seating and local mosaic artist, Janette Ireland, provided three mosaic pieces to sit around the bench to give a decorative finish.

Briercliffe Recreation Ground Woodland Walk - £24,165

Briercliffe Parish Council - www.briercliffeparishcouncil.co.uk

This project has improved and extended an existing, deteriorating and often muddy woodland track around Briercliffe Recreation Ground, to make it accessible for all members of the community throughout the year and in all weather conditions.

Drainage to some sections of the path was required and a kissing gate entrance constructed. Three noticeboards have been installed providing more information about the area. An accessible viewing platform with recycled plastic seating was created for the community to sit and enjoy the view.

Members of the community can now use the path for walking, jogging, bird watching, family exercise, picnics and community events, such as treasure hunts and nature trails.



Welcome to Briercliffe Woodland Walk

This hilly area was once covered in Britar Roses, sometimes called Dog Roses, giving rise to the name Briercliffe. Our circular Woodland Walk is almost a kilometre long.

The Burnley Way and Cycle Way, the Bronte Way and the Shuttle Way all have routes through our Parish.

With its combination of fine moorland countryside, biological heritage site, interesting walks, and a wealth of industrial history at Queen Street Mill – Briercliffe is certainly worth a visit.

Map Key:

- Woodland Walk
- 1 Parish Wood
- 2 Jinny Spring Wood
- 3 King George VI Playing Field
- 4 Community Sports Hut
- 5 Playground
- 6 Multi-use Games Area
- 7 Viewing Platform
- 8 Briercliffe Allotments
- 9 River Don
- 10 Queen Street Mill Textile Museum
- 11 Centenary Oaks

Please Keep Dogs Under Control

Please Clean Up After Your Dog

Please Take Litter Home

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

Burnley.gov.uk





Replacing the Snake, Beacon Fell Country Park - £30,000

Cardinal Allen High School Eco Group, Fleetwood

www.cardinalallen.co.uk/eco-school

Beacon Fell Country Park is home to a number of sculptures reflecting local wildlife. One of the most popular was the wooden 'walking snake' which gradually succumbed to decay and was removed for safety reasons. It was much loved by the pupils of Cardinal Allen High School Eco group who wanted to see the snake replaced and have been the real driving force behind this project.

The snake's original sculptor, Thompson Dagnell, was commissioned to bring the snake to life again, this time in stone. The head section is carved from a single block of local millstone grit, with a feature drystone wall making up the rest of the 50m long body.

The snake uniquely combines public art, creativity and the use of natural materials, providing an iconic, exciting piece of outdoor play equipment that will last for many generations.

Towneley Park Inclusive Play Area, Burnley - £30,000

The Friends of Towneley Park - www.fotp.btck.co.uk

Towneley Park is Burnley's principal park, situated close to the centre and attracts visitors from across the town and neighbouring boroughs. The park comprises of open space, a children's play area, golf course, football pitches, Offshoots Permaculture Project and historic Towneley Hall, in addition to a café and refreshment kiosks.

The Friends of Towneley Park are a very active group of volunteers who help to maintain and improve the park, as well as running a variety of activities. The play area was first opened in the mid 1990's, and has been well-used, but the Friends group wanted to create new inclusive play facilities to allow children of all abilities to play together.

The play area has been refurbished with a new inclusive roundabout, ability swing and seesaw. A new climbing unit, play tower and elements of musical play have also been incorporated. The existing sand and water play has been improved with a new water pump and accessible features.





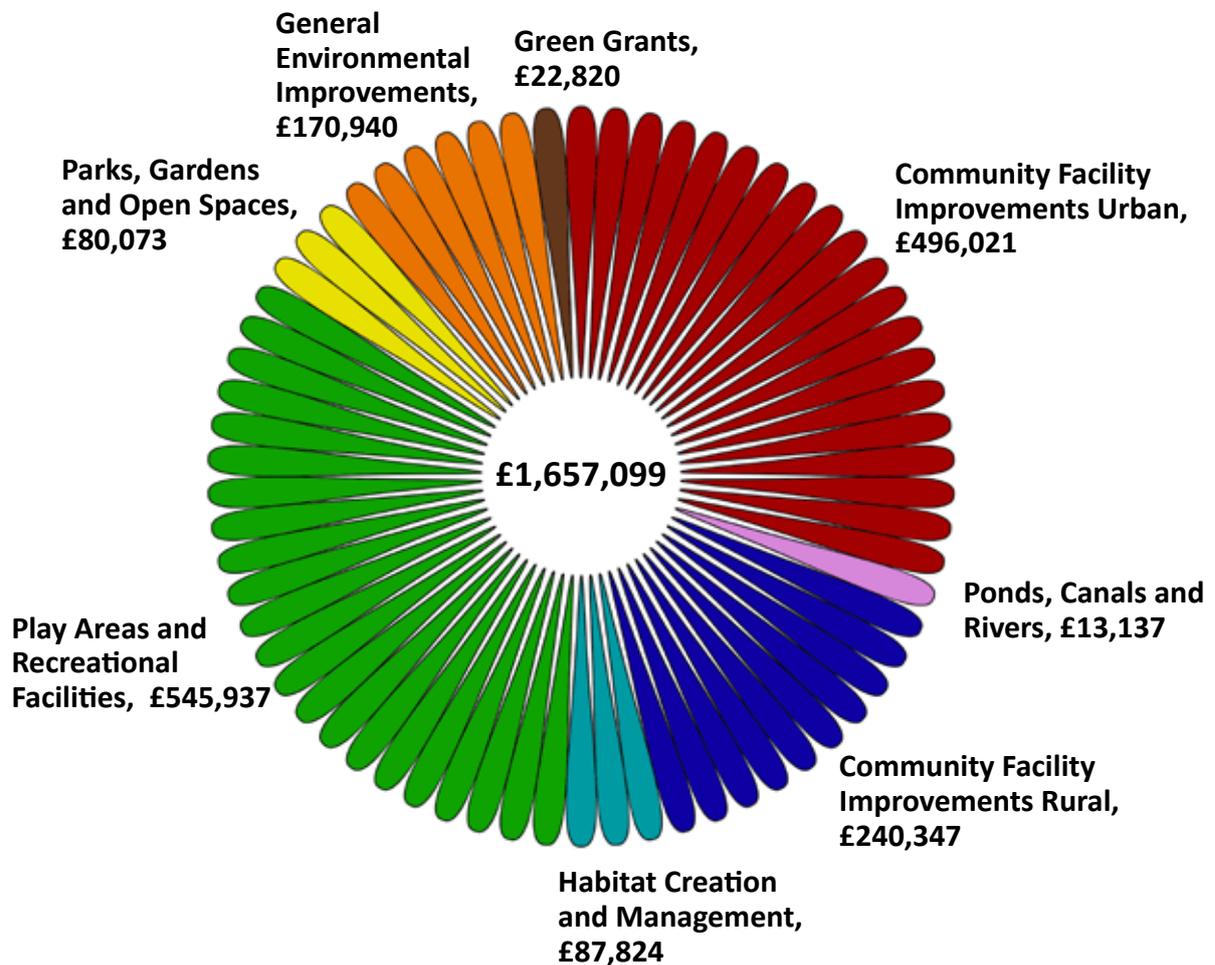
Stone Play, Croft Field, Croston - £23,000

Croft Field Volunteers

The Croft Field in Croston is a community managed greenspace owned by St Michael & All Angels Parochial Church Council. The field was a parcel of grazing land 20 years ago. When grazing ceased a mixture of trees were planted and a path created along the riverside, in addition to a circular walking route with seating.

This project installed natural stone play features including: a giant Gruffalo sculpture, a hopscotch and stone circle which require low maintenance and are long lasting. The project also included a new swing, gateway features, pathways, seating and carvings on the trail.

Funding For Projects 2018-2019



The Fund has approved £1,657 million of grants to support 101 projects which is an increase of 20% over the previous 12 months.

23 Green Grants of up to £1,000 have been awarded for small scale community and environmental schemes, an increase of 50% over the previous 12 months.

78 projects were supported under the Main and Small Grant programmes – an increase of 25% over the previous 12 months.

Almost half a million pounds awarded to urban community projects.

24 children's play areas supported throughout the county.

Financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2018

	2018	2017
	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Landfill tax credits	1,287,383	1,435,965
Interest received.....	21,052	17,110
Total incoming resources.....	1,308,435	1,453,075
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Grants (paid and payable)	1,657,099	1,380,274
Grants cancelled	(95,112)	(46,045)
Entrust levy.....	40,058	39,163
Management and Administration	80,391	78,933
Total resources expended.....	1,682,436	1,452,325
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources.....	(374,001)	750
Surplus at 31 December 2018	1,308,557	1,682,558
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018		
Current Assets		
Debtors	16,437	10,758
Short Term investments	-	-
Cash on deposit at bank	3,265,000	3,263,150
	3,281,437	3,273,908
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(1,972,880)	(1,591,350)
Net assets (including £150,000 reserve)	1,308,557	1,682,558

The above summary of financial activities and balance sheet has been extracted from the audited financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2018.

Further information

A copy of the full audited accounts can be obtained from : The Company Secretary, Lancashire Environmental Fund Ltd., PO Box 78, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ

