



# BIG Warsop Activity Proposal 2020/21

<b>1. Contact Details:</b> Who is making the application?	Organisation: Ecologic	
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Before completing this Activity Proposal form it would be useful to read the Big Warsop Plan in order to understand our vision, project themes, priorities and outcomes. You should consider these when writing your application for funding. The plan can be found on our website [www.bigwarsop.com](http://www.bigwarsop.com)

## 2. Project Name - Future Greens in Warsop Parish

### Project Description

Ecologic, working in Partnership with Vibrant Warsop, have been developing the concept of an environmental and horticulture training centre, with support from Big Warsop since the inception of the Future Greens project in 2016.

We are now an accredited centre, delivering ABC Award courses and providing volunteer and work experience opportunities within Warsop in particular and across the Regional character area of Sherwood in general.

This activity proposal will enable Ecologic to coordinate and provide environmental and horticulture projects and activity throughout the Parish of Warsop.

This builds upon previous Future Greens activity and will support a significant growth in the capacity of Ecologic to support Warsop Parish. The key new element from past Future Greens applications is that Ecologic will be able deliver projects within Market Warsop which are funded by external agencies. This is the result of many years partnership work by Ecologic with local organisations and recognition in our professionalism and trust in our work.

The main hurdle to achieving this inward investment for Warsop is lack of transport to enable Warsop residents to engage in activities. This proposal seeks funding for a minibus, additional resources and coordination time or activities. With these items funded then the staff time to run the activities will come from external funders.

The Transport Challenge - Ecologic currently can only provide transport for 3 volunteers, even with the limited current activity due to Covid19 that is not enough for current let alone future needs. More importantly the standard group size is 8 people. Ecologic is in the process of formalising the project delivery, but without a vehicle it cannot deliver in general and most specifically for Warsop Parish. The mini buses held by Meden School in general have proven to be not available when needed in the past.

Given the work is on tracks and green sites a reliable second hand minibus is perfectly suitable, it will be frequently used but only for short distances as it will only be for local use. The proposal is that Ecologic is the registered keeper and responsible for overheads, however ownership can be with another organisation, e.g. Vibrant Warsop. Vibrant Warsop are logical because they are a long-term partner and also have unmet transport needs.

Additionally, a good quality and robust lawn mower suitable for footpath work and a trailer are also needed to take full advantage of the project funding.

The combined funding from Big Warsop and from external providers will enable Ecologic to focus delivery in Warsop Parish. This will include:

- Having the capacity to plan and manage current and potential projects
- Develop the capacity of current and future team members to take on more responsibility for delivery of activities.
- Direct support for existing Future Greens activities, e.g. footpaths group.

Aside from staff and coordination costs Ecologic needs business development support, this can be provided by Vibrant Warsop and the resources listed in para 10.

### New Applications Please Tell us

- a) What are you going to do?
- b) How will you do it?
- c) How many people will be involved etc.
- d) How will it be managed?
- e) how are you going to monitor its progress?

### Repeat Applications

if this is a repeat application please tell us if anything is different this time? What have you learned from your last project and how will you do things differently?

**3. Which of our five themes does your project support? (please circle or highlight, as appropriate)**

**Strengthening  
Communities**

**Empowering  
People**

**Supporting  
People**

**Improving the  
Environment**

**Having things to  
do?**

**4. Expected outcomes of the activity.**

What difference will the activity make to local people and the Parish of Warsop?

In general, residents will be given the opportunity to improve their health and well-being, knowledge and skills and they will be able to identify green spaces and rights of way networks on their doorstep, encouraging them to engage with the local environment after their time spent within the project.

Additionally, the project will create:

- Volunteer Opportunities
- Work experience for residents

Accredited Training Certificates within the land-based and environmental sector

It is anticipated it will also create:

- Work for local sub-contractors who have developed their skills through past Future Greens activity.
- Developing the confidence of participants to undertake contract work for private customers.

Not only will local people be able to become involved with projects happening in Warsop, they will also be given the opportunity to work across a greater variety of habitats and communities within the Sherwood scheme area.

With a minibus we will be able to manage greater numbers of participants and offer a more diverse variety of projects that local people can become involved in.

The Parish of Warsop will be linked to surrounding communities undertaking environmental and horticultural projects and thus raise the profile of the good work taking place within Warsop and also highlighting the ability to work with others across a wider area, delivering support and skills training to potentially more people.

**5. Project Location**

Where project is to be located? (although the project does not need to be located within Warsop Parish, your plan must clearly show how local people will be involved in and benefit from the activity)

Throughout the Parish of Warsop and nearby linking to other areas where there are opportunities for participants to extend their skills.

**6. What consents are required and when given? e.g. Planning Permission**

Planning permission needed for the Meden school project to go ahead.

## 7. What links are there to existing activities?

a) Are other organisations involved in the project? b) Does it help or complement other projects operating in the area?

As mentioned in previous reports, there appeared to be an availability of funds, for environmental based training, through the Miner to Major programme. It was highlighted that the scheme was not yet up and running and it looked uncertain whether this funding would be available. Having worked with The Sherwood Forest Trust on this, I was informed by Patrick Candler, CEO, that I would perhaps be better pursuing this alone, rather than in partnership with SFT, as they were having difficulty making sense of the scheme and accessing available funding.

However, I am happy to report that I have continued to pursue the viability of funding and I have recently met with the M2M scheme manager, Steve Little, who was very positive about working with Ecologic to deliver a range of courses across the Sherwood area, which includes working with the communities within Warsop. I have been asked provide a programme of Have a Go courses for the period Sept – Dec 2020, which they would be happy to fund.

Steve also stated they would be happy to provide longer term funding for delivery, admin, room hire, promotion and marketing and some resources.

From January 2021 I have been asked to put together a delivery programme for accredited training and will be looking at offering training in Practical Conservation skills.

I will also be applying to the scheme to pay for volunteer machinery training such as Pedestrian mower, Brush-cutter and Hedge-trimmer, which will help with the management of the Rights of Way network across Warsop and strengthen the support for the work that we do with the Warsop Footpaths and Countryside Group.

Through working in partnership with Vibrant Warsop we have managed to secure funding for the delivery of a level 1 course in Practical Horticulture skills, alongside securing money to install a polytunnel and to create a butterfly garden.

We have been liaising with Meden School, to utilise a plot of land attached to the school, for course delivery and habitat creation. However, due to the coronavirus outbreak, we are on hold with these development activities, although the school are very supportive of us running this type of project from the school.

In addition to the above funding, funding to train the trainer is also available, which I will be looking at to expand and develop the business.

All of this ties in with the work that Ecologic have been undertaking outside Warsop, and I have now created links with similar projects in New Ollerton and Ransomwood in Mansfield.

One such link is the development of working relationships with Lifespring Church both in Warsop and in Ollerton. We will deliver horticulture based training and improve the wildlife potential of existing sites

This means that in addition to the working in Warsop, the programme makes positive links with surrounding communities offering the same opportunities to local people but expanding the geographical range with which we can work, strengthening future funding bids by working in multi organisation partnerships

As stated above, the project now extends beyond Warsop and into the wider Sherwood area. The promise of funding means that we can work with the partners of the Miner to Major scheme, namely RSPB, Notts Wildlife Trust, Notts County Council and other local community organisations including Friends of groups, raising the profile of the work already done and offering opportunity to consolidate and attract additional funding after the Big Warsop programme ends.

Ecologic have established links and are working with a variety of other organisations across Sherwood including The Academy Transformation Trust FE, Newark and Sherwood CVS, Newark and Sherwood District Council, Mansfield District Council and a variety of other local organisations and groups

## 8. Monitoring & Evaluation.

If your proposal is successful then you will be required to complete a review and evaluation pro-forma (example available on our website). Please let us know if you intend to undertake any other monitoring in addition to this.

Health and Safety monitoring of activities

Skills development and progress reports of participants / volunteers / trainees.

Training records and portfolio development

## 9. Project Timescale

Start date: Sept 2020

End date: Aug 2021

## 10. Cost of Project and Funding Requested

State the amount you are requesting from **BIG Warsop** and the amount you are requesting from other funders (if any).

If you are requesting funding from other sources please indicate if this has already been secured.

Funder	Amount	Date Secured
BIG Warsop	£15k	N/A
Other:		
<b>TOTAL</b>		

## 11. Big Warsop Funding Breakdown

Item Description	Cost (£)
<b>Second hand minibus (16-seater)</b>	<b>8295</b>
<b>Lawn mower</b>	<b>2500</b>
<b>10 days Coordination work @ £200 daily rate</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Insurance, ABC accreditation, First Aid course</b>	<b>1005</b>
<b>Resources, mileage and equipment</b>	<b>1200</b>

## 13. Forward Strategy

Do you plan to carry this activity on past the BIG Warsop funded timeframe? If so how will this be achieved? Have you considered how this project might sustain itself?

The long-term strategy is to become a sustainable, income generating social enterprise with an ethos/strapline of resolving global problems at a local level through delivery of environmental and social regeneration projects. This will focus on 3 areas:

1 - Training (the key role) in Horticulture and Conservation for:

- Long-term unemployed
- Increased skills into employment

2 - Practical Conservation for:

- Public spaces and communities

3 - Landscape Contractor

- Arboriculture (tree work)
- Wildlife gardening
- Landscaping

4 - Growing produce and making items from woodland management operations.

<b>14.Applicant Declaration</b>	<b>I declare that to the best of my knowledge and believe the information given on the application form and in my supporting material is correct. I accept the Terms and Conditions should my application be successful.</b>
<b>Applicant Signature:</b>	
<b>Name and Title:</b>	Andy Hollis
<b>On behalf of: (name of organisation)</b>	Ecologic
<b>Date:</b>	30.08.2020