

Pocket Parks Plus – A realistic offer?



Pocket Parks Plus Fund

MHCLG Announced £1 million pound fund for:

- Development of pocket parks
- Refurbishment of areas within existing parks

Areas identified by local communities working in partnership with local authority.

Community expected to be involved in design, creation and future management.

Applicable to England only



Reasons for the Fund

- Government acknowledge health benefits of greenspaces
- Wider benefits of quality local environments
- Reducing isolation through community cohesion actions
- Create tailored green spaces which meet the needs of local community



What is a pocket park?

- Up to 0.4 hectares (0.2 hectare average size)
- Size of a tennis court
- Looking for innovative designs as well as traditional
- £15,000 minimum of 30% match funding
- Landowners permission
- Not applicable for any development that is already planned.



Refurbishment of areas within existing parks

- Improving access for people with limited mobility
- Refurbishing a children's play area
- Creating a focal point for families
- Not applicable for general maintenance or repairs
- Improve safety and usability
- £25,000 grant (capital/revenue)



Criteria for successful bids

- Evidence of need
- Group constitution
- Agreed site
- Biodiversity and connectivity enhanced
- Minimum 30% match funding
- Deliverability and VFM
- Sustainability
- Evaluation



Timescales

- Bid submitted by 25th January 2019
- Money received by early March 2019
- **Monies spent by March 31st 2019**



Do pocket parks make a difference?

- Has anyone applied for the Pocket Park Plus Fund?
- Pocket park or refurbishment?
- What work is envisaged?
- Key elements of meeting criteria
- Level of match-funding gained and from where?
- Community engagement and confidence in sustainability
- Fall back plan.
- **Is this type of grant welcomed?**
- **Is it spread too thinly – quantity over quality?**

Pocket Parks in General

- Who has pocket parks and how many?
- How were they developed?
- Local authority or community managed?
- Do they work better in specific areas e.g. housing estates
- Pros and cons



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