

ESATES PRIDE SMALL SCALE WORKS REQUEST AT TINTAGEL CLOSE COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT AND GARDEN, ARBORETUM WARD

Report of the Head of Housing Management.

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Project Derby is a constituted group of volunteers that run a Food Bank, Community Pantry, community allotment and a community garden from Derby Homes-managed Tintagel Common Room. They also provide activities and training for people of all ages to increase community cohesion, reduce social isolation and promote physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing.
- 1.2 It has an established Service Level Agreement with Derby City Council to run activities from the Common Room, and is part of the Food4Thought Alliance. It has received past funding from the DACP (Derby Association of Community Partners) for allotment equipment, and from local businesses.
- 1.3 Since its establishment in 2020, membership numbers continue to increase and the project's success has gone from strength to strength. Demand for additional activities, including school holiday programmes via referrals from the Mandala Centre, has resulted in Project Derby seeking another on-site space as part of the Estates Pride Bid process.
- 1.4 The results of a wider consultation on the proposal with 22 residents who pay a service charge for the upkeep of Tintagel Community Space, and who also access the services and activities there, can be seen in Appendix 1. The bid received 100% support from those who took part in the consultation.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve the installation of a summerhouse within the community garden and allotment space at Tintagel Close.

3. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To provide additional activities and opportunities to Derby Homes' customers and the wider community, and to increase the number of people accessing services.

4. MATTER(S) FOR CONSIDERATION

4.1 Small-scale works look to improve our estates and communities. Any bid over £10,000 needs Operational Board approval. Works under this amount are approved by the Estates Maintenance Manager and the Head of Housing Management.

4.2 Current Facilities

- Project Derby is currently operating the Food Bank and Community Pantry, coffee mornings and all other activities from the Tintagel Close Common Room. Building fire safety regulations restrict the maximum room capacity to 35 due to the remaining available space not taken up by the pantry shelves and food storage area – reducing to 25 when members in mobility scooters and wheelchairs attend.
- The committee estimates that the addition of the summerhouse will increase usage and enable multiple activities to run simultaneously from both areas.

4.3 Current Membership, Activities and Usage

- There are currently 266 residents registered with Project Derby living in the Arboretum ward.
- The project has 14 active volunteers helping to run activities and services.
- 36 individuals and families access the Community Pantry each week.
- 108 people actively engage in activities each week.
- Activities currently being offered are:
 - Tai Chi – capped at 7 members due to restricted space.
 - Crafts – 42 participants, split in to two groups of 21 due to restricted space.
 - Coffee Mornings – 65 people access these open sessions.
 - Community Garden and Allotment – 33 people take part in these open outdoor sessions.
 - Online Training – 105 people access this.
 - School Holiday Activities – currently capped at 25 due to restricted space.
- Project Derby also works closely with restorative justice organisation Remedi, to provide volunteering opportunities for young offenders to give back to their communities as part of their rehabilitation. Ten young people take part in this five days a week.

4.4 Potential Activities and Usage

- The installation of a summerhouse will enable Project Derby to run the following activities for more people:
 - Crafts, Tai Chi and the Community Pantry – numbers are expected to double, to 85.
 - Remedi – places will double to 20.
 - School Holiday Activities – Project Derby will be able to offer places for 60 children aged 8-plus.

- The Project plans to run a weekly Kids' Club, and a GEE (Grow, Eat, Enjoy) environmental project using the allotment and polytunnel space.
- With some activities moving to the summerhouse, this will free up Tintagel Common Room to be used as a 'safe space' for those who need additional help and support. These include:
 - ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)
 - The homeless
 - People accessing support, who are referred through the Food Hub
- A Derby Homes' Estate Officer is based at Tintagel two days a week to support the project and also signposts Derby Homes' customers to our support services and partner organisations.

4.5 Community Impact

- In 2022, Project Derby was presented with the Lionel Massingham Award, and received a Respect Award earlier this year in recognition of the work it does to support Derby Homes' customers, and the wider community.
- The committee produces an annual Impact Report which details positive outcomes from all activities, training and support services and aligns with their overarching aims to increase community cohesion, reduce social isolation, improve physical and mental health and wellbeing, teach employability skills and support those most in need (see Appendix 2)

5. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Due to the location, layout and design of Tintagel Common Room, we are limited for alternative additional space.

IMPLICATIONS

6. CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 See Appendix 1.

7. FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The cost of the works is forecast to be £21,865.28, with an additional £2,000 for separate external lighting for safe access. This is considered value for money in relation to the work the Project does to support Derby Homes' customers and the wider community.

The areas listed below have no implications directly arising from this report:

Legal and Confidentiality
Council
Personnel
Environmental
Equalities Impact Assessment
Health & Safety
Risk
Policy Review

For more information please contact:

Carl Tring-Willis / Head of Housing Management / 01332 888504 / carl.tring-willis@derbyhomes.org

Background information: None

List of appendices: Appendix 1 Consultation Results Report
 Appendix 2 Project Derby Impact Report 2022-2023

This report has been approved by the following

Governance (checked)	Chloe Gaskell	06.09.23
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