**Coronation Community Orchards Guidance Notes**

1. General information PBC is providing £19,000 of funding to community orchard projects across the Borough, to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. The aim of the funding is to enable more trees to be planted in non-woodland locations and close to where people live, providing a visible and lasting tribute to the King’s Coronation within local communities.
2. There will be two planting seasons in which groups can submit applications:

• 2023/24 planting season, in which applications are open from 15 December 2023, and planting must be completed in February and/or March 2024.

• 2024/25 planting season, in which applications are open from 1 June 2024, and planting must be completed between September 2024 and March 2025.

 Eligibility Eligible groups that can apply for the funding include;

• Town and Parish Councils

• Schools

• Community groups

• Residents associations

• Businesses

• Landowners with publicly accessible land

Your community orchard must be publicly accessible, or accessible to a significant number of people for example, in the case of schools. If you are not planting on land that you own, you must have signed permission from the owner or manager of the land indicating that they consent to the planting project. You must have a bank account in the name of the applicant organisation to apply.

1. Planning your orchard Your community orchard can be any size larger than five trees. Fruit trees that can thrive in UK environments are eligible for purchase – this includes but is not limited to:

• Apples

• Cherries

• Greengages

 • Pears

• Plums

• Quinces

• Walnuts / Cob Nuts / Hazlenuts

 Survival rates for orchard trees are expected to be high. We recommend that semi-vigorous rootstocks trees that are at least two years old are planted as part of your scheme, to optimise establishment and ensure quick fruit production.

 The funding can be used to add to existing orchards, if all other eligibility criteria are met, and the costs of the new trees are not covered elsewhere.

PBC can fund capital items only that are required for planting your orchard. This can include items such as:

• Trees and their protection

• Equipment for planting trees such as spades

• Ground preparation

• Delivery of items

• Short term tree upkeep items such as mulch and fertiliser

There is no maximum or minimum amount that can be applied for, however the number and type of trees must be appropriate for the site.

Maintenance costs cannot be funded as part of this scheme.

Costs and suppliers will be outlined and submitted using the table that is sent with this document.

We recommend that members of your community are involved in the planting of your orchard to maximise its community value and project engagement.

Important supplier details You must meet the Biosecure Procurement Requirement by sourcing your plants from suppliers who can provide you with evidence that they meet the requirements set out in the Plant Health Management Standard. Details on this are available at: <https://planthealthy.org.uk/>.

You must ensure that the nursery can provide you with evidence of this before you purchase trees from them. If you are not purchasing your trees from a commercial supplier, you will be exempt from this requirement during the pilot phase of the Biosecure Procurement Requirement, but you must ensure that you are content that good biosecurity practices have been followed by familiarising yourself with the biosecurity measures that were in place to reduce the risks to those trees from diseases and insect pests.

All grant recipients must demonstrate best value for money will be achieved by obtaining a minimum of three quotes during any purchasing activity.

**Long term maintenance**

We want the trees to successfully establish and be maintained going forward. We recommend that you include costs of tree protection within your grant.

**Award of Funding**

Successful applicants will be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on receipt of the funds that outlines a commitment to actively manage the trees for at least five years. Recipients will be required to submit photos for the following three years after planting to confirm establishment and management practices, and spot checks will be carried out by the council’s Green spaces officers.

**Submitting your application and grant awards**

Your completed application can be submitted anytime from 15th December 2023 onwards, with a final deadline on Friday 19 January 2024 for round one of the scheme ( if funds remain, a second window will open in autumn 2024). The application will be submitted via Email to

parks@pendle.gov.uk

Advice can be sought from Phil Riley, Greenspaces manager on 01282 661587

A good source of reference can be found at the following website

[Traditional Orchards - People's Trust for Endangered Species (ptes.org)](https://ptes.org/campaigns/traditional-orchard-project/)