

Dear loan,

The purpose of this email is to request the support of the Parish Council in establishing the Derry Hill & Studley Garden Club since I understand there may be some funding available for such initiatives.

For many, gardening has played a positive role in the lives of people through the pandemic benefiting both physical and mental health indeed there really does appear to have been an explosion in interest in the benefits of gardening. It is in recognition of this that Paula Wheatcroft and I have founded the Club, which is to be launched officially at an inaugural meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at the Lansdowne Hall. We believe that gardening is not only good for the individual but it is also good for the community as it seeks to recover from the troubles of the past couple of years. Our first year's programme is filled with opportunities for local people to come together to share skills and ideas, and thereby increase community cohesion and resilience particularly for those living alone.

The Club has a bank account and intends to raise some funds from its membership but in the early months it is unclear exactly what our financial commitments will be but it is clear we will need funds to support the costs for e.g.:

- Hiring a meeting room;
- Booking speakers;
- Refreshments;
- Publicising the club;
- Arranging visits to gardens;
- Organising open garden days;
- Establishing an annual flower and produce show.

We have many other ideas to deliver benefits to the community including tool share, seed and plant share schemes and intend to examine opportunities for a form of community compost scheme. Should the Club prove a success we have every intention of living up further to our vision of "Gardening for the greater good" by looking beyond our own gardens to what may be possible in and the around the communities of Derry Hill and Studley.

In advance of the inaugural meeting, we have raised awareness of the club via inSPIRE and the Derry Hill and Studley Community and Chapel St facebook sites and we are amazed at the interest the community is already demonstrating in the Club with well over 25 expressions of interest to date.

If funding might be available then the Club would be pleased to make an initial request for up to £500 to get the club going.

We appreciate any support the Council is able to give.

All the best

Peter  
Founder  
Derry Hill & Studley Gardening Club