**APPLICATION FOR FUNDS FROM HADDINGTON & LAMMERMUIR AREA PARTNERSHIP**

**AMISFIELD WALLED GARDEN – BUILDING COSTS**

**Purpose**

The Amisfield Preservation Trust wishes to apply for £5064.38 to fund the third part contribution for an application to Viridor Credits Environmental Company. The amount applied and granted by Viridor Credits Environmental Company is £49722.00. The application to Viridor Credits Environmental Company was granted on 11 December 2015.

**Background**

The Amisfield Preservation Trust is a registered Charity (SCO29412) and was established to restore and develop the historic Amisfield Walled Garden for the benefit of the local community. Amisfield Walled Garden is situated on the edge of Haddington beside the Haddington Golf course. It wishes to erect a high quality timber building to provide flexible space for volunteers and visitors. The current garden shed is too small for the numbers of volunteers or the training/educational activities undertaken in the garden.

**The Building**

The Trust is already in possession of the necessary building materials. These have been acquired from the Rosslyn Chapel (it was the former visitor centre). The new building will provide shelter for volunteers, room for training sessions and space to display interpretation material. Furthermore, fully accessible toilets and hand washing facilities will be provided.

A plan of the garden and the location of the proposed building are shown at Annexes A and B.

**Cost**

The full cost of the project is £89722.00 of which £40,000 represents the value of the building and the labour that will be provided by volunteers. £49722.00 has been granted from Viridor Credits Environmental Company and covers the cost of specialist contractors to erect the building. Fund-raising by the Trust will cover the costs of fixtures, fittings and furniture.

**Who will it benefit**

The Charity has some 120 members. Footfall over the past year has been over 3000. The Trust gives regular talks and runs guided tours to promote the project. It has built up contacts with local community organisations, schools, mental health groups and disability support organisations. In the past year, in addition to opening the garden to the public 6 days per week, the garden has been open during Haddington Festival week, participated in the Gold award winning Haddington in Bloom entry, delivered 19 training course open to the public and developed an online presence through social media. Community support for the project is given an Annex C.

Following completion of the project it is expected that the use of the garden will increase. Footfall is expected to increase to 5000 per year. The new building will also provide valuable space for the numerous groups who use the garden as a venue for classes and much needed shelter for volunteers.

**How is the garden run and funded?**

Amisfield Preservation Trust is a registered charity (SCO29412). Its annual report and accounts are published on its website and on that of the Charity Regulator <http://www.amisfield.org.uk/about-us/>. Its activities are funded through the £10 membership fee, funds raised from the sales of produce and open days. It is in receipt of grants from the Robertson Trust and East Lothian Council to pay for a Volunteer Coordinator.

**Timetable**

The project is due to commence in March 2016 and to complete in August 2016. Planning permission for the timber building has already been secured and work continues to secure the necessary building warrants. Consent has also been obtained from East Lothian Council which owns the site. The Amisfield Preservation Trust has a 99 year lease which commence on 5 April 2012.

Amisfield Preservation Trust

December 2015