

September 2016

Bredon Hill Academy Newt rescue project calls out for votes to bag a share of a £12.5million carrier bag charge fund

Bredon Hill Academy is bidding to bag a massive cash boost from the Tesco Bags of Help initiative.

The supermarket has teamed up with Groundwork on its Bags of Help initiative, which see grants of £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000 – all raised from the 5p bag levy – being awarded to environmental and greenspace projects.

Three groups in each of Tesco's 416 regions have been shortlisted to receive the cash award.

And this month shoppers are being invited to head along to Tesco stores to vote for who they think should take away the top grant.

Bredon Hill Academy Newt rescue project is one of the groups on the shortlist.

Our pond is in urgent need of repair, we would like to improve the habitat for the resident newts, dragon flies and other species.

Pond repairs would fix the leaks so that it would be full of water for the aquatic life to thrive. The overgrown plants and weeds would be removed or thinned. More diverse planting and substrate would provide interest. The perimeter of the pond would be improved to allow pupils to investigate safely. Natural logs to be installed to provide seating for an entire class to enable lessons to be taken in the area and also provide a habitat for insects. The swamp would be improved and made a feature of with a bridge to give access to a wooden bird hide to be built on the island beyond. Bird and bat boxes to be installed including for large birds, for example owls. Bee, bug and hedgehog houses to be installed to increase diversity. Wildlife cameras to record and share evidence of our animal visitors.

For more information contact the Tesco Press Office on 01707 918 701

Tesco is a team of 480,000 colleagues, in 11 markets around the world. We are dedicated to serving shoppers a little better every day.

We have received this grant because our whole school respects and cares for our school environment and the wildlife we share the space with. Our consideration for the way we act in our wildlife area and gardens ensures that they are quiet calm areas where nature can thrive. We can be proud of our achievements and tell everyone about our plans, even the smallest grant will ensure our pond is improved

Voting is open in stores from 26 September to 9 October. Customers will cast their vote using a token given to them at the check-out in store each time they shop.

This is the second round of the initiative: the first round saw approximately eight million shoppers vote in stores up and down the country earlier this year.

Lindsey Crompton, Head of Community at Tesco, said: “The first round of the Bags of Help initiative was a fantastic success.

“In total 1,170 community groups were awarded £8,000, £10,000 or £12,000 - that’s a massive £11.7 million being invested into local projects.

“We are already seeing some great results from groups transforming their own environmental and greenspace areas.

“We are absolutely delighted to open the voting for round two. There are some fantastic projects on the shortlists and we can’t wait to see them come to life in hundreds of communities.”

Groundwork’s national Chief Executive, Graham Duxbury, said: “Bags of Help is giving our communities both the funding and the support to create better, healthier and greener places for everyone to enjoy.

“We’ve been thrilled to see the diversity of projects that have applied for funding, ranging from outdoor classrooms, sports facilities, community gardens, play areas and everything in between.

“They’re all fantastic projects that make a real difference in our neighbourhoods.

“We’re looking forward to learning the results of the customer vote and then supporting each group to bring their project to life.”

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

- 1,248 organisations from Tesco's 416 regions up and down the UK will receive a share of the Bags of Help fund.
- The initiative is supported by money from the five pence charge levied on single-use carrier bags
- More than 2,800 groups up and down the country applied for grants from the scheme. These were whittled down to three in each of Tesco's regions
- For more information please visit: <http://www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp>