



## Worthing County Local Committee Community Initiative Fund application



**CLC Reference:** 326/W

**Local Councillor:** Bryan Turner

**Status:** Fundraising Stage

**Project Cost:** £12,359.00 (as found under crowdfunding goal total)

**Project Title:** Friends of Downsbrook Forest School

### About:

The idea is to develop a Forest School and community cabin at Downsbrook Primary School to ensure that children and members of our community have regular, long-term access to the natural environment.

The Friends of Downsbrook want to develop a Forest School and community cabin in an established wild area. The area has some mature trees along with younger copses that were planted with Woodland Trust saplings. We are tripling the size of the area and have successfully applied to Tree Appeal for a further 100 trees. A parent who runs Meadow View community garden nursery wants to develop links and provide us with shrubs and plants. The Probation Service's Community Rehabilitation team and volunteer parents have already cleared the area of excessive brambles and ivy. We are now ready build a dedicated cabin for the community. It will be used as a hub for disseminating environmental ideas, developing collaborative community environmental projects and act as a free local meeting place in a natural setting. The cabin will also be a base for the school's Forest School activities; ensuring a dry space for protective clothing, equipment and tools and be a 'bolt-hole' in severe weather.

**Project Delivery Manager:** Friends of Downsbrook

**About me:**

Website: <http://www.downsbrook.org>

**Why we're pitching for a pledge:**

The facilities at Downsbrook Primary School need to be opened up so that local people can experience the joy of Forest Schools.

**What we'll deliver:**

- A Forest School cabin for community use
- A Forest School area for community use

**Why it's a great idea:**

It is great idea because it will have an environmental impact through developing collaborative projects. We are already linked with projects planting native trees in the South Downs National Park, the re-routing and restoration of Broadwater Brook, the conservation of the White hair letterstreak butterfly and working with a local community garden nursery. Having a new community base will result in more environmental collaboration. We know children from Downsbrook and other local schools and nurseries will have unforgettable experiences that may encourage a lifelong interest in the environment. In an evaluation of school off-site Forest School work, pupils said; "I don't like it, I love it! Forest School lets you do stuff that your parents won't let you do with them and it lets you be yourself." "I like Forest School because it is adventurous and fun and muddy and you can do new stuff. It is learning but it feels like playtime. It feels funny and really good, even if you get wet".

**Steps to get it done:**

- Level cabin base and lay electric cable (February)
- Build cabin (March)
- Plant 100 trees (March)
- Paint cabin (April)
- Fit out cabin (May)
- Invite local groups to opening event (June)