

Please complete every question with as much detail as possible remembering the assessment panel will not know your group/organisation or project idea and will rely on the quality of the data you provide to make informed decisions about who to support. **Use the guidance notes to assist your thinking and refer to the original aims and objectives of the fund to ensure your idea is appropriate. For free advice and guidance, contact your local outreach and support worker.** Please type/write clearly using black ink. Attach additional sheets if required.

Section One – About your group/organisation

1a. Name of the organisation applying for the grant: Brambles Living Farm

Address: Bowling Green Farm, Castlemorton Common, Malvern, Worcestershire WR13 6 LH House

Ward in Rural Regeneration Zone: Our clients will come from many RRZ's in Worcestershire and Herefordshire.

Website address: www.livingfarm.co.uk

Name of main contact: Alan Edwards

Role in organisation: Managing Director

Address of main contact (if different from the above): As above

Contact Tel.: 01684 833 336

Email: alan@livingfarm.co.uk

1 b. Tell us about your group/organisation

Brambles Living Farm is a new venture Care Farm, Animal Assisted Therapy Centre and Countryside Education Centre.

The site is ready, except for on-site toilet, washing and changing facilities. Our growth in numbers and categories of clients will be hampered until we make these facilities available.

We are already trading but, since the company is just off the ground with only a few regular clients, we do not have historic financial reports etc. We are ensuring that we have the right skills, by initially transferring in qualified expertise where required by use of volunteer

Your unique reference number is:

professionals. We have an independent Non-Executive Director who is responsible for challenging where and how we spend grant money.

The Care Farm focuses on vulnerable people, such as:

- Those with Learning Difficulties, Autism and Acquired Brain Injuries
- Disaffected & excluded youth
- Those with mental health issues and depression
- People with emotional and behavioural problems
- People with work related stress

Some of the *Outcomes* are:

- An enhanced quality of life
- Meaningful experience of work
- Development of basic work skills, such as timekeeping, numeric skills, ability to understand and accept tasks, organisation and focus
- Ability to take-on new information
- Improved people skills, such as relationships, communication and respect
- Self confidence, self esteem and motivation
- Self worth from tangible achievement and success

Brambles Buddies Scheme is a series of regular work based activity schedules, that are designed to give the participants an interesting variety of tasks and fun throughout the year. They develop work based skills as well as personal living skills.

There are 5 stages which gradually increase in complexity. Activity involves hands-on experience which builds skills and confidence at each individual person's own pace. Participants can remain at any stage as long as they wish, and they can move on when they feel ready, and when we, and their carers feel it is appropriate to do so.

Activities relate to the natural farming events of the season, of course things may vary depending on the weather and other events. For more detail see the separate leaflets about each individual stage.

Stage 1 – A day in the life of caring for animals & assisting with their daily requirements. Holding & cuddling pets, such as rabbits and cats.

An introduction to horticulture.

Stage 2 – A day in the life on the farm in more detail and structure. Sharing the role of feeding and caring for the animals and their environment. Food recognition for individual animals. Grooming small pet animals.

Introduction to basic horticulture, seeds and watering.

Your unique reference number is:

Stage 3 – Responsibility for specific animals or parts of the farm, sharing tasks in groups and fulfilling their roles, such as egg incubation and early life care for young birds. Using basic numeracy skills for record keeping, such as egg collecting and counting, recording the results of eggs laid on a daily basis. Working with other groups of people and confidence building.

Horticulture planting, growing, cooking & eating.

Stage 4 – Learning about farm machinery and Health & Safety. In depth care for animals such as shearing, foot trimming, vaccinations and worming. Basic woodwork projects.

Horticulture – Plant care and nurture, harvesting fruit & vegetables.

Stage 5 – More involvement with animal medical care, show preparation and animal training, such as halter training for Goats, and Pig behaviour training. More complex farm projects such as fencing and drainage.

Horticultural ground preparation, composting, plant propagation.

A senior member of our volunteer staff who is experienced in working with special needs people said *“Homes with 4 walls are not conducive to development, all we can do is try to contain the situation. It’s different here at Brambles, there’s life and everything is positive”*.

Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) means working with animals as a therapeutic way to facilitate healing and rehabilitation of patients. Closeness to our friendly farm animals makes a big difference to the lives of people who meet them.

People who benefit from AAT include those with:

- Dementia
- Brain Injuries
- Autism
- Anxiety
- Phobias
- In recovery from Trauma or accident
- Need of help through transition from institutional care to independence

Some of the *Outcomes* are:

- Physical range of motion, strength, endurance, balance and mobility, and sensation
- Increased inquisitiveness and recollection
- Rapport building
- Caring for others
- Increasing self confidence and self esteem
- Extended concentration time-span
- A more calm ego and more relaxed responses
- Stress reduction
- Confidence with animals

Your unique reference number is:

- Confidence with people
- More smiles and a sense of fun!
- Increased independence

Development Projects

The normal farm activities are supplemented with special project related tasks, such as:

- Woodwork eg. making animal pens and runs, raised beds in gardens and workbenches in the Poly tunnel.
- Arts and country crafts, such Mohair textiles (with our own Mohair), pottery and green woodwork.
- Building a sensory garden through a series of mini projects.
- Other farm related developments, fencing and hedge laying, drainage, tree management.

Mainstream Education support

We are currently in discussion with schools and colleges with the view to supplementing their national curriculum, NVQ, Diploma and other extra curriculum learning, relating to Farming, Food and the Countryside, for the 2009 – 2010 educational year.

We also offer one off, short introductory talks on farm animals for schools either to visit our smallholding or us to go to schools. We would normally expect to involve baby farm animals such as chicks, piglets and kid goats.

We are currently in discussion with Connexions to offer some specific activity based courses, based on our different approach to learning.

In the future we intend to develop our own accredited courses.

Our clients residential locations

We are located in the bottom corner of Worcestershire, very close to the border with Herefordshire. Our normal towns for shopping and other supplies are firstly Ledbury and secondly Malvern.

We expect many of our clients to come from the RRZ. Please see the addendum from CFWM about the significant opportunities the target RRZ market. CFWM like Nexus, are funded by Advantage West Midlands to specifically target the RRZ for development. We are members of Care Farming West Midlands (CFWM) and are one of a few pilot Care Farms who are being assisted by CFWM.

What makes us different and special

Animals

Your unique reference number is:

“Spending time with animals makes a real and significant difference to people’s lives” . Children and special needs people feel a special affinity to animals because they are not threatening, or assuming, and of course the babies are very cuddly!

Living Farm is based on a working smallholding which breeds farm animals as pets. There are herds of about 30 Angora Goats, 30 Kune Kune Pigs, 4 Pygmy Goats and about 300 Chickens of many different pure breeds. Of course we also have the usual pet rabbits, cats, tortoises etc.

Our animals are bred as pets, which means that their temperament is friendly, and they are extremely well suited to children and people with special needs, as they feel confident that they can safely get very close to and build bonds with the animals and birds.

The fact that there are many animals, means that there is a favourite to suit everyone.

Since they are all being bred for sale by the smallholding, means that there are lots of animals to learn about, and there are always babies being born throughout the year.

None of our animals are bred to be killed for meat. This is important to our clients who care deeply about the animals, which become their friends. (Even our spare cockerels are allowed to roam freely)

The farm is busy, but not too large. This gives a real experience of work and business, with lots of meaningful, interesting activities, without the daunting, uncomfortable pressures of the commercial world.

We’re not a large farm with heavy farm machinery and large animals, who by the nature of their size and commercial background, tend of be more overwhelming than those at Brambles.

Capacilty

Our site has a great deal of capacity for development, albeit this will have to come with time and money. We intend to convert some building space into therapy and training rooms, build kitchens, toilet facilities with showers and central meeting areas. We have a large area set aside for physical skills training workshops. We have a large poly-tunnel set in about ¾ acre for horticultural activities. We also intend to build a large Sensory Garden.

Environment

We located in the middle of the Castlemorton Common ANOB, with spectacular views across the Severn Valley and up to the Malvern Hills. It is a beautiful environment, set off a small country road, and surrounded by hedgerows, large old trees, a brook and fields, all of which brings a wealth of wildlife into the grounds and buildings.

Breadth of services and types of client

People with special needs - As you will see from the sections above we will work with many types of client. We already have a small number clients with Autism, Aspergers, Acquired Brain Injury , and are in negotiation with Day Care Centres, Connexions, and mainstream schools.

Your unique reference number is:

(Unfortunately our current very restricted toilet facilities make life difficult now, and we will not be able to sign up these clients until we can resolve the toilet & washing facilities issue)

We deliberately do not target client's from the drug rehabilitation or probation services. We feel that this is a specialist area to which we do not aspire, and believe that there is no great synergy with the many other types of client with which we want to work.

Centre of Excellence

We intend to work closely with a number of organisations who are undergoing qualitative research programmes into the beneficial effects of farm animals on peoples lives. Over time we will monitor our own results, with the view to improving our services, activities and environment, to make life even better for our clients.

Competition

In our extensive business experience, competition is good for the development of services in emerging markets. Having several Care Farms working in this new service market, and within our physical target RRZ area is good for us all, because we are all promoting the benefits of Care Farming to a wider potential audience. In fact it also supports key Government goals for individuals "Choice and Control". At least one of our clients goes to another Care Farm on a different day of the week. Both she and we are very happy with that arrangement.

1 c. Please select the most appropriate from the questions below:

Tick which ever best describes your organisation:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Authority (<i>includes Parish Councils</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Charity and private company limited by guarantee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unincorporated Association – charity registration number if applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> Private company limited by shares |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership | <input type="checkbox"/> Public limited company |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial and Provident Society | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community interest company |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charitable trust | <input type="checkbox"/> Limited liability partnership |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Sole trader |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Social enterprise |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please state |

Community Interest Company currently being created.

1 d. What is your annual financial turnover?

£0 - £100,000

£101,000 - £250,000

Your unique reference number is:

£251,000 - £500,000

£501,000 - £1m

in excess of £1m

Your unique reference number is:

1 e. How many staff do you employ?

2

1 f. How many volunteers work in your organisation?

6

1 g. Tell us about the makeup of your Board or management committee

Brambles key staff and organisation structure

Directors

Alan Edwards Managing Director, Marketing and Sales and legal

Alan has significant expertise in strategic change in the commercial world. He has worked with start-up companies and helped small and large organisations improve their operational ways of working through change and project management, across all functional areas of business management and operations. His early career started at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Alan is responsible for corporate management of the business, marketing and sales activities and legal and other corporate activities. He is responsible for ensuring that all policies are as comprehensive and practical as possible, up-to-date, and that staff and clients understand and follow procedures.

Julie Edwards Operations Director, Farm Manager, Client activities and operations staff management

Julie has the vision for Brambles' operations, activities and clients. She is an experienced smallholding manager and is expert in delivering animal assisted activities. In her early career Julie was an IT trainer at a major Computer Company.

Julie has spent the last 2 years in intensive research about Care Farming and has visited the Netherlands with Care Farming WM to learn from their experience. (The Netherlands are the leading country in Europe for Care Farms)

Your unique reference number is:

Julie is responsible for all operational Farm and Care Farm activities at Brambles. All operations management, staff and advisory groups report to Julie.

Julie is the Director with ultimate responsibility for safeguarding, she intends to complete accredited training in this field soon. In the meantime Noel O'Neill, who is experienced in this role, owns this responsibility and has full appropriate authority.

Frank Taylor Non-Exec Director, Corporate challenge and Audit

Frank is a successful local businessman. He has an excellent understanding of what makes good business sense, and knows how to challenge for the sake of sensible business decision making. Frank's detachment and objectivity will particularly allow him to challenge in regard to where and how we spend grant money.

Professional Advisory Group

The Professional Advisory board meets every 4-6 weeks. They advise on matters of activity design, delivery and quality, they challenge the operational performance relating to individual clients and groups, and they give direction for staff recruitment and training.

- Noel O'Neill Senior Operations Advisor, Activity Manager
Responsible for Safeguarding Vulnerable people and Child Protection
- Dr Dawn Fisher Senior Operations Advisor – Senior Clinical Psychologist in Mental Health and Animal Assisted Therapy. B.A. (Hons), M.Clin.Psych, Ph.d.,AFBPSS
- Dr Rachel Avison Operations Advisor – Clinical Psychologist in Children & families at risk. She is experienced in adolescent mental health, caused by many reasons and has worked with vulnerable families.
- Stacey Blunt Animal Assisted Therapy consultant and advisor. Stacey is formally trained in Care Farming. She helps design our educational and therapy activity, primarily for children. She is a mentor to Julie on best practice for delivery of Educational sessions.

nexus Grants Programme

Supporting the Rural Regeneration Zones in the West Midlands

Your unique reference number is:

Section Two – About your project

Remember the strategic RRZ priority all projects should seek to: “reduce poverty, value diversity and promote social inclusion and community cohesion by allowing full access to services”

2 a. How will your project tackle economic exclusion in your community?

Brambles activities give our clients a range of things to see, try and do, and will give them educational and recreational benefits.

- The chance to experience life with animals that they wouldn't normally get to meet or get close to.
- Increased self confidence and a feeling that you can contribute in their own way.
- The chance join in with the community and make more friends.
- Somewhere to go that is different, safe, calm and caring, and where people listen to how they feel.
- An understanding about how the countryside works and how it can be sustainable.

“If you've never lived in a work environment, how do you know what it looks and feels like”
At *Brambles* they will learn things to help them get a job and at home.

- Work skills, such as:
 - Specific Farming and Horticultural working skills and knowledge
 - Woodwork and other manual skills
 - Working with other people
 - Taking responsibility for tasks
 - Caring about others
 - Timekeeping
 - Numeracy and Record keeping
- Living Skills to give them more confidence to look after themselves better at home, such as:
 - Following instructions and routines
 - Inquisitiveness and decision making
 - Personal hygiene
 - Risks and safety awareness

As our business grows and income permits, we intend to take people on as employees. It is hoped that they will initially come from our pool of Volunteers and ideally but developing some of our clients to a point that they could work for us.

Your unique reference number is:

2 b. What is the key activity your project will address (please tick one):

health

leisure

counselling/support services

training and learning

ICT (Information and communications technology)

2 c. Which does your application seek to do:

the adaptation of buildings and/or purchase of equipment to provide new service provision

the establishment or enhancement of outreach services to improve accessibility for rural communities

2 d. What need have you identified and how have you identified it?

We have completed a great deal of research, including visiting the Netherlands who are Europe's leading Care Farming Nation. We know that there is a significant proven market in the UK, the West Midlands is the UK's leading pilot area, especially focusing on Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Shropshire. This is backed up by the formation of Care Farming West Midlands, who are supporting us in our venture (see attached letter of support). We also know that there are no other services in our area.

Please see the attached documentation from independent sources which demonstrates the overall market and need for our services. In particular please see the brief summary of figures for the West Midlands area that were used to support Care Farming West Midlands' successful bid for a grant of £400,000 from Advantage West Midlands. A significant number of our prospective clients live within the RRZ.

You will see in the attached email from Larry Atwood that CFWM are targeted to create 20 new Care Farms, one of which is Brambles. We will support all of the opportunities and improvements that fit within CFWM's charter, and can therefore, at absolute minimum, extrapolate a 20th share of the targets for Brambles, such as:

Over three years 1400 meaningful work day places
For 20 of the most excluded people in society
1 new care farming job
5 people assisted to get a job.

Within 3 years we hope to be providing 20 people places per day, 5 days per week.
Our target by End of March 2010 is to provide 8 places per day, per week.

By spring 2010 we would expect at least 10 new people to be coming to us from within the RRZ.

Your unique reference number is:

Our target area is clients within a 25 mile radius from the farm. Therefore we expect a significant number of clients to come to us from the RRZs in West Worcestershire (around the Malverns and up the Teme to Tenbury) and all of East Herefordshire (from Ross, Hereford, Ledbury, and up to Leominster).

To give some basic example figures from a report about to be published by Worcestershire County Council. Malvern Hills has 584 people with a disability, and the ward closest to us (Wells) has upto 19 disabled people. We are about 2 miles from the Wells ward, whereas the next nearest Care Farm is probably about 10 miles away. There are a lot of potential clients in the West Worcestershire wards, and there are many in the Mid, East and South Herefordshire areas too.

We have completed a number of pilot activities to prove the service model. Over the past 6 months we have been in discussion with many potential commissioners from Worcestershire and Herefordshire, who are extremely interested in becoming customers, but they have expressed concerns about the restrictions of the current toilet arrangements.

We currently provide limited toilet facilities which do not provide disabled facilities, and they are some walking distant from the working areas of the farm. It is also very important that we can provide hot & cold running water for people to wash their hands after working with the animals.

Some of the organisations that have expressed interest in bringing clients to us, if we can fix the toilet facility issue are:

Connexions Malvern, Hereford and Kidderminster
Malvern SEC Day Care Centre
Worcester County Council –Choice & Control team
Worcester County Council – Do it your way team
Age Concern Hereford & Worcester
Herefordshire Mind
South Worcester College (Malvern)
Barrs School Hereford.
Rowden House

2 e. Briefly tell us about your project idea and make clear how it meets the need

Please see attached site plan

The current toilet, washing and changing facilities are in our house which is some distance from the working areas of the farm. They are not suitable for physically disabled people and we cannot allow able bodied people freedom to wander into our home without being escorted. Therefore this can

Your unique reference number is:

only a be temporary solution until secure proper on site facilities. At the moment the numbers and categories of people that we can support at any one time are very restricted, as is our growth.

We would like to build a permanent toilet and shower facility, but this will cost a great deal of money and would take a very long time to build. At the moment we have neither the money or the time. We feel that we should prove the business model and get a proven client base before we move onto more adventurous projects.

Provision of a mobile unit will allow us to offer services to significantly more numbers of, and wider communities of clients that we would not otherwise be able to support. The mobile unit has been offered to us at a reduced price.

The use of a mobile toilet, washing and changing facility will allow us to provide facilities close to where our clients are working on any particular day, giving them the best chance to keep clean, and free from diseases such as e-coli. In order do provide hot water, lighting and an internal heater, we will also need a portable generator.

Please understand that the unit would not be moved every 5 minutes, it would, however, give us the flexibility to be moved from day to day, to a place closest to where the least mobile people were working. We would also be able to move the unit to the current septic tank for emptying and cleaning.

Since the unit is mobile, we will not require planning permission. The unit is being held for us for a short while. We could purchase the unit very quickly and be up and running within a matter of days from availability of funds. This will allow us to take advantage of an ever growing prospective client list.

2 f. How will your project target beneficiaries within the RRZ?

Our marketing is approaching potential clients through Worcestershire and Herefordshire Council and Health Authority Services, Connexions H&W , Specialist homes and specialist care organisations, and schools all within and close to the boundaries of the RRZ.

We are contacting these channels through many means including:

Direct phone calls and emails by referral and general research, networking organisations, individual and promotional meetings, attending shows (such as 3 counties and other local events), press releases and articles in specific organisations news letters (eg Connexions, council departments, Age Concern, Volunteer agencies and special needs support groups), School headmasters and Special Needs Coordinators, Local BBC H&W radio live on site articles, and targeted mailshot emails and brochures.

We also run "open days" to let people visit to see and talk about what they will do here and what outcomes they will benefit from.

Your unique reference number is:

2 g. What will the Nexus grant pay for?

It will contribute towards the purchase of a mobile toilet, washing and changing unit.

2 h. Tell us about any partners involved and their role

We are working with a number of organisations who are working on our behalf, both from potential clients and internal resources points of view. It is important to explain that we have progressed a long way with the Worcestershire County Council and have learnt a great deal about structures and processes. We have recently started a similar exercise with Herefordshire County Council and we plan to meet with many many more people and organisations in Herefordshire over the coming 2 months. Our contacts and associates list is far too large (and confidential) to show in its entirety here, but it includes:

Worcestershire Choice and Control Care Navigation and Brokerage teams
WCC Do-it-Your way pilot for Learning Difficulties
Childrens Services Extended Services Preferred supplier list
Age Concern Hereford & Worcester

Connexions Worcestershire and Herefordshire

Have confirmed that they can find some places for local young people in the Malvern area to come to work and learn on our Care Farm. We are also in early discussions with Connexions in Herefordshire.

Colleges

We are in early discussions with the South Worcestershire college, based in Malvern, to discuss how we can supplement their National Curriculum and Diploma certificate programmes for main stream and Special Needs children from the Malvern Hills area.

Care Farming West Midlands

This is an organisation which has been set-up with £400,000 from Advantage West Midlands to specifically target benefits for people and Care Farms in the RRZ. We are one of the early pilot members. They support us by providing umbrella marketing across Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Shropshire. They also provide generic guidance on company setup, latest rules and regulations, and responsibilities.
(See letter of support)

ACT Are guiding us on training needs, how we can fund it and assisting us on finding the best courses for us and our team. They are also recommending us to their clients in Worcestershire and Herefordshire.

Your unique reference number is:

Mid West Rural Enterprise

Are supporting our business start-up activity. They have stated that our business vision, plans, marketing, services and internal procedures are excellent, and they believe we have a very special offering with superb future business potential. They have helped us set up our Community Interest Company.

Volunteer Organisations

Amongst others, we are actively working closely with the following organisations to build a significant team of volunteers with varying skills and expertise. We intend to build breadth and depth of coverage for each of the activities that we currently offer, and for those that we will develop over the coming months.

Worcester Volunteer Centre
Worcester Council for Voluntary Youth Services
Community Action Hereford and Worcester
Worcestershire Infrastructure Consortium
Community First

All of the above organisations have copies of our brochures, which they distribute on our behalf. They regularly meet with potential clients and refer them to us.

Since we submitted our first proposal we have approached more people within the Herefordshire RRZ area, all of whom have expressed keen interest in working with us, including

Herefordshire County Council Adult Services and Learning Difficulties departments
Schools and colleges with Special Educational Needs departments. Eg Holm Lacey college, Barrs school
Specialist Homes
Connexions Herefordshire
Herefordshire Mind
Headway

We are also attending various Third Sector meetings which are held in the RRZ area, to promote our business and look for other organisations with whom we can collaborate.

We now have produced our new brochures (Copy attached) and we have started a campaign to send at least several hundred brochures to organisations in the RRZ for them to distribute on our behalf.

2 i. Tell us about the people or communities that will benefit

Brambles Living Farm will support special needs people of all ages, and children in mainstream education.

Your unique reference number is:

Special Needs

The *Brambles Buddies Scheme* is a series of regular work based activity schedules, that are designed to give the participants an interesting variety of tasks and fun throughout the year. They develop work based skills as well as personal living skills.

The people with special needs that we will be working with include:

- Those with Learning Difficulties, Autism and Acquired Brain Injuries
- Disaffected & excluded youth
- Those with mental health issues and depression
- People with emotional and behavioural problems
- People with work related stress
- Dementia
- Acquired Brain Injuries
- Autism
- Anxiety
- Phobias
- In recovery from Trauma or accident
- Need of help through transition from institutional care to independence

Children from mainstream education and those in special learning environments

We are currently in discussion with schools and colleges within the RRZ, with the view to supplementing their national curriculum, NVQ, Diploma and other extra curriculum learning, relating to Farming, Food and the Countryside, for the 2009 – 2010 educational year.

2 j. What do you expect your project will achieve?

We will provide an improved set of services to the area around our Care Farm. There are no other places in the area, that provide such an environment or activities.

With the provision of the toilet facilities that we are applying for grant funds in this application we will be able to provide a better, safer environment for our clients to live and work.

By purchasing a mobile toilet, washing and changing unit with disabled facilities, we will also be able to offer the services to a wider audience of client.

Our company's sustainability and growth depends on attaining a critical number of paying clients. The mobile, disabled toilet, washing and changing facility will have a significant effect on our success.

2 k. How will you know if the outcomes are met?

More prospective customers will visit and be comfortable about the facilities. We will gain instant feedback, because they will tell us so at the time!

Your unique reference number is:

Client numbers will grow and our income will rise.

Initially we will take on more volunteer staff and in the long term permanent jobs will be created.

We will check success of our business by taking photographs to support and management reports. We will also regularly review progress with all clients, to see if we are delivering their expected outcomes (with appropriate changes if appropriate). We also intend to develop case studies.

2 I: When will your project start? 1st November 2009 and finish? March 2010

Your unique reference number is:

Jobs created	Permanent, paid and filled position equivalent to 30hrs per week or more and expectancy to last longer than 12 months	For each post you must provide - Confirmation of job title, start date of employment, expected duration (min of 12 mths), hrs of work, evidence that position is a permanent paid post and as a result of the project funded through Nexus	
Jobs safeguarded	Post forecast to be lost within 12 months without intervention	For each post you must provide - Confirmation of job title, start date of employment, expected duration (min of 12 mths), hrs of work, evidence that position is a permanent paid post and is at risk and will be lost without intervention from Nexus	
Business supported	One day or more of consultancy advice/other non financial assistance	For each business supported you must provide - Full name and contact details of business assisted, details of type of support provided and how it is expected to improve the business, dates and number of hours given	Does Nexus itself qualify?
Business created	New businesses (social enterprises) created and demonstrating growth after 12 months	For each business created you must provide - Full name and contact details of business created, date the business started trading and confirmation that at least 12 months trading has occurred, company registration / VAT number	We are just setting up now as a Social Enterprise c.i.c. If we get this grant we will have a higher confidence in turning to business into a sustainable one.
People assisted to improve skills	Staff, volunteers or service users achieving NVQ Level 2 or equivalent	For each individual supported you must provide - Name of person assisted, their contact details, name of training provider, course details, level of training, evidence of dates and time spent (must be at least 6 hrs). If training is below NVQ level 3 or equivalent then an explanation of how the training is filling a skills / training gap and why they are the	Does this qualify?

Your unique reference number is:

		best placed organisation to deliver this training required by their beneficiaries	
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Your unique reference number is:

nexus Grants Programme

Supporting the Rural Regeneration Zone in the West Midlands

3 b. Secondary Outputs

(Evidence must record beneficiaries Names (or initials) and postcode or area they are from)

Secondary outputs	Description	Numbers
No. of additional community groups or trusts set up		
No. of people using new-improved facilities - such as a building, a meeting room, a kitchen, a new hall. If it is an improved facility, you can only count the number of additional people expected to use it; do not include those that were using it before it was improved		10
No. of people using new/improved services - this would be something for general benefit, e.g. doctor's surgery/CAB Outreach/mobile library. If it is an improved service, you can only count the number of additional people expected to use it; do not include those that were using it before it was improved		10
No. of additional childcare places created.		
No. of additional people entering further learning or volunteering (informal or formal)		10
No. of additional people engaging with community leisure activities		10
No. of community facilities established/created - buildings, meeting rooms, kitchens, halls or specific areas expected to be established or created for social and / or recreational purposes		1
No. of community services established/improved - In this instance, a service is would be the provision of assistance or something for general benefit, e.g. doctor's surgery/CAB Outreach/mobile library		

Your unique reference number is:

Section Four - Project Costs

4. Project costs

Please give details of each activity to be resourced and how you have calculated the cost. The revenue component of this grants programme is much larger than the capital component, so please bear this in mind in planning your application. You may apply for up to £5,000 but your project should also have **at least 25% match funding** (50% if you are a commercial organisation). Please indicate all match funding, the source and amount and whether it has already been secured, and the support now required from Nexus. The assessment panel will expect to see the match funding amount column to total **at least 25%** (50% for commercial organisations) of the total cost column.

Activity	Calculation	Capital	Revenue	Total cost
1) Purchase of Mobile toilet unit	We have gone for the cheapest of 2 x Quotations (Total capital cost £7000).	7000		7000
2) Delivery	Estimate Based on 250 miles and 4 hours drive		250	250
3) Portable Generator for hot water, light and heating. Incl Delivery	Estimate from various websites	850		850
4) External Lighting	External lighting spotlights, switches and approx 3 hours professional electrician fitting.	110	40	150
5) Internal Heater unit	Internal heater and approx 3 hours professional fitting.	160	40	200
Total project cost				8450
Match funding amount	Calculation	Source of match funding	Match funding progress	In cash or in kind
2000	Purchase of Mobile toilet unit This is a top up to the total amount due of £7000.	Alan Edwards	Secure	Cash
250	Delivery	Alan Edwards	Secure	Cash and in kind
850	Portable Generator	Alan Edwards	Secure	Cash
200	Internal Heater	Alan Edwards	Secure	Cash and in Kind
150	External Lighting	Alan	Secure	Cash and in

Your unique reference number is:

	Edwards	kind
Total match funding		BOX B 3,450 £
Total project cost (as box A)	£8450	
Total Match funding(as box B)	£3450	
% match funding (= Box B ÷ Box A × 100)		40%
Total Nexus grant requested (= Box A – Box B)	£5000	

Your unique reference number is:

Section Five - Capacity and Experience

5 a. Please outline your organisation's experience and capacity to deliver the project for which you are applying

Support for Vulnerable children and young people

The Brambles Buddies scheme is the basis of our services for vulnerable and special needs people. We have more detailed brochures if you would like to see them.

Julie Edwards has been researching and learning about other Care Farm's experiences for the past 2 years. She has run several successful pilot projects over the past 12 months, with disaffected and excluded youth.

She organised educational talks, with hands-on sessions in groups of 6-10. The children were given guidelines on how to behave whilst on the farm, for health and safety and how to treat animals with care and respect, based on the Defra 5 Freedoms and the 5 senses. The ½ or 1 day sessions were structured with some visual aid work and particularly with hands-on activity to allow the children to engage and interact with a variety of farm animals.

We now have 4 regular weekly clients with Autism and Acquired Brain Injuries, and manage activities according to their needs, capabilities and wishes.

Noel O'Neill is a qualified professional with extensive experience of working with children and young people. Over the past 15 years he has worked in management, support and recruitment in Therapeutic communities, residential homes and special schools. Amongst other things, Noel is trained to NVQ Level 4 in Care; child protection and 12 hour paediatric first aid.

Noel is working with us to ensure that all activities and staff recruitment are safe for children, young people and vulnerable people. He may also be involved with running future activities as our business and client base grows.

Adult learning

Every month we run 1 day hands-on "Introduction to smallholding" courses for adults and their children. These cover:

- Daily life, food, feeding and bedding
- Choosing animals and their breed standards
- Environment, housing, fencing and cleaning
- Health, medicines and other treatments

Your unique reference number is:

Formal Defra law and regulations and record keeping

This course is the basis from which our Brambles Buddies education activities are developed and run. Brambles Buddies is open to people of all ages, but we make sure that session groups are made up of appropriate ages, capabilities, capacities and behaviour patterns.

Other recreational activities Eg Volunteering, business & enterprise activities.

The Brambles Buddies scheme cover smallholding business themes. We are always looking for volunteers to help, but we need to be selective, so that we only take on people who really want to work with a combination of special needs people, and animals and/or horticulture.

Therapeutic/ counselling Services

This will be based upon 1:1 or small group sessions with pet and farm animals using Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) techniques. Stacey Blunt has qualifications and extensive experience in AAT, particularly with children and schools. Stacey will run specific sessions at Brambles and will guide Julie Edwards to develop her skills.

Business management and success

The organisation has a strong management structure with Directors taking overall responsibility, but with senior advisors in place to guide on policy, quality, risk and service.

Alan Edwards has significant expertise in strategic change and project management in the commercial world. He has worked with start-up companies and helped small and large organisations improve their operational ways of working through change and project management, across all functional areas of business management and operations.

Alan is responsible for corporate management of the business, marketing and sales activities and legal and other corporate activities, such as Finance, Risk, HR and planning. He is responsible for ensuring that all policies are in place and are as comprehensive and practical as possible, up-to-date, and that staff and clients understand and follow procedures.

5 b. How will this grant make a difference in the longer term?

The grant will give an excellent basis to take on more clients from a wider demographic area.

If we have good quality basic personal services and living environments people will feel better about coming here and will stay with us for longer.

5 c. Detail the potential risks you have identified for delivering the project successfully and how you will manage them

Client numbers

Your unique reference number is:

procedures. Brambles staff and volunteers will be selected by their ability to be part of our team, they will have a caring nature and be appropriately qualified.

Physically disabled people and certain other clients who need Physical Intervention, will also be supported whilst at Brambles by their own 1:1 support workers, who will be provided by the client's own carer or commissioner.

Other people on site

We carefully consider the appropriate combinations of clients that are on site or working in the same group at any one time. This is done before new clients start, and on an ongoing basis, to make sure that we have the right mix of people and that we have minimalised the chances of people's wellbeing being put at risk.

If necessary we will restructure arrangements and daily activities to fix potential issues.

At the outset the Brambles management team have decided that we will not be working with ex-convicts or people with known drug problems. These groups of people clearly would not fit well with our chosen client categories, and indeed we know that we are not skilled in handling such clients.

Non-availability of the grant

This is the biggest risk of all, to our clients and staff, and to the viability of our business. If we do not attain the grant we will have to approach other potential grant providers. This will take time and have a significant impact on our resources and project goals and time plans.

5 d. What efforts will you make to ensure your project is available to everyone?

We are spreading the word to any and all organisations that come into contact with our potential clients.

We use press releases and have offers from many "Third Sector" organisations to put articles in their news letters. We advertise in the two main Smallholders magazines. We have already had 2 live visits from BBC Hereford & West during their morning shows.

We attend public shows to promote us and Care Farming in general, such as Three Counties Countrytastic – Education for young people, and Autumn Show, and other smaller local events.

Our website is excellent (which is about to be enhanced again).

5 e. Tell us what consideration you have given to the environmental impact of the project

Your unique reference number is:

Our beautiful location and quiet environment is a safe haven from external influences and stress. It is ideal for people to benefit from living in the countryside, in a working farm environment, living with animals, and involvement with development projects.

As such we promote the beauty of nature and the countryside and importance of keeping it clean, tidy and natural.

Through projects we will also promote other environmental issues, such as composting, hedgerow and woodland development, and wildlife care.

Your unique reference number is:

Section Six – Referee

6. Reference details

Please provide contact details for a professional who would be able to comment on your organisation, track record of delivering projects and the project idea. This should not be someone employed by or volunteering with your organisation or a member of your Board of Trustees.

Referee Name: Larry Atwood

Referee Job title: Development Manager

Referee Organisation: Care Farming West Midlands

Referee Address: Unit 16, Top Barn Business Centre, Holt, Worcestershire
WR6 6NH

Referee Tel: 01905 622218

Email: larry.atwood@cfwm.org.uk

Referee Role: Larry is the senior development manager for the West Midlands area. He is responsible for the Worcestershire area, and he manages the area managers for Herefordshire and Shropshire. His role is to support new Care Farms, during setup and ongoing growth.

Your Relationship: Larry is assigned to assist Brambles during our early growth period.

Your unique reference number is:

BID AUTHORISATION

We require the lead or senior member of your organisation to authorise the content of this application and confirm the authenticity of its detail. If you are a voluntary group, we would expect the chair of your management committee or Board to countersign the application.

The outreach and support worker is not endorsing the application, but is required to counter sign the application to confirm that they have offered you appropriate advice, provided links with other local initiatives and are aware of the final submission of your application.

Signature of Lead applicant:

Name: Alan Edwards

Job title: Managing Director

Sign:  Date: 20/10/9

Signature of Trustee: (where appropriate)

Name: n/a

Job title:

Sign: Date:

Signature of Nexus Outreach and Support worker:

Name:

Sign:

Date:

We also require the following documentation to support your application. Any applications received without this information will not be submitted and will have to wait for the next panel round. If you have enclosed the item please the middle column. If you have not enclosed the item please the middle column and give the reason for not including it in the end column.

Document	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or <input type="checkbox"/>	Reason for non inclusion
Letter of partner endorsement / support, (see Section 2i)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Latest annual accounts or copies of last two bank statements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Living Farm c.i.c. is still being incorporated – we had a hold up because the cic regulator changed all of the forms in October. We have attached the past 2 bank statements for our sister company Brambles Special Breeds.
Proof of secured match funding	<input type="checkbox"/>	If other funding cannot be found in the short timescales Alan Edwards will provide the match funding.
At least 2 quotes for capital works	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Documents showing evidence of need, (see Section 2d – e.g. Parish Plan, questionnaires, etc)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Constitution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Your unique reference number is:

Other (e.g. Planning permission)	N	No planning permission required.
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Your completed application form and supporting documentation in its entirety should be sent by post to Sophie Mead at Community First in time for the deadline.

Your unique reference number is: