

ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL calls out for votes to bag a share of bag charge fund

ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL is bidding to bag a massive cash boost from the Tesco Bags of Help initiative.

Tesco teamed up with Groundwork to launch its community funding scheme, which sees grants of £4,000, £2,000 and £1,000 - all raised from the 5p bag levy - being awarded to local community projects.

Three groups in every Tesco region have been shortlisted to receive the cash award and shoppers are being invited to head along to Tesco stores to vote for who they think should take away the top grant.

ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL is one of the groups on the shortlist.

Title of Project

Replacement of play area and park improvements linked to the creation of a community friends group for the park at The Meadows, St Austell.

St Austell Town Council, Town Clerk, David Pooley said:

“Cornwall Council has recently transferred the park at the Meadows in St Austell to St Austell Town Council. The park is in a wonderful position with fantastic views of St Austell Bay but has been neglected for many years. The park is next to a primary school (Bishop Bronescombe School) and close to a number of large housing estate with both private and social housing.

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.

The Town Council would like to regenerate the park and is hoping to provide £20,000 for new play equipment and to help improve the ongoing maintenance. The project and the park could be much improved and made more sustainable if local residents valued their park more. The Council would like to encourage the creation of a friends group and to support the recruitment of volunteers to inspect the park and undertake planting within the park, to organise community events and generally raise the profile of the park. The park would feel safer and be better looked after if there was more community involvement in its management.

The Town Council would like to invest time and resource to engage local community groups, residents and the school to help design the new play area, to undertake planting of trees and shrubs, to create a friends group and organise community events. The project will be scaled to fit the resources available but ideally a total budget of £24,000 would be available with grant funding of £4,000 from Tesco's Bags of Help and £20,000 from the Town Council.

Voting is open in stores throughout May and June. Customers will cast their vote using a token given to them at the check-out in store each time they shop.

Tesco's Bags of Help project has already delivered over £28.5 million to more than 4,000 projects up and down the UK. Tesco customers get the chance to vote for three different groups every time they shop. Every other month, when votes are collected, three groups in each of Tesco's regions will be awarded funding."

Lindsey Crompton, Head of Community at Tesco, said:

"We are absolutely delighted to open the voting for May and June. 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:

"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.

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

Funding is available to community groups and charities looking to fund local projects that bring benefits to communities. Anyone can nominate a project and organisations can apply online. To find out more visit www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp

Ends

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- The Bags of Help initiative is supported by money from the five pence charge levied on single-use carrier bags in Tesco stores.
- So far Bags of Help has awarded over £28.5 million to more than 4,000 community projects.
- For more information please visit: www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp