



## **Gateshead Countryside Volunteers**

### **Summary:**

The project will engage with the local community to improve the environment through planting fruit trees to encourage healthy eating in deprived areas. The project will link to the council initiative to encourage food production in urban Gateshead. It will engage local residents, schoolchildren and already established community groups who are interested in participating and will demonstrate the engagement role of the Countryside Volunteers in both urban and rural communities benefitting areas of need.

### **Headline Figures:**

Amount Requested: £2680

Trees planning to plant: 660

Unit Cost: £4.06

Match Funding: £8,500 in-kind and £8,000 from Gateshead Council

Analysis of Need: Most sites benefitted 30% most deprived communities and more rural sites highlighted rural need.

### **Breakdown of Trees to be planted in Parks, Recs, Open Spaces and Community Centres:**

Fruit and Nut Trees: 660 whips, maidens and half standards.

### **How did they fund the project?**

#### **The BTP paid for:**

£2680 for Fruit and Nut Trees, stakes and protection

#### **The Match came from:**

£7000 - Countryside Volunteers Rangers time – Expert Volunteer Time, £1,500

Countryside Volunteer Co-ordinator time

£8,000 - Gateshead Council contribution to Cross Lane Meadows Local Nature Reserve

### **What impressed the Big Tree Plant?**

1. Really strong partnership work across Gateshead
2. Both urban and rural deprived communities targeted
3. Strong volunteer basis for the project
4. Good aftercare plan with the long-term commitment of volunteers, the local community and council
5. Value for money for a fruit tree planting project, using feathered standards and highlighting long-term commitment rather than instant impact