

Bloomfields

27 Queensway

Wallasey

Wirral

CH45 4PZ

07932 355742

June 1st 2023

To Callister Trustees

I have taught a number of workshops and courses at the Callister gardens and taken a number of groups around for visits over the years and I would certainly support the construction of a pavilion/ specifically designed building which would allow shelter from weather and permanent seating areas.

The groups I have taught there include families, refugees, and women's groups based around growing fruit and vegetables and composting but we are dependent on the weather which is not ideal at all .

Having a purpose built structure would mean we could also offer other courses such as basic cooking techniques and what to do with left over food which would otherwise go in the bin.

Also with the addition of a disabled toilet this would mean more people can access the garden

Having an all year round venue would be such an asset to the whole community and I am sure the Callister garden will just go from strength to strength .

Yours

Carol Seery



30th May 2023

We were introduced to The Callister Trust in 2022 when they approached us to work with them to create a series of workshops for some of our female students in the garden. I can honestly say that agreeing to this collaboration is one of the best things we've done externally for our students to improve their mental health, and they won't stop asking us to go again! I have attached a poster the girls made about their garden visits!

The building of a Garden Pavilion would be a fantastic addition to the garden as we are currently only able to use the garden during the Summer term, and for a short period in September, weather permitting. Unfortunately peak season in the garden is a very busy time in our school calendar, taken up with exams and then the Summer holiday. A Garden Pavilion would mean that we could visit all year around, and would hugely expand on what we could offer our students there. Other teachers are also keen to join and teach some lessons there.

Once this building goes ahead, we will be one of the first in line to book our students in for some magical Callister Garden time!

Yours sincerely,

Amy Clark

Student Engagement Coordinator

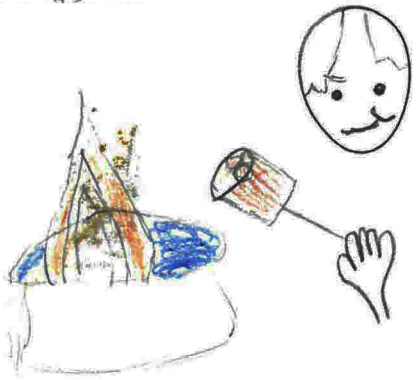
I loved toasting the marshmallows because we did it all together



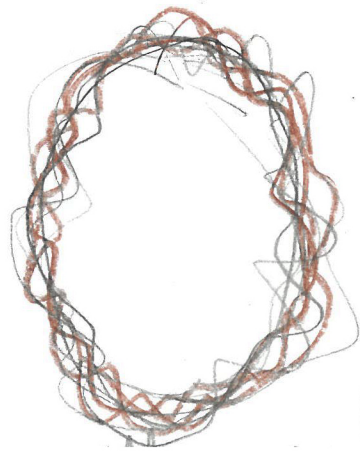
The sessions were so calming



Painting the plants was great as we got to use our imagination



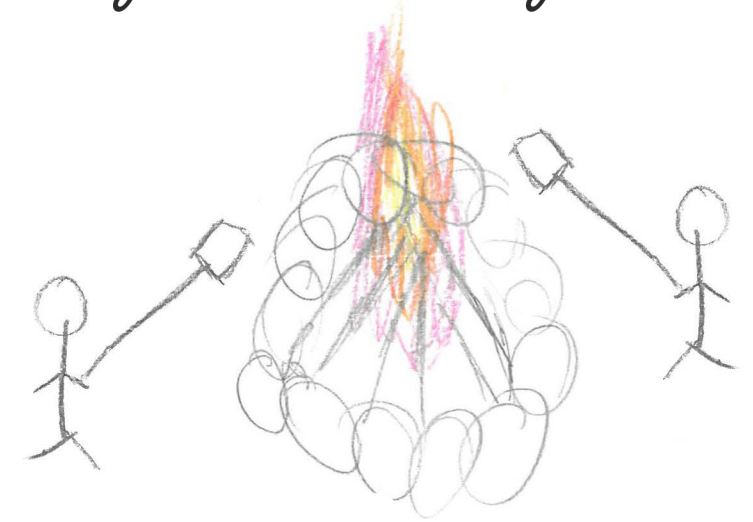
I love painting the rocks



Willow Wreath



I loved the weaving the bird feeders - I gave one to my Nan



I just love the garden and want to be there now!



I can't wait to come back to the garden when it's warmer



Have a good day always!



The Trees



Hammocks





Hi Cathy,

Crea8ing Community are a non-profit community organisation that provide family education and mental health support. We further offer a range of family wellbeing activities and have been privileged to use the amazing gardens provided by Callister Trust.

This enabled families to enjoy time together in a beautiful and tranquil setting, explore nature through den building, bug tracking, plant growing and other outdoor activities. Families expressed the benefits of having a safe, secluded, natural space in the heart of Birkenhead.

The addition of the Callister Century Pavilion would greatly enhance the space available to the local community. Crea8ing Community are fully in support of this project and look forward to it coming to fruition.

Kind regards,

Lynne Howe

The Green Shop Community Centre, Oxton

From: **Jeannie Metcalfe** <jinnijm29@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, 7 Jun 2023 at 18:28

To: Callister Trust <callistertrust@gmail.com>

Subject: The Green Shop and Community Centre Oxton (49,51 Christchurch Road)
letter of support.

The Green Shop and Community Centre Oxton enjoys a healthy enjoyable relationship with Callister Garden trust. We would fully support and the creation of an indoor space as the community would greatly benefit. We would signpost people we currently support to the inclusive, non-judgemental space at the Callister garden.

Here at the green shop we aim to empower people we meet, who may have physical and mental health needs, who may be looking for development opportunities and new skills and build a wider support/ friendship network.

The Callister garden with an indoor space would be greatly enhanced, enabling local community to use the space all year round.

From Jo
The Green Shop Community Centre Oxton



Grow-Wellbeing CIC
Studio 112, Make Hamilton
2 Cleveland Street
Birkenhead
Wirral CH41 6ND
6th June 2023

Letter of support- Callister Trust Garden Pavilion

We, Grow-Wellbeing CIC, are wholeheartedly in support of the development and building of a new pavilion in the Callister Trust Garden in Slaty Road, Oxton, Birkenhead.

Over the past four years, Grow-Wellbeing has used the garden as a venue for many activities and workshops to support the health and wellbeing of local residents. Some of those activities have been as a result of the Callister Trust commissioning of Grow-Wellbeing to facilitate activities. These include Women's Wellbeing workshops (for vulnerable women attending other third sector support groups, including the Spider Project, WEB and the Women's refuge); nature wellbeing sessions for young people with mental health issues from a local school; family nature workshops for refugee and asylum seekers awaiting their applications to stay in the UK. We have also facilitated workshops independently, and the Callister Trust have kindly agreed to allow us to offer our craft weaving workshops, and other nature workshops for families and young people in the beautiful garden environment, which has a variety of spaces that provide an uplifting of the spirit for the participants that we have supported.

The Pavilion would improve the provision at the garden, which currently only offers rudimentary washing and toilet facilities. It would provide refuge from adverse weather, where currently there is only one small outbuilding with a basic kitchen facility. As Grow-Wellbeing's activities are focused on nature connection, they are all scheduled outside but there have been occasions when significant adverse weather has meant that we have had to cancel sessions. The Pavilion would provide an alternative environment which would ensure all of our sessions could go ahead, or not be disrupted by sudden rain downpours.

We also support the sustainability principles embedded in the design of the Pavilion, which I am aware has been developed through collaboration with architecture students and staff at Liverpool John Moores University. As an environmental social enterprise, Grow-Wellbeing CIC is concerned with climate change, increasing environmental awareness, and promoting and implementing sustainable policies in our work. We are therefore pleased to see the sustainable design features being incorporated into the construction of the Pavilion, including green roof, use of timber and rainwater harvesting. These elements will provide the stimulus for further discussion with current and future garden users about the actions that we can all take to reduce our environmental impact and take action on climate change.

There has been an increasing body of research which evidences that connecting with nature spaces is beneficial to people's health and wellbeing; helping to overcome social isolation and mental health

issues. In short, what is often referred to as green social prescribing - an alternative to prescribing medication, offering preventative health and also recovery from illness. The Callister Garden offers the environment to do just that, and the Pavilion will improve and build on what they have achieved over the past few years.

To conclude, Grow-Wellbeing CIC is supportive of the proposal to construct a new Pavilion in the Callister Trust Garden, which will improve the provision, enabling more local residents to access the garden, increasing their connection with nature, increasing their environmental awareness and enhancing their health and wellbeing.

I would be happy to meet or talk further about our involvement with the Callister Trust Garden if required.

Duane Chong

Programme Director

Grow-Wellbeing CIC

duane@grow-wellbeing.com



2 Elwyn Road
Meols
Wirral
CH47 7AP

6/6/23

Dear Callister Trustees,

We are writing to express our thoughts on a potential pavilion within the Callister Gardens. As you know, our members have enjoyed Callister Garden for almost four years and it is a space that really helps to bring people together. This is so important for our members as they suffer greatly from mental health issues, trauma and immense feelings of isolation. For them, discovering such a green and peaceful oasis and a welcoming community in their new town is a benefit beyond words, particularly when you consider how many of these groups are afraid to visit local, public parks. Callister Garden offers a seclusion and safety that our members depend on.

We would welcome the opportunity for this to be a viable venue during the colder months. Many of our members believe cold wind and inclement weather to cause sickness and disease and are actually afraid to be outdoors during this time. An indoor space within the walls of Callister Garden would mean activities and groups could connect at any time of year, and whatever the weather. We would also like to be able to open up the shared projects we do at Callister Garden (Growing Together) to more of our members, and a purpose built facility with modern access would enable this.

We envisage so much potential for increasing our participation at Callister Garden events with the provision of an indoor space, which would be a huge benefit for our members, many of whom live locally, and we do hope to see this happen very soon.

Kindest regards

Vicky Evans
Executive Director, Heart4Refugees
07922 733 088
vicky.evans@heart4refugees.org

Reader Community Group in Callister Garden.

The Reading Group supported by The Reader Organisation had been meeting weekly indoors for over 3 years in the Oxton community shop when Covid lockdown stopped meetings in March 2020. Having access to Callister Garden we were delighted to be able to resume meeting outdoors on Tuesday 9th June 2020 when some restrictions were lifted. The Trustees were pleased to welcome a Reading Group to their catalogue of uses.

We were forced to switch to Zoom when restrictions were re-instated on 20th October 2020 and continued to 22nd December. Everyone was disappointed that we could no longer meet outdoors because we were determined to carry on outdoors until the weather made it too difficult. We resumed meeting outdoors in Callister Garden as soon as the weather permitted in the Spring. Numbers have varied from the level we were used to indoors before Covid but at the moment the outdoor group has 7 regular participants. Having said that it is still enjoyable reading if there is only one other person there; the 'group' seems just as worthwhile. Some people are still nervous about being in an indoor group, for others getting back to normal means other commitments but in many ways an outdoor group has its own merits in such a quiet place. If there were an indoor space that we could use in particularly inclement weather it would be wonderful but it is our intention to stay outdoors whenever possible. The advantage of a pavilion, of course, is that it is designed to feel like an outdoor space indoors and there would be the facilities to have a hot drink and to keep warm and dry whatever the weather.

Lesley Penn 12th October 2021



Spider Project

56 Hamilton Street

Birkenhead

CH41 5AE

0151 647 7723

enquiries@spiderproject.org.uk

06/06/2023

Dear Callister Trustees.

I write in reference and support of the Callister Garden and the need for the pavilion.

Spider Project is a wellbeing hub in Birkenhead. The project has been in operation for over 17 years, supporting people in recovery from addiction and mental health. Spider offers over 40 creative, educational and wellbeing activities to improve resilience and self-efficacy, whilst reducing social isolation and improving wider determinates to poor mental and physical health in a non-clinical setting.

For the past three years, Spider Project members have benefited from the space offered at Callister Garden. Member of Spider can freely attend sessions on offer at Callister, additionally we also benefit from having our own Project allotment there. Being in the outdoors naturally can help to improve a creative mind and complements learning, all of which adds to the plethora of support on offer in Spider. Going to other venues and outside spaces further increases confidence and reduces isolation.

Moreover, Spider have been afforded the opportunity to be part of a wildlife project with Callister and other organisations such as Bee Wirral. Part of this project has resulted in Members covertly filming the wildlife in Callister. This has inspired artwork and other classes within Spider.

If the Callister Garden were to have an indoor space this would further open up more group opportunities particular in the winter and in the evening. These are particularly isolating times for Spider members. Spider itself would also have access to run other sessions away from the project such as yoga and mindfulness.

Kindest Regards

Kerry Taverner

Project Manager, Spider Project Wirral



31st May 2023

Re Callister Gardens

To whom it may concern.

We will be supporting Callister Gardens with their new pavilion in various ways. Firstly, we intend to hold regular sessions there for our volunteers and members of the community. Such sessions will range from informal meetings to practical support which may include one to one advice and support.

We also have a number of other agencies who regularly use our centre for drop-in sessions and group work. These agencies include CAB, CGL (Wirral Ways) Wirral Mind and Involve North West. We anticipate that they will also be keen in accessing this venue.

Furthermore, we have a number of local voluntary groups attached to churches who support the active mission of SVP in providing non-judgemental help for those in need. They often require safe spaces to meet up with community members too.

Kind Regards

Christine McGovern

Christine McGovern
Activity Co Ordinator
St Vincents Centre
15-19 Grange Road West
Birkenhead
CH414BY



WEB Merseyside
176 Corporation Rd
Birkenhead
Merseyside
CH41 8JQ
0151 653 3771

FAO Cathy Warren (Trustee)
The Callister Garden,
34a Slatey Road,
Oxton,
Wirral,
CH43 4UG

6th June 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this letter of support for 'The Callister Garden' for their fundraising efforts in building a new pavilion in Callister Gardens Birkenhead.

WEB Merseyside has used Callister Gardens on many occasions; and many of the women from our weekly women's groups have accessed group sessions that have taken place in Callister Gardens and have enjoyed the time, space and activities there.

It is a beautiful much needed bit of sanctuary in a rather deprived area of Birkenhead. However activities are subject to cancellations due to weather, which is a real shame as the women look forward to attending these events. The building of a new pavilion will support events to go ahead whatever the weather and I know this venue will be very widely used.

I know WEB Merseyside have done quite a bit of collaboration work with Callister Gardens and have always worked well with all members of their teams, both staff, and volunteers and trustees. I wish them the very best of luck in their grant funding efforts for this very worthwhile cause.

Yours sincerely

Bernadette King

(CEO)

www.webmerseyside.org • info@webmerseyside.org Charity No: 1045403 Company No: 3036531



Wirral Environmental Network

Environmental education charity



To whom it may concern,

Wirral Environmental Network, WEN would certainly support the construction of a pavilion in the Callister gardens, Birkenhead . Our staff have run workshops and short courses there for families, refugees, and womens groups based around growing and well being. But very often we are restricted by the weather so having a purpose built teaching area would mean we could offer workshops all year round, to all groups and with the addition of a disabled toilet then it would mean access for all.

It would be of great benefit to the whole community not just people who are very local .

Kenny Peers

Gardening and Sustainability tutor

Wirral Environmental Network:

Working to advance the education of the public about the environment and its protection.

Patrons: Pat Sykes (MBE). Tina Fox, Prof. John Guillebaud, Jonathon Porritt, Charles Secrett, Dr Joanna Sharples.

Reg. Address: Wirral Environment Centre, Sandon Building, Falkland Road, Wallasey, CH44 8ER

to Trustees of Callister Gardens

date 4/06/ 2023

my ref
service
tel 0151 666 6660 Please ask for Kevin Norris
fax
email kevinnorris@wirral.gov.uk

Dear Trustees.

I am a curriculum manager for Wirral Lifelong Learning – the adult learning section of Wirral Borough Council.

With regard to the proposed construction of a pavilion at Callister Gardens we would like to express our full support for this as a potential teaching and learning venue for the local area.

We have worked closely with the Callister Trust in the past and have held numerous workshops and courses in the gardens - as it's an ideal resource for hosting a diverse set of outdoor activities that appeals to a wide range of communities and individuals. However, this provision has always been somewhat limited because the gardens have been a primarily outdoor venue.

The addition of a permanent indoor environment that can be adapted as a classroom would be ideal, and opens the gardens up, enabling it to become a useful community resource throughout the year. It would also mean the curriculum offer could be widely expanded, meaning the possibility of more subjects being offered for the local community(s).

Lifelong Learning thereby fully supports and endorses your proposal for a pavilion/teaching room and look forward to working with the Trust in the near future to develop and expand the adult learning offer.

If I can help in any other way with this proposal, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards (and good luck!)

Kevin Norris
Curriculum Manager
Wirral lifelong Learning Service