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SECTION C: YOUR PROPOSAL

Name of building / venue / facility

Ruchill Golf Course

Name of your organisation

Glasgow Community Food Network, Hyde n Seek Nursery, Community Moorings Scotland

Please provide details of the legal status of your organisation

Charity <i>(please provide Charity No if applicable)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Company Ltd by Guarantee	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Community Club/ Sports Club	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other <i>(please specify)</i>		Mix

Do you have a formal constitution/ governance documents? **YES**
(please provide a copy)

GCFN articles of association attached

Tell us about your proposal for the building/ venue/ facility and how you see this operating. Provide some detail as to why your organisation is well placed to deliver the benefits that will flow from the proposal.

This is a partnership proposal developed by Glasgow Community Food Network, Hyde n Seek Nurseries, and Community Moorings Scotland, to develop a wide range of activities at Ruchill golf course and on the canalside. It is our vision to bring more partners on board as part of the local community engagement, business planning and fundraising phase, should this proposal be successful.

Joint Vision

Our vision is to work closely with Ruchill residents, community organisations, Glasgow City Council and local elected representatives to develop the former golf course into a multi-use educational space that:

- Benefits the people of Ruchill by creating new training, recreation, learning, employment and volunteer opportunities that they can help to design
- Enhances existing woodland and meadow areas for natural play and outdoor learning, including provision of a registered outdoor nursery
- Offers recreation, education and housing opportunities through a new canalside hub and moorings
- Improves grassland biodiversity and habitats for pollinators through conservation grazing
- Integrates food production into the existing landscape, including fruit and nut trees, fruit bushes, herbs and vegetable production
- Offers a range of social enterprise and income generation opportunities including workshops, training, artisan crafts and food products

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- Generates renewable energy on site
- Demonstrates practical urban models of low-carbon employment, housing, innovative outdoor education, and sustainable food production

Each partner has specific expertise and will take responsibility for different areas of the project, but rather than formally divide up the space into different sole uses, our vision is to create an integrated management plan that enables shared access to the land in a way that is mutually beneficial. For example - grazing goats could be managed by trained local volunteers to improve wildlife habitats, while also providing educational learning opportunities for nursery children, and producing goat's cheese that could be sold in a canal barge cafe or used in cookery workshops with local youth groups.

We have provided more details about the project and the expertise of the partner organisations, in the three sections below.

Outdoor Nursery Provision - Hyde n Seek Nurseries

Hyde n Seek Nurseries proposes to utilise specific locations, alongside the general area of the site to develop contexts for outdoor learning. To this end, we propose to register a fully outdoor nursery provision with Care Inspectorate which will be operated in partnership with Glasgow City Council. Our goal is to offer children and families opportunities to play and learn outdoors, in the context of their own local neighbourhood. We want to support families to be included and to have opportunities to build their own skills in playing and engaging with the outdoor landscape.

Hyde n Seek Ltd is well placed to develop this initiative. As an established independent ELC provider operating in both Glasgow and North Lanarkshire, we have a proven track record in delivering high quality ELC provision. Building on lessons learned from European 'Best Practice' - our outdoor learning focus has intensified over the past 2 years, having been rolled out across the organisation to mitigate the risk of the pandemic. All our existing nurseries have outdoor playrooms on site.

We are looking to build upon our existing established outdoor provision in Petershill Park (Springburn) where we repurposed a forgotten, derelict, inaccessible piece of land, reimagining it for the local community. The community space at Petershill Park now serves as an outdoor learning environment, enriching our children's development and understanding of numeracy, literacy, health & wellbeing, STEM and risky play. The local community, our parents/carers and children have embraced this space and there is a deep feeling of pride and responsibility to protect and care for this area.

Our ambition is to transfer this model and build upon it at Ruchill Early Years initially, then branch out to older children/young people focusing on outdoor skills development that can transfer to the employment market. This focus on outdoor learning and play has already generated measurable, positive impact in our children and families as well as our professional colleagues.

This project will address issues of addiction, poverty and the attainment gap in areas of social deprivation, championing the ways in which education can help to tackle inequality. With the additional space afforded by the Ruchill site, we will be able to expand and implement our vision without barriers.

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We have an established track record and understanding of what it takes to turn around a forgotten space into a thriving outdoor learning space. We understand the factors at play, from both community, local authority and government actors, and feel lessons learned places us in an ideal position to make this proposal a success for all of the community.

Sustainable Food Production - Glasgow Community Food Network (GCFN)

Our vision is for a large-scale urban food growing project which is nature-rich, and which will benefit primarily the communities that live in the local area but also the wider city into the future. We aim to address some of the issues around access to local, affordable fresh produce, environmental degradation and lack of opportunities for people in cities to gain experience in food production.

Agroforestry, which involves the integration of trees and farming (often including grazing animals) is recognised as the most climate-friendly way to produce food while supporting biodiversity and sequestering carbon. Ruchill golf course is an ideal site to implement agroforestry because there are already existing areas of woodland, scrub, acidic grassland, semi-natural meadows and waterways.

GCFN's vision is to work with local people, ecologists, biodiversity officers, aspiring growers and grazing specialists, to develop an Integrated Land Management Plan that will focus on enhancing biodiversity and restoring areas that have been damaged by intensive golf course management, while producing affordable nutritious food for local people, alongside education, training and enterprise opportunities. Using a citizen science approach will enable communities (particularly young people), to monitor biodiversity and develop conservation skills so they can become responsible stewards of the land.

The Land Management Plan will take into consideration:

- Baseline surveys of existing species and identifying areas of high biodiversity value and potential wildlife corridors
- Restoring wildflower meadows and reducing scrub vegetation using conservation grazing methods
- Developing community growing and market gardening opportunities
- Planting fruit and nut trees, fruit bushes, native edible/medicinal herbs
- Creating new pond and wetland habitats (where appropriate)
- Exploring potential for woodland pigs and pastured poultry to improve soil health and support natural regeneration of woodland areas

We will work with the other partners to develop the necessary infrastructure to enable high animal welfare, safe public access, enterprise activities and education to take place. This may include polytunnels, animal housing and handling facilities, storage space, toilets, community kitchen, food processing space etc.

GCFN has been instrumental in the creation of the Glasgow City Food Plan and is one of the key partners in delivering its aims. We are a network of over 400 members with a variety of food and farming

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expertise and have a track record in excellent stakeholder engagement. As one of the key partners in Glasgow Food Policy Partnership and the Sustainable Food Cities we are well placed to develop this unique urban farming project.

Canalside Hub – Community Mooring Scotland (CMS)

Community Moorings Scotland proposes to utilise the bank along the canal at Ruchill golf course to create a Canalside hub at which boat-dwellers, commercial and leisure boaters, and members of the public can come together by the water to live, work, volunteer and learn together. This development would support the growth of the canal community by increasing availability of spaces for boats on the Forth and Clyde canal while utilising an otherwise neglected space.

We also propose to utilise some of the land for creating welfare facilities for both permanent boaters and visitors to the site. Additionally, we will create affordable storage and artisan huts that can be rented to create space for makers and creatives; making an attraction for visitors to come and visit Ruchill by both land and water. Our long-term goal will be to create a completely off grid site with all the power required to operate being generated by renewable technology.

Rent from moorings, storage and artisan huts will sustain the operation and maintenance of the site while project specific grant funding will be sought to run training and volunteer programmes as well as free events and workshops open to all.

CMS recently made history with creating Scotland's first community-run mooring site adjacent to Narrowboat Farm in Linlithgow, on the Union canal, and are currently the only organisation, other than Scottish Canals, offering mooring opportunities on the lowland canals. We are a member-led organisation and our approach to creating moorings is rooted in the needs and aspirations of those who live, work and care for Scotland's canals. Our board has experience with business & project planning as well as site operation.

Overall operational responsibility

There are clear areas of operational responsibility for the activities i.e. Community Moorings Scotland will manage the Canalside Hub, Hyde n Seek will manage their outdoor nursery, and GCFN will manage farming activities. But agreements will be made around shared use of areas and any facilities e.g. access routes, natural outdoor play areas that are solely for the use of nursery, toilets and indoor workshop spaces, rotation of grazing animals etc.

Each organisation will raise income for their own specific activities, but may develop joint funding bids for areas of shared use such as the development of a toilet block, community kitchen, access ways, and site infrastructure.

The legal structure for the overall operation of the site is still to be determined, but is likely to be a partnership agreement or potentially a Consortium Cooperative, with a steering group for strategic decision making that has representation from GCC, each partner organisation, elected local representatives and residents.

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Community engagement and participation

We are very aware that this initiative will only succeed with the support and engagement of Ruchill residents and local partners. Facilitating community participation in the design and delivery of the activities/services, and on the development of a land management plan for the site, is crucial to the project's success.

Tell us about the benefits that you expect to generate from this proposal and how these might meet an existing need. Will your proposal benefit the local community, a community of interest or both?

We have a social, moral and environmental duty to ensure public land provides the maximum benefit to local communities, biodiversity and climate resilience. As we emerge from the pandemic and face further challenges in the cost of living crisis and climate crisis, we believe that investing in positive change in this area - using community development and agroecological principles - is essential. We also recognise the opportunities across all of our activities to support intergenerational and cross-cultural community cohesion.

Based on the work already undertaken in the *Ruchill and Possilpark Thriving Places Community Plan* (2017) we feel that our partnership proposal meets the following short term outcomes (as listed in the community plan):

- Local people have more opportunities to socialise together and build connections with their neighbourhoods (both existing and new residents)
- Local people are supported to develop activity for their neighbourhoods
- Local people are able to access a diverse range of age suitable activities in their local community
- Local organisations develop and offer a range of programmes and opportunities to support the most vulnerable in our communities
- Local people at the heart of decision making
- Individuals and the community have the knowledge, skills and support to protect and improve their health and wellbeing
- Local people are able to access information on status and ownership of derelict and vacant land sites, and are supported to consider opportunities to develop some of these
- Local organisations continue to develop and support growing spaces in the neighbourhoods, and contribute to a food network
- Services and organisations work to develop opportunities for new social enterprises to meet their needs and the needs of the local community, and also support existing social enterprise and small businesses whenever possible.

Benefits of outdoor learning spaces - Hyde n Seek

The outdoor learning contexts we create will offer myriad opportunities for families to be included in their child's learning journey, building their capacity as families who feel included in their community. Outside

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of nursery hours, these outdoor learning contexts will be available to local children and families as well as community groups during evenings and weekends.

Our proposal benefits both a community of interest (Hyde n Seek children and families) as well as the local community of other nurseries and children and families in the area. In addition to this, we aim to bring benefit to the professional community of early years educators by supporting the professional development of colleagues across the early years sector (local authority and partnership).

We view this as an opportunity to develop a model for excellence in outdoor learning provision which can be sustainably rolled out across other community spaces in Glasgow. We aim to deliver training and opportunities for professional development around: curriculum building, application of learning, environmental sustainability, risk assessment and planning.

Benefits of sustainable food production and ecological restoration - GCFN

Sustainable food production on the site has the potential to deliver many benefits including: access to affordable locally grown food, increased biodiversity and enrichment of local wildlife habitats, carbon capture, multiple avenues for training and education around food growing and biodiversity, enhancing community cohesion through coming together for community activities and events.

Growing and sharing food has the ability to bring people together from all backgrounds and walks of life. Many people from migrant and refugee communities have farming skills and can share this expertise with people who have lost their agricultural connections.

The project has many benefits for improving people's health. In addition to increased access to healthy food, there is the improved health and wellbeing of participants through exercise and fresh air, improved confidence and skills development through training, volunteering and employment opportunities.

Benefits of community-owned canalside moorings - CMS

Community-owned moorings offer people the opportunity to help secure a successful future for our canals and the communities and businesses alongside them. At our Ruchill hub our aim is for both local people and the boating community to benefit from the canal's exciting regeneration opportunities, helping create a vibrant and sustainable future.

Our proposal is to turn previously unproductive land and water into a vibrant community-based venture having minimal impact on the existing environment, offering opportunities for a more affordable and lower impact way of life. There is relatively low awareness about the benefits living on water can offer and there are many potential canal-based business opportunities that can be explored. We would aim to change this and encourage more people to look at what the canal can offer in a different way. We have also identified a huge knowledge and skills gap relating to the maintenance of boats with few professionals available to carry out essential works on boats. We would like to change this by offering learning, training and volunteering programmes to meet this challenge while providing potential routes to employment.

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Our experience is that community-owned moorings require very little land for their own direct purposes, but they create strong mutual cross-benefits when they are co-located with other community-driven projects, as is proposed for Ruchill.

What are your plans to generate sufficient income/ grants to be able to sustain the ongoing operating costs of the building/ venue/ facility?

It is recognised that all three partners will need to secure grant funding in the early stages of the project, particularly to support community engagement, feasibility studies, planning and infrastructure costs. The aim is to achieve a transition towards greater income generation as the site and project develops. Further details below.

Hyde n Seek Nurseries

We have an established and tested business structure in place that has been successful for the past 22 years in similar area demographics. We understand our service users, financial constraints and are sector leading within our offered provision. Initial financial support will be sought – with the goal of being self-sustaining by Year 3.

Glasgow Community Food Network

GCFN has a proven track record of securing and managing grant funds including Big Lottery funding, and over £92,000 in match funding from various other sources, both local and national.

Working with the community to develop cooperative or social enterprise models would help ensure democratic collective management of the land and sufficient income generation by year 5 of the project to be sustainable. Writing a business planning and fundraising strategy will be undertaken in the next stage of the project. Potential funders already identified include the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Robertson Trust, and The Big Lottery. Potential income generation strands for the food & farming activities include:

- Designing workshop programmes, training and events that can generate enough income to cover running costs and to provide free educational activities for local residents.
- Sale of veg boxes through a Community Supported Agriculture scheme - priced on a sliding scale to offer a reduced rate for local residents
- Stacking farming enterprises that are mutually beneficial (such as keeping bees and grazing animals around fruit trees) to produce vegetables, fruit, honey, juice and dairy products with very few inputs other than staff/volunteer time.
- Developing unique added-value products such as charcuterie, cheese, jams, ferments that can be sold city-wide and particularly aimed at the high-end restaurant market to generate income and support the sale of more affordable products to local families.

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- Securing grazing contracts for other sites to manage invasive species, clear overgrown areas or replace mowing.

Community Moorings Scotland

Our business model ensures that we will secure enough income from renting moorings and spaces to operate and maintain the site ongoing. Our first site at Narrowboat Farm (Linlithgow) is already generating an operational surplus which we have been using to develop our infrastructure using volunteer effort. This model has been successful and is a viable way of developing the site. Nevertheless, we will seek additional funding to allow us to accelerate progress at Ruchill, which will in turn accelerate our ability to provide training and volunteering programmes.

Specific grant funding will be sought for us to deliver our free to all training/volunteer programmes as well our community events and workshops. We will also seek funding and investment opportunities to meet our ambition of creating a fully renewable energy-powered site which we hope to achieve within the first 15 years of operation.

Tell us about any experience you have in managing a building/ venue/ facility.

Hyde n Seek Nurseries

As an established independent ELC provider operating in both Glasgow and North Lanarkshire, we have a proven track record in delivering high quality ELC provision. We currently operate 8 ELC settings in a profitable, affordable and successful way. We own some of our premises, others are rented on long term rental agreements. Our organisational infrastructure includes the full range of janitorial, maintenance, food preparation and domestic staff as well as Quality Improvement Team which represents a broad spectrum of professional expertise in the fields of ELC and ASN. The proposed new service will be managed on-site by a fully qualified SSSC registered ELC Manager.

Glasgow Community Food Network

We have extensive experience of partnership working and would contract experts from organisations such as Pasture for Life, The Landworkers' Alliance, Nature Friendly Farming Network, The Orchard Project and Permaculture Association, who have skills in ecological land planning and management. We would also seek input from members within our network and will provide all necessary training and support for staff and volunteers working on the ground.

Community Moorings Scotland

We have experience in operating our community-owned moorings site on the Union canal, in which we secured a 25-year trading agreement and lease with Scottish Canals and a 25-year access and service agreement with the neighbouring landlord. We are established as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, with a volunteer board and a supportive membership. We have successfully navigated the process of setting up a unique operation on the canals of central Scotland, and we have a clear mandate in our constitution to continue to develop community-owned mooring sites from west to east. To our

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knowledge, we are the only organisation operating in Scotland with the experience and the vision to deliver this value to the canalside at the Ruchill site.

What help and support from the council family would you require for this proposal?

The different elements of this partnership project require varying degrees of planning support and infrastructure, as detailed below.

Hyde N Seek Nurseries

We are seeking a significant area of land that allows us to develop, enhance and build upon our vision, creating a benchmark for outdoor learning provision that others seek to emulate. To do this pioneering work we would be seeking help and support with:

- Set up costs
- Outdoor weather appropriate clothing
- Outdoor facilities – toilet tent, sleeping mats, hammocks, etc
- Outdoor resources
- Employability training and volunteer programmes
- Staff salaries

We can get the outdoor nursery started with very minimal infrastructure. All the equipment is mobile including toilets. Our main infrastructure requirement is an onsite storage container to keep equipment. Access to mains water would also be advantageous.

Glasgow Community Food Network

Designing the food forest elements and carrying out tree planting requires very minimal infrastructure. To start grazing animals we would need:

- Vehicle access onto the site for loading and unloading animals
- Storage container for equipment
- Access to water (mains or rain water harvested)
- Mains electricity or support with micro-generation using renewables
- Location identified for animal handling area (e.g. cattle crush)
- Public signage

Infrastructure required for community growing / market gardening

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Community Moorings Scotland

We would ideally appreciate help from the council family to assist us in identifying suitable funding for:

- A feasibility study and associated costs; surveys etc.
- Architect, engineer and planning permission fees
- Creating vehicle/pedestrian access routes to the moorings and parking area
- Installing water and electricity supplies to the mooring site
- Initial stage mooring infrastructure for 6-8 boats
- Salary for a part-time Development officer/Project manager

We established our first site without support for capital investment; this approach can be viable, but it is not preferred at Ruchill. We believe that Ruchill would benefit from targeted capital support to allow us to create access routes and infrastructure early in the process. This gives us the best chance of introducing training and employment opportunities early in the project. A water supply and electricity supply will be essential in the development stages.

The banking along the canal at Ruchill Golf course is owned by Scottish Canals and requires their approval and consent for our proposal to be accepted. Going forward we would ask that GCC invite Scottish Canals to be part of the working group so they can be kept informed of our proposal, as they are potential stakeholders and require to be consulted at each stage of development.

Please provide us with any other information that you feel is relevant to your proposal.

This proposal aligns closely with strategic policy goals at a local, city and national level including:

- Glasgow Community Plan (2020-2022)
- Glasgow City Food Plan (2021-2031)
- Glasgow Pollinator Plan (2017-2027)
- Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022

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