Bantham SLSC calls out for votes to bag a share of Tesco’s bag fund

Bantham SLSC 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 raised from carrier bag sales in Tesco stores 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.

Bantham SLSC is one of the groups on the shortlist.

We are requesting funding for new surf rescue boards which are crucial equipment for training our developing lifeguards and helping to provide a safe beach environment for all beach users.

*“Bantham surf life saving club trains and develops current and future lifeguards using rigorous junior, youth and senior training programs. Qualified club members also volunteer to patrol the beach on Sundays during the summer, when on peak days there can be up to 4000 people on the beach.

Surf rescue boards are a crucial piece of rescue equipment but have a limited lifespan and need replacing every few years. They are used by lifeguards to rapidly reach casualties and deliver them safely back to shore, often in challenging surf conditions.

Youth and senior members train regularly using the rescue boards, with the goal being for members to achieve nationally recognised lifeguard qualifications and volunteer to patrol the beach on Sundays, as well as providing a pool of qualified lifeguards for the RNLI. Many young members go on to work with the RNLI on beaches across the South Hams.

Having funding to purchase 4 more rescue boards to replace boards which are nearly at the end of their usable service, will enable the club to continue to provide regular, effective training to our members and ultimately increase the likelihood of saving lives on our beaches”*

Voting is open in all Tesco stores in November and December and 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 £60 million to more than 18,000 projects across Britain. 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.

Alec Brown, Head of Community at Tesco, said:

“Bags of Help has been a fantastic success and we’ve been overwhelmed by the response from customers. It’s such a special scheme because it’s local people who decide how the money will be spent in their community. There are some fantastic projects on the shortlists and we can’t wait to see these come to life in hundreds of communities.”

Groundwork’s National Chief Executive, Graham Duxbury, said:

“Bags of Help continues to enable local communities up and down Britain to improve the local spaces and places that matter to them. The diversity of projects that are being funded shows that local communities have a passion to create something great in their area. We are pleased to be able to be a part of the journey and provide support and encouragement to help local communities thrive.”

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](http://www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp).

Ends

Notes to editors:

* The Bags of Help initiative is supported by money raised from carrier bag sales in Tesco stores.
* So far Bags of Help has awarded more than £60 million to over 18,000 community projects.
* For more information please visit: [www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp](http://www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp).