

RURAL/URBAN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPLICATION FOR 11th MARCH 2015 EXECUTIVE :

Applicant : **Rowington Parish Council**

Description of scheme: The project is to remove 3 pieces of old equipment installed in the 1970's and, utilising the existing play surface, install 3 new pieces of equipment. The new pieces of equipment have been carefully chosen to ensure that they encourage social interaction, are multi user, and can be used by a good range of ages and physical abilities. The equipment to be replaced also has evidence of significant corrosion on parts of the metalwork, replacing this equipment will alleviate current health & safety concerns.

Evidence of need: Visually there is evidence of significant corrosion on parts of the metalwork of the play equipment to be replaced. Additionally, 18 children of various ages from Lapworth School responded to a survey form produced by Rowington Parish Council (copies provided) along with various verbal requests from residents over the last 13 years.

3 years accounts received? 2012 - 2014 accounts have been received, along with a recent bank statement covering the period 28th November to 24th December 2014; this evidences sufficient cash reserves to meet the contribution stated on the application form.

Financial Performance; minus figure = deficit	Year ended	Year ended	Year ended
	31/3/14	31/3/13	31/3/12
	£4,646	£2,040	£6,888

Available Funds (cash and reserves)	Year ended	Year ended	Year ended
	31/3/14	31/3/13	31/3/12
	£24,723	£20,076	£17,529

Details of membership, fees etc: None

Details of usage: Playground located at the local playing field, the facility currently provides; a ball shoot, basketball post, overhead climbing ladder, 2 tier high bars, parallel bars, junior swings, toddler swings and metal trim trail. The 2 tier high bars, overhead climbing ladder and parallel bars were all installed in 1974 and are now nearing the end of their useful life. For this type of facility it is difficult to give exact numbers of usage, however, the facility is used by the local community as well as residents from adjacent areas such as Lapworth and Shrewley.

Details of Organisations equalities policies: Rowington Parish Council is a local authority subject to statutory duties applicable to a public body. The Parish Council is subject to the Equality Act 2010 but as a public authority it has additional obligations in the 2010 Act. It must have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and harassment, victimisation and to advance equality of opportunity in the exercise of its functions. A local council is also a public authority for the purposes of the Human Rights Act.

3 quotes provided: Yes - three quotes have been received. The chosen supplier is £4,738 more expensive than the cheapest quote, the Parish Council rationale for this is as follows: Wicksteed were the suppliers of the original playground equipment in 1974, much of which remains in good order today. The known quality and potentially long life of the Wicksteed equipment is a major consideration. The PC has had many dealings with Wicksteed over the years and has always found the company to be helpful and reliable. Wicksteed also provided the last piece of new equipment for the playing field in c.2005. The substantial build quality and traditional design of the Wicksteed equipment was favoured for this rural location, which is also overlooked by residential housing. The Standing Orders (30.d) of Rowington PC, state "Neither the Council, nor any committee, is bound to accept the lowest tender, estimate or quote".

Which of the Council's Corporate Priorities are met?
Reduce anti-social behaviour

Evidence

New multi-user playground equipment will provide physical activity and act as a focal point for a wide range of children to congregate and socialise which will potentially reduce anti-social behaviour.

Reducing obesity, particularly in children

Modern structured multi-user play equipment has inbuilt fitness as well as imaginary elements. New equipment will hopefully encourage children from a good age range to play outside and undertake physical activity which will help to reduce obesity in children.

Increase opportunities for everyone to enjoy and participate in sports, arts and cultural activities

The existing facility isn't used very much due to the age and lack of appeal of the equipment; new modern play equipment will increase opportunity for young people to participate in physical and social activity. The new equipment will enable access and use by children with disabilities and each access onto the playing field has already been upgraded to enable access by wheelchairs and pushchairs.

Engaging and strengthening communities

This facility is not only used by children using play equipment but is also used by young people, parents, grandparents and families for gatherings during the summer months i.e. encouraging social interaction amongst local residents and their families and further strengthening the community.

Targeting disadvantage in rural / urban areas:

The playing field and playground equipment are of great importance to the community in this very rural area; the nearest public park is in Warwick and for those without their own transport it is extremely difficult to access as there is only a very limited bus service in Rowington Parish. It would not be possible for young children to access these facilities on a regular basis due to the restrictions of travelling time/cost etc. There is also a play area in Claverdon Parish but again, travelling time and lack of public transport are difficulties experienced by working parents and those without cars.

Total cost of scheme (including VAT where appropriate) £14,738

Funded by: **Status**

Parish Council / Own Funds £7,369

Total RUCIS	£7,369
equates to	50.0%