

RURAL/URBAN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPLICATION FOR 12th FEBRUARY 2020 EXECUTIVE :

Applicant : **Shrewley Parish Parents (SPP)**

Description of scheme:

Shrewley is a village in Warwickshire with a population of about 850, 20% of whom are aged under 18; it has a local shop, pub and village hall but no facilities for children to meet and play. A busy main road dissects the village, meaning children have no safe place to cycle, scoot or run about. SPP is collaborating with Shrewley Village Hall (SVH) to install a children's playground; SVH owns the land that has been set aside for the playground. SPP has taken over project management responsibility for the playground development, including raising the funds needed, and future ongoing maintenance of the facility. The equipment chosen for the playground fits seamlessly into its natural surroundings and is made of 100% Robinia timber; the material is rot proof, durable and resistance to insects, fungus, and inclement weather. Also environmentally-friendly, it can be installed in the ground without the need for chemical treatments and is Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified, meaning it comes from sustainably managed European forests. The playground will include:

- A Combi-climber multi-play unit; the playground's 'star feature', it allows up to 13 users at the same time to challenge their physical capabilities in ten different ways. Children can slide, climb, traverse, balance and problem solve as they play.
- A 1.25m Pod Swing; also allows several users to play at the same time encouraging socialising and interaction. The height of the pod allows for easy transfer from a wheelchair, making the playground accessible to children of different abilities.
- A traditional style see-saw and two tactile play panels complete the play area.
- Timber fencing and safety matting keep children safe and timber bins and benches are in keeping with the natural theme.

The project aim is to give children living in Shrewley and surrounding villages a safe, durable playground where they can challenge themselves physically, enjoy some fresh air and exercise and socialise with other children. SPP also hope that by providing a new focal place for families to congregate, it will help to encourage parents to build and strengthen their own support network, tackling issues of loneliness and isolation that can be so prevalent in a rural location.

Evidence of need:

In 2014 the local community put together a Parish Plan for Shrewley, a community-led document which sets out the vision for how local residents would like to see their area develop in coming years; amongst other things it listed the development of a children's playground. As the idea for the playground came from the local community in the first instance, SPP have taken care to keep local people involved in every stage of the planning and development of the playground: SPP held a consultation meeting during 2017 where draft plans were displayed, the local community were invited to comment on them and feedback was captured on forms during the meeting. SPP used the feedback from the meeting to influence the initial design of the playground, and now have planning permission in place, architect plans drawn up and a playground provider secured. SPP have sought advice from Norton Lindsey and Leek Wootton playground committees, who have developed similar playgrounds, to take advice on how to maintain the playground in the future and one of the SPP committee members attended a playground maintenance training course. SPP therefore have an understanding of what needs to be in place for the on-going maintenance of the playground once it has been installed and already have a volunteer maintenance rota in place and a pool of local community members who have agreed to help keep the playground safe and in good order for children now and in the future to enjoy. Shrewley Parish Council have already committed to contribute £2,000 to the project indicating their support of the project.

3 years accounts received?

2017 - 2019 accounts have been received along with a recent bank statement for all accounts held (13th September 2019); 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
30/06/19	30/06/18	30/06/17
£88	£1,875	£1,501

Available Funds (cash and reserves)

Year ended	Year ended	Year ended
30/06/19	30/06/18	30/06/17
£X	£X	£X

NOTE: the accounts provided don't show a cash at bank figure, this has been discussed with the applicant, as a small community group they don't need to have their accounts audited and unfortunately the treasurer hasn't recorded this information anywhere. However, a bank statement dated 13th September 2019 has been provided which shows a cash at bank amount of £2,616 which evidences that SPP have sufficient cash reserves to cover their contribution to the project.

Details of membership, fees etc:

There is no membership scheme in place, "stay and play" session charges are £4 per family; this is to cover the cost of hiring the village hall, purchasing refreshments and any items used in the session (i.e. craft materials). The project will deliver a free-to-use community playground.

Details of usage:

In 2016 a local mum with two young children moved to Shrewley, was disappointed by the lack of community activities for families with young children and set up Shrewley Parish Parents (SPP). Today, SPP are a constituted community group of volunteers; all parents with young families living in the Parish. SPP run regular 'stay & play' sessions in the local village hall every 1 - 2 months with the aim of encouraging young families within the local community to meet each other, socialise together and form bonds, new friendships and a mutual support network; they attract around 20 families per session. Currently there is no local playground for children to use.

Details of Organisations equalities policies:

SPP have an equality and diversity policy in place and a copy has been provided. Highlights of the policy include:

SPP is committed to meeting the needs and aspirations of service users and communities in a fair, respectful and proportionate manner. Our approach to diversity and equality is to provide inclusiveness by recognising that anyone can make a positive difference in the achievement of the organisations vision and the wider society.

- SPP will not discriminate against, bully or victimise any person or organisation on grounds of race, ethnic origin, disability, age, class, appearance, responsibility for dependents or any other protected characteristics under the 2010 Equality Act or any other matter which causes a person to be treated with injustice.
- To have committee members and volunteers that reflect the make-up of the communities we serve.
- The committee's leadership role will ensure the policy is successful. All volunteers will have professional, individual and collective responsibility to implement this policy. Contractors, consultants and partner organisations are required to demonstrate their commitment and action to share our policy on diversity.

3 quotes provided: Yes

Which of the Council's Corporate Priorities are met? **Evidence**

Reduce anti-social behaviour The project will deliver a children's playground; having somewhere to meet, play and socialise with friends will help give young people in the village something to do which will reduce levels of boredom and in turn will help to reduce anti-social behaviour.

Reducing obesity, particularly in children The project will deliver a children's playground which will provide a new space for children to run around, get some fresh air and exercise. The different equipment will allow children to use different parts of their bodies in a variety of ways as they learn physical skills of balancing, climbing and traversing. This will help to reduce obesity in children.

Increase opportunities for everyone to enjoy and participate in sports, arts and cultural activities Currently there is no playground within Shrewley; the project will deliver a playground facility which will increase opportunity for young people to enjoy and participate in physical and social activity.

Engaging and strengthening communities SPP are a community group made up of volunteers from within the local community. The project will deliver a playground which will provide a new focal point in the village for families to gather, meet each other and strengthen their support networks. There are also opportunities for more local people to get involved in volunteering to support the project and once the playground is in place through joining the maintenance rota to help take care of the site and equipment in the years to come. This all helps to engage and strengthen the community.

Targetting disadvantage in rural / urban areas: The project will help people who are disadvantaged by feelings of loneliness, isolation or being cut off from their local community, for example; having a new baby or young family can be very isolating particularly in a rural location with poor public transport links. A playground will create a place to visit to meet other families which will help to break down barriers and reduce these feelings of isolation. The nearest playgrounds are in Rowington (2 miles away) or Norton Lindsey (5 miles away); both routes involve a significant proportion of journey on high speed roads with no pavement so walking with young children isn't really an option and, for members of the community who don't have their own transport, although there is a bus that connects Shrewley & Rowington the service is infrequent, for example; you could arrive at 9:30am but the first bus back is not until 12:50pm. There isn't a direct service running between Shrewley & Norton Lindsey; you have to go via Stratford making it a 2 hr 9 min trip one-way which naturally is too excessive for a trip to a playground.

Total cost of scheme (including VAT where appropriate) £32,565

Funded by: **Status**

Organisations Own Funds £2,000 Approved

Shrewley Parish Council £2,000 Approved

29th May 1961 Charity £3,000 Approved

Lillie Johnston Trust £500 Approved

Garfield Weston Foundation £8,782 Requested awaiting a decision

Total RUCIS **£16,283**

equates to **50.0%**