

RURAL/URBAN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPLICATION FOR 9TH DECEMBER 2021 CABINET:

Applicant : **Baginton Parish Council**

Description of scheme:

The existing Lucy Price Playground was installed about 20 years ago using a National Lottery grant. It became very shabby and some equipment was deemed unsafe. Over previous years, other equipment has been removed, leaving a reduced number of play items. The Parish Council want to provide an enjoyable and safe play area for children of all ages and abilities. To achieve this they designated some of the existing equipment for repair and/or refurbishment, whilst previously removed, unsafe and irreparable equipment needs to be replaced with more modern alternatives.

The Parish Council also want to install some additional inclusive items to cater for all abilities, which were overlooked when the playground was first installed.

The rubberised safety surrounds all need cleaning and repair.

The area is surrounded by trees which need to be lopped / cut back to improve the light and reduce damage to the equipment from sap etc dropping.

Refurbish benches and picnic table.

The Parish council decided to carry out all the refurbishment and tree lopping using its own available funds to pay the contractor and this part of the work is complete. In addition, all the defective equipment was removed.

This RUCIS application is for the installation of the new equipment, namely:

- 6 swings to replace the ones which were irreparable
- A replacement climbing structure with adjacent agility trail to replace unsafe structures.
- A new inclusive roundabout.
- New basket swing and inclusive swing unit

Once completed, the aim is to give children living in Baginton and surrounding villages a safe, durable playground where they can continue to challenge themselves physically, enjoy some fresh air and exercise and socialise with other children.

Evidence of need:

The area has deteriorated over the 20 years since it was installed which is very visual and H&S inspections showed some items to be a safety hazard; several items have now been removed. The community and surrounding areas were contacted via the Village website, newsletter, site signage and via a survey operating from the local shop. A total of 96 votes were cast indicating the type of equipment that playground users would like. Replacement of playground equipment is specifically mentioned within the Village 'wish list' submitted upon request from WDC Green Space Development Officer, Helen Hancox. The playground is specifically mentioned within the WDC adopted Neighbourhood Plan, highlighting that the 2011 Parish Plan identified it for refurbishment and expansion.

3 years accounts received?

2019 - 2021 accounts have been received along with a recent bank statement for all accounts held (1st October 2021); 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
31/03/21	31/03/20	31/03/19
£4,290	£583	£4,892

Available Funds (cash and reserves)

Year ended	Year ended	Year ended
31/03/21	31/03/20	31/03/19
£33,251	£28,961	£28,378

Details of membership, fees etc:

There is no charge for using the playground.

Details of usage:

The Lucy Price Playground is used on a daily basis by the children of Baginton, children from surrounding communities and children who visit friends and family in Baginton. It is impossible to quantify numbers but as with all playgrounds, usage varies throughout the day from between zero to 10+ children on the park at any one time; it is especially busy after school's finish at the end of the day, at weekends and school holidays. The playground caters for all ages, including sheltered areas for older children to socialise and for parents to gather while they supervise their children. There are 5 benches and a picnic table.

Details of Organisations equalities policies:

The Playground is open 24 hours a day to all who visit. Baginton Parish Council operates an Equality and Diversity policy, the current version was published in May 2015 and is published on the following webpage: <https://www.baginton-village.org.uk/policies-and-procedures>. Highlights include:

Introduction

Baginton Parish Council is committed to providing the highest quality of provision and service and recognises that the implementation of an effective Equality and Diversity Policy is an integral part of such an approach.

The Council, as a corporate body, has responsibilities as an employer, a service provider, and a public authority, but both members and employees as individuals also have responsibilities as well as rights.

Our Commitment

Baginton Parish Council understands its obligations under the Equality Act 2010.

Baginton Parish Council is fully committed to its duty, imposed by Section 149 of the 2010 Act.

Baginton Parish Council is committed to the principle of equal opportunities and declares its opposition to any form of less favourable treatment, whether through direct or indirect discrimination, on the grounds of the protected characteristics as specified in the Equality Act 2010.

3 quotes provided:

Yes

Which of the Council's Corporate Priorities are met?

Evidence

Reduce anti-social behaviour

Playgrounds provide opportunity for physical activity and act as a focal point for members of the community to congregate and socialise. The project will provide new interesting play equipment for all ages and abilities which will help to reduce levels of boredom. This all helps to reduce anti-social behaviour.

Reducing obesity, particularly in children

Playgrounds provide opportunity for physical activity for children; the project will provide new interesting play equipment for all ages and abilities which will help to reduce obesity within children.

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

The project will deliver new play equipment to replace items lost over the years and some of this will have disabled access, for example, the new roundabout. This will increase opportunities for children to enjoy and participate in physical activity.

Engaging and strengthening communities

Playgrounds provide opportunity for physical activity and act as a focal point for members of the community to congregate and socialise. The project will deliver new play equipment to replace items lost over the years which will encourage more use and will help to further engage and strengthen the community.

Targeting disadvantage in rural / urban areas:

The nearest playgrounds are in Bubbenhall, Stoneleigh and Memorial Park in Coventry, all are approx. 2 to 3 miles away. For those members of the community without their own transport it is difficult to access these alternative playgrounds as bus services are very infrequent and there are no pavements to enable safely walking to them especially with young children.

Environmentally sensitive - "clean, green and safe", for example; project includes energy efficiency and renewable energy technology

The Council have refurbished a substantial amount of the existing equipment to reduce scrappage, disposal and resource use associated with all-new equipment and safe surfaces.

Total cost of scheme (including VAT where appropriate)

£43,414 This is the net cost as the Parish Council will be reclaiming VAT from HMRC.

Funded by:

Status

Lucy Price Relief in Need Fund

£21,707 Approved

Total RUCIS

£21,707

equates to

50.0%

NOTE: The applicant hasn't committed to contributing to this project as they have already recently completed some repairs and refurbishing existing equipment totalling £11,925 (contractors invoices have been provided) and have earmarked funds for other works such as cutting trees back which surround the playground area and signage with emergency details