

**RURAL/URBAN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPLICATION FOR 26TH SEPTEMBER 2018 EXECUTIVE :**

**Applicant :** Lapworth Parish Council

**Description of scheme:** Upgrading the equipment, access and surfacing of Lapworth playground; the main aim is to provide a safe, sociable, inclusive play area in the centre of the village, close to the school and preschool, that enables children to explore a range of activities and which appeals to a wider age range of children (0-12). A survey was completed to gain local opinion on what the equipment should be and a draft of the final plan was presented at the Parish Council General Assembly earlier this year. The school council (consisting of a representative student from each year group of the local primary school) has also been consulted and the final plan is a result of these discussions. The project includes:

- Installing a new toddler tower to replace the existing tower (age 0-3)
- Installing a larger climbing structure for school-aged children (5-12)
- Installing a dynamic play piece for school-aged children
- Installing a roundabout, and an agility trail (balance beams, stepping stones, climbing wall)
- Replacing the basket swings and the flat seat swings
- Installing equipment that is designed for 'inclusive play'
- Access gate to be relocated to enable pushchairs and wheelchairs to enter the site without difficulty (as the existing gate can currently be blocked by a parked car or caravan) and provide 2 access gates
- Groundworks, removal of existing equipment and supplying and fitting of new ground surface material

**Evidence of need:** Data gathered from a Housing Needs (2016) survey highlighted the need for improved play areas and the poor access to public transport, local opinion was also sought through informal discussions with parents of children who live in the area and a more specific and targeted Lapworth Playground (2017) survey was carried out to establish a need for the playground to be refurbished and to gauge opinion on the equipment favoured; there were 98 responses:

- Visiting a play area is a popular activity for families with young children; 77 families (79%) use the Lapworth playground
- 64% of families use 1-2 times a month with one or more children aged between 0-12
- The most common age range is 6-12 (38%), closely followed by 3-5 (33%)
- However, 79% of families travel to playgrounds elsewhere 1 -2 times a month for better play equipment
- When there is an event in the village hall the park can be very busy with up to 30 children of different ages
- Location of a play area is very important; specifically that the play area is within walking distance of families homes or school
- A common theme amongst respondents was that the play equipment is too restrictive in terms of what physical activity can be performed and the age group it appeals to; there is little for older children (over 5's)
- 65 (66%) respondents agreed that the range of equipment needed to be improved
- 70 (71%) respondents said that they would be more likely to use the facilities on a more regular basis if the equipment was updated

The toddler tower is frequently used by older children (over 5's) who sit on the roof of the tower; this identifies a need for a climbing structure or pieces of play equipment that are specifically designed for school-aged children (5-12). Increasing annual maintenance is required to avoid health and safety issues as the equipment is visually jaded and nearing the end of its lifespan. The ROSPA report has identified the basket swings as being a 'medium' risk due to the proximity of the uprights to the swing of the basket.

**3 years accounts received?** 3 years accounts for 2014/15 to 2016/17 have been received along with a bank statement summarising all accounts held dated 12th July 2018

<b>Financial Performance; minus figure = deficit</b>	<b>Year ended</b>	<b>Year ended</b>	<b>Year ended</b>
	31/03/17	31/03/16	31/03/15
	£696	£3,859	-£1,546

  

<b>Available Funds ( cash and reserves )</b>	<b>Year ended</b>	<b>Year ended</b>	<b>Year ended</b>
	31/03/17	31/03/16	31/03/15
	£35,707	£35,011	£31,152

**Details of membership, fees etc:** Not applicable - Parish Council

**Details of usage:** The playground is within a few minutes' walk from Lapworth School which makes the playground a very important facility for those who live in the area or attend the school. The current play equipment has been in place for nearly 20 years and whilst it passes the annual ROSPA inspection, subject to a few repairs, it is dated, appeals to a very narrow age range, and has very restricted play value and variety. A local survey (2017) regarding the current use of the playground was completed with 98 responses which showed...

- Visiting a play area is a popular activity for families with young children; 77 families (79%) use the Lapworth playground
- 64% of families use 1-2 times a month with one or more children aged between 0-12
- The most common age range is 6-12 (38%), closely followed by 3-5 (33%)
- When there is an event in the village hall the park can be very busy with up to 30 children of different ages
- A common theme amongst respondents was that the play equipment is too restrictive in terms of what physical activity can be performed, and the age group it appeals to; there is little for older children (over 5's).

<b>Details of Organisations equalities policies:</b>		<p>Lapworth Parish Council is a local authority subject to statutory duties applicable to a public body; the PC 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. There is also a code of conduct in place, highlights of which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Objectivity: In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit</li> <li>· Dealing with representations or enquiries from residents, members of our communities and visitors fairly, appropriately and impartially</li> <li>· Recognising that all parties are equal and my position is one of privilege and not one that should be used to secure advantage or disadvantage for any party</li> </ul>
<b>3 quotes provided:</b>		Yes
<b>Which of the Council's Corporate Priorities are met?</b>		<b>Evidence</b>
<b>Reduce anti-social behaviour</b>		The project will deliver new modern multi-user playground equipment that will cater for a wider age range of children, it will provide physical activity and act as a focal point for children to congregate and socialise which will potentially reduce anti-social behaviour.
<b>Reducing obesity, particularly in children</b>		Modern structured multi-user play equipment has inbuilt fitness as well as imaginary elements. New equipment will encourage children from a good age range to play outside and undertake physical activity which will help to reduce obesity. The project will also deliver equipment which will cater for a wider age range which will give more opportunity to further reduce obesity.
<b>Increase opportunities for everyone to enjoy and participate in sports, arts and cultural activities</b>		The project will deliver new modern multi-user playground equipment that will cater for a wider age range of children, this increases opportunity for all to enjoy and participate in physical activity without necessitating access to a car and travel outside of the local area. The entrance gate to the playground will be altered to enable easier access by wheelchairs and pushchairs.
<b>Engaging and strengthening communities</b>		The new modern multi-user playground equipment will encourage social interaction for children and for adults; improved accessibility to local amenities will encourage greater use and engagement of children and their carers. This helps to engage and strengthen the community.
<b>Targetting disadvantage in rural / urban areas:</b>		The facilities in rural areas are limited, unlike the recreation facilities, parks etc. available in urban areas; Lapworth is a rural community with an infrequent bus service, improvement to the playground facilities will enable access to play and physical activity for those without personal transport.
<b>Total cost of scheme (excluding VAT)</b>	60,991	VAT will be claimed back, therefore award is excluding VAT; will initially be paid from cash reserves, these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of a recent bank statement
<b>Funded by:</b>		<b>Status</b>
<b>Organisations Own Funds</b>	£7,000	
<b>National Lottery Awards for All</b>	£10,000	Agreed; funds already received
<b>Lapworth Charity</b>	£2,000	Agreed
<b>Dorridge Fun Run</b>	£250	Agreed; funds already received
<b>Tesco's Bags of Help</b>	£4,000	Application agreed, waiting for confirmation of the exact amount; it will be between £1,000-£4,000
<b>Total RUCIS</b>	<b>£21,741</b>	
<b>equates to</b>	<b>35.6%</b>	