

RURAL/URBAN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPLICATION FOR 6TH APRIL 2016 EXECUTIVE :

**Applicant :** The Gap Community Centre

**Description of scheme:**

Refurbish the men's, women's and disabled toilet facilities to make them more attractive to users, safer to use and more environmentally 'green' and insulate the building based on the recommendations made in an "Act on Energy" Report. The refurbishment will consist of:  
 \* Toilet Renovation; New toilets and urinals, covering of pipes with bathroom units, new baby changing table, new hand driers, installation of windows to allow for natural light and ventilation, new instant lighting with timers, new sinks and taps that are self-stopping, new flooring that can be easily cleaned, replacing damaged ceiling tiles and easily cleanable paint. Where possible they are re-using items, for example, they are keeping the existing cubicles because they are still clean and in good condition.  
 \* Building Insulation; Treat all elevations of the original community centre building with cavity wall insulation and tidy/patch up existing loft insulation.

**Evidence of need:**

\* Toilet Facilities; a questionnaire was completed to ascertain opinion of the current facilities:  
 Do you think the toilets require improvement? Yes - 100%  
 Would improved facilities enhance your visit to the Gap? Yes - 91%  
 Words that best described the toilet facilities; Old - 71.4%, Unpleasant - 57.1%, Clean - 45.7%, Suitable for people with limited mobility - 25.7%, Safe - 11.4%, Dark - 22.8%, Suitable for parents/carers with young children and babies - 17.1%, Dirty - 8.5% and Welcoming - 2.8%. There is also a visible need;  
 • Current facilities have not been changed for over 30 years; they are outdated, cold, dark, smelly and unwelcoming  
 • Currently, taps are not self-stopping and at times have just been left running; a waste of water and a potential flood risk  
 • The lights are permanently on, unless someone has the foresight to turn them off  
 • Soap dispensers don't work properly and hand driers are ineffectual thus presenting a H&S risk with the spread of germs due to lack of suitable hand washing facilities  
 • Many of the users are either children or vulnerable adults so it's critical the sanitary equipment works, is clean and fit for purpose  
 \* Building Insulation; "Act on Energy" provided a report outlining the key areas of improvement needed to reduce energy usage, the main area being building insulation; "The cavity walls in the older part of the building should be checked to ensure filling with insulation is possible, and contractors will do this at no charge and provide a free quotation for the work. In most cases this will have a fairly short payback period of around 3-5 years based on an estimated installed cost of around £1000-£2000 and an annual gas saving of £400-£500. Roof insulation is the other part of the building that needs to be checked; if there is no insulation, but it could be fitted, the payback will be very quick, possibly less than 3 years with the added bonus of reducing heat gain in the summer. Where there is a roof space, it is assumed that this already has around 200mm of insulation, based on the build date and further insulation would be of less benefit."

**3 years accounts received?**

2012 - 2014 accounts have been received (the 2015 accounts will be available within the next month), along with recent bank statements (both dated 1st February 2016); 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
31/08/14	31/08/13	31/08/12
£6,204	£713	£7,252

**Available Funds ( cash and reserves )**

Year ended	Year ended	Year ended
31/08/14	31/08/13	31/08/12
£66,919	£62,420	£70,348
(amounts include both restricted and unrestricted funds)		

**Details of membership, fees etc:**

The Gap is responsible for running the Older Adults Lunch Club and the Youth Club; both of these groups can be accessed through membership (Youth Club - £12 per annum - then 60p per session, Lunch Club membership is free). However, users don't have to become members in order to access these activities, they can also simply go on a pay as you go basis. Youth Club - £1.20 - to include a cooked meal, Older Adults Lunch Club - £4.50 to include two course meal and bingo. Room Hire for Groups running clubs at The Gap pay different costs depending on whether they are a private, statutory or voluntary organisation.

**Details of usage:**

The Community Centre has over 2000 people through the door each month and caters for all age groups, from babies through to older adults, activities provided include:  
 • Extend - 1 x session per week for over 60's or those less able, who like to do gentle exercise to music. Average attendance is 30+ people.  
 • Nifty over Fifty - 1 x session per week for over 50's. An exercise class specifically older adults (cardiovascular fitness). Average attendance is 12+ people.  
 • Tai Chi - 2 x sessions per week. One session is attended by 45 people, the other one is a relatively new session which currently attracts 17-20 people.  
 • Art Club - 1 x session per fortnight for older people, led by a volunteer tutor. Average attendance is 8 people.  
 • Lunch Club - 1 x session per week attended by 30+ older adults.  
 • Café - 5 x sessions per week attended by 15+ people each session, this provides social time, especially after exercise classes, which helps to improve the level of relationships among the participants, giving people the opportunity to make new friends.  
 • Job Club - 1 x session per week run by Brunswick Hub at The Gap. Average attendance is 3-5 people.

- Karate – 2 x sessions per week run by external providers for all age groups. Average attendance is 15-20 people.
- Dog Training – 2 x sessions per week run by external providers. Average attendance is 20 people and their dogs.
- Stay & Play Toddler Group – 1 x session per week run by Barnados attracting 10-20 parents/carers & their children. This free toddler group provides a healthy drink & snack.
- Niko Niko – 2 x sessions per week run by parents/carers living in a mixed Japanese/English relationship. Average attendance is 10-15 mothers and toddlers/babies.
- Take a Break – 1 x evening session per week and daily sessions during school holidays run by Take a Break charity. This service provides respite to parents or carers of young children with learning difficulties or physical/mental disability. Average attendance is 20-30 young people.
- Side by Side – 1 x evening session per week run by Side by Side charity. This is a Drama Group for adults with learning disabilities. Average attendance is 20-30 people.
- Community Church – Church Group open to all members of the community regardless of their own cultural/religious beliefs. This is run by an external group once a week on a Sunday between 10.30am – 12.00pm

Youth Club  
The Gap also delivers 4 x 2hr Youth Club sessions per week - 3 x Junior sessions (8-11 years) and 1 x Seniors (12-16 years) - with approximately 25-30 young people attending each session. Every member receives a drink of squash and a piece of fruit.

**Details of Organisations equalities policies:**

The following is an extract from the Gap's Equality and Diversity Statement is as follows:  
It is the aim of this organisation to take positive steps to redress discrimination, to improve equality of opportunity and to combat any unreasonable or unfair treatment which places people at a disadvantage for any reasons not directly related to their ability to do a job for this organisation or to their eligibility to receive services from us.  
In most cases, it is unlawful to discriminate against people because of their gender or gender assignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, colour, nationality, ethnic and national origin, sexuality/sexual orientation, religion or belief, age, or because they are disabled, married or in a civil partnership, a member of a trade union, work part time or on a fixed-term contract. It is also unlawful to discriminate against people either because they are perceived to have a certain characteristic or because they associate with someone who has a certain characteristic. However, we recognise that people may experience discrimination for many additional social, educational and economic reasons such as their language, health, caring responsibilities, trade union activity, where they live, how they speak and whether they work flexibly. This policy will apply equally to all these circumstances. The Gap will not tolerate discrimination, harassment, bullying, victimisation or abuse of people who are members of staff or of people connected with the services we provide.

**3 quotes provided:**

Yes - three quotes have been received for each aspect of the project (6 quotes in total)

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

**Evidence**

**Reduce anti-social behaviour**

The Gap's Youth Club is particularly involved in helping reduce anti-social behaviour in the local area. The 25-30 young people that attend each of the four weekly sessions would otherwise have nothing constructive to do with their time if they didn't come to Youth Club. Not only do the Youth Workers engage with them on a 'fun' basis, they also work towards helping them achieve better social and personal relationships through the closely monitored set of objectives which Youth Club works towards. This involves helping youngsters understand the implications of anti-social behaviour and the impact this can have on their future and the lives of the people living in the local community.

**Reducing obesity, particularly in children**

Many of the different activities run by The Gap have a focus on helping people live a healthier life. These activities include: Karate, Tai Chi, Zumba Gold, Extend (an exercise club for over 60's), Nifty over Fifty, Youth Club etc. With improved toilet facilities, not only can the existing activities continue to run but there may also be opportunity to attract further groups which would increase the activities available. The Youth Club in particular, focuses on healthy eating amongst its young people and last year, ran a project called Eatwise and Exercise. This project helped young people understand the implication of eating a high fat, high sugar diet and how beneficial exercise can be to their overall wellbeing. The project encompassed cooking lessons with healthy ingredients, fun workshops and introductions to new and accessible sports.

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

Without the centre there would be a reduction in activities for the local community, including; Niko Niko Toddler Group, Take a Break (respite to parents/ carers of young children with learning difficulties or physical / mental disability), Lunch Club, Art Club, Karate etc. With improved toilet facilities the existing activities can continue to be run and in addition to this there is the potential to attract further groups to the centre to increase the activities available which would increase opportunity for the community to enjoy and participate in sports, arts and cultural activities.

**Engaging and strengthening communities**

With improved toilet facilities, users will be more inclined to stay and enjoy the café facility after many of the activities that are provided; this means more of our users will get to enjoy social interaction they would have otherwise foregone. It will hopefully encourage users to attend additional activities, comfortable in the knowledge they will have access to clean, comfortable toilet facilities. If the centre isn't maintained and the toilets become unusable there is a high risk that activities will cease which will potentially disengage and weaken the community. The facility is managed and run by a wide range of volunteers from the local community and the activities that are available also bring together a wide range of people from the community, this all helps to engage and strengthen the community.

**Targeting disadvantage in rural / urban areas:**

Whilst The Gap is not located in a disadvantaged area, it is on the periphery of several pockets of deprivation, and a large proportion of their users live in these areas. The Youth Club in particular attracts young people who need a cooked meal or an activity to keep them occupied after school hours. Over 50% of the older adults who attend Lunch Club live in isolation and have to manage on a restricted budget so find Lunch Club a welcome respite to their otherwise lonely lives.

<b>Total cost of scheme (including VAT where appropriate)</b>	<b>£38,097</b>	
<b>Funded by:</b>		<b>Status</b>
<b>Warwick Town Council</b>	<b>£1,000</b>	<b>Approved</b>
<b>Warwick Relief In Need</b>	<b>£20,000</b>	<b>Approved</b>
<b>Organisations Own Funds</b>	<b>£1,000</b>	<b>Approved</b>
<b>Total RUCIS</b>	<b>£16,097</b>	
<b>equates to</b>	<b>42.3%</b>	