

RURAL/URBAN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPLICATION FOR 8TH FEBRUARY 2017 EXECUTIVE :**Applicant :****SYDNI Centre****Description of scheme:**

To achieve a welcoming and friendly environment for more Sydenham residents to be able to enjoy the outdoors the SYDNI centre have planned an overarching outdoor project that is split into 6 mini-projects or phases. Overall, the new outdoor space will encourage more mixing of community segments; young, old, teens, parents, toddlers, different cultural backgrounds, non-English speakers, to improve community cohesion. The phases are:

- Phase 1; Willow Tunnel – complete
- Phase 1a; BBQ area – in progress
- Phase 2; Toddler area play equipment
- Phase 3; Sports Court
- Phase 4; Older Children play area equipment
- Phase 5; New path
- Phase 6; Teen shelter

This application is for funding for phase 3; refurbish the sports court and adapt to multi-sports.

Evidence of need:

- November 2014; feedback from the community at the SYDNI Centre Festival of Light event; using a questionnaire, feedback was received from 130 individuals and family groups, from the responses the Centre developed the wish list which includes Multi Use Games Arena ends (an example questionnaire and result details have been provided). The Centre also asked young people at the SYDNI Centre Youth Café what they wanted in the outdoor space; questionnaires were again completed and added to the sample.
- 16 March 2015 Councillors Meeting; Local Councillors were invited to the Centre to inform them about the plans and to get their feedback and support. Attendees: Balvinder Gill, Ann Morrison, Moto Singh, Barbara Weed and Matt Weston. The Councillors were shown the questionnaire results and talked through the wish list of equipment and walked the site. All of the councillors gave their support; the Centre are in regular contact with their local Councillors and keep them up to date with the project.
- 27 July 2015; Local resident Lisa Catalano emailed to ask why the playground was in such a poor state (a copy of the email has been provided)
- November 2015 Festival of Light Project Update; Stand and display of what the outdoor space will look like, conversations with approx. 40 people. Reaction overwhelmingly positive with offers of help and some small donations. Verbal discussion with Chris White MP who gave a positive endorsement, offering his support.
- February 2016 SYDNI Winks Toddlers group; Twice visited this weekly playgroup to get feedback from parents and carers. Spoke to 15 people, all agreed that improvements are much needed and signed a letter of support (a copy of the letter has been provided)
- 10th March 2016 South Leamington Community Forum; Display of the planned improvements at this event with 35 attendees from the community
- There is a visual need due to the current poor condition of the sports court

3 years accounts received?

2014 - 2016 accounts have been received; this evidences sufficient cash reserves to initially pay VAT before reclaiming from HMRC

Financial Performance; minus figure = deficit

Year ended	Year ended	Year ended
31/03/16	31/03/15	31/03/14
-£1,127	-£380	£4,248

Available Funds (cash and reserves)

Year ended	Year ended	Year ended
31/03/16	31/03/15	31/03/14
£146,449	£176,687	£128,849

Details of membership, fees etc:

None

Details of usage:

The SYDNI Centre provides a variety of services, including a large outdoor space; the centre and outdoor space are open to all six days a week from 9am to 7pm and sometimes later for events. Local community residents can access different activities or services, for example:

- Outdoor Space – Basketball court (which is to be refurbished and adapted to become a multi-sports court), football pitch, toddlers/young children playgrounds, allotment/community garden
- Community Café
- Exercise / health classes – Zumba with free crèche, parkinson physio, dance, table tennis, volleyball, slimming, taekwondo
- Children & young people – SYDNIwinks toddler group, Cubs, Scouts, Beavers, drama
- Interest – singing, cooking, history, flowers, design, craft, pottery, bingo, Mancraft
- Events – Festival of Light

The SYDNI Centre footfall is approximately 50,000 per annum; they currently use a 'Community Counts' database to monitor about 35% of Centre activities, on which 664 people are registered. There are also 75 volunteers who help to run the centre and take part in the many activities.

Details of Organisations equalities policies:

The Centre has a formal Equality & Diversity plan in place, the following is a highlight from the policy: "SYDNI aims to combat all direct and indirect discrimination in our organisation and to ensure that people are treated fairly and given fair chances. This is not a case of treating everyone the same, but about recognising that different people have different needs which will be met in different ways. It is our policy to provide services and employment equality to all, irrespective of the following: religious belief or political opinion, race, class, where you live, disability, gender including gender reassignment, marital or civil partnership status, Pregnancy or maternity, having or not having dependants, sexual orientation and age.

3 quotes provided:

Yes - three quotes have been received.

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

Reduce anti-social behaviour

The SYDNI centre runs a weekly youth group and has good contacts with the young people on the estate; they have told the Centre team that better sports and play equipment at the SYDNI centre will help to reduce boredom levels. Often at WDC Fallow Hill Estate (adjacent to the SYDNI Centre) Resident Association meetings there are complaints about young people eight years plus who play in the little play area on the green; these children aren't allowed to use balls within Fallow Hill and they are just kids being kids but they get labelled anti-social and a nuisance because of a lack of outdoor space. In addition to this the Centre are aware that there is a small group of young people from the Sydenham estate who are engaged in low level anti-social behaviour across Leamington Spa; better facilities such as the improved sports court, will target this group and other young people giving them an opportunity to use their energy positively and will help to reduce anti-social behaviour.

Reducing obesity, particularly in children

From the Warwick District Social Exclusion Index report (pages 13 & 14) we know that Sydenham North ranks as worst performing for Health & Wellbeing and Communities of Interest; "This area is worst for Health & Wellbeing due to higher than average proportions of ESA claimants and long term disability claimants, severe mental impairment discount (Council Tax benefit), overweight or obese children and active presentations for alcohol/drugs." Through this project better play/sports facilities will attract more children to the outdoor space which provides an important first step to a more active and healthy life. Phase 3 of the overarching outdoor project will replace the existing basketball hoops with MUGA ends and repaint the lines on the sports court; instead of just basketball it will mean other games such as football, volleyball and tennis can be played enabling more people to play different sports. This will help to reduce obesity, particularly in children.

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

As an open access site everyone will be able to enjoy the improved sports and play equipment at the SYDNI centre, Centre volunteers will also benefit from the improved facilities. The current sports court is currently only set-up for basketball and isn't in a useable condition, the project to refurbish the court and adapt to multi-sports use will increase opportunity for the community to enjoy and participate in sports activities.

Engaging and strengthening communities

Through this project the Centre community cohesion will be improved; there is anecdotal evidence from users of the Centre who use phrases such as "I'm not being funny but they ..." highlighting the differences of ethnic groups on the estate. From the Warwick District Social Exclusion Index report pages 13 & 14:

- "Sydenham West is ranked second for the Communities of Interest theme, this is largely due to its rankings in terms of proportion of residents born abroad (1st in the District) and 2nd highest in terms of the area's ethnic diversity."
 - "Sydenham North has the highest proportion of those from an ethnic minority and second highest in terms of residents born abroad which gives it the number 1 ranking under this theme."
- Better outdoor equipment and facilities will bring people together through the universal language of sports and play, the project will give Sydenham residents a place to come together in a relaxed fun setting providing opportunity to interact and build relationships, improving community cohesion. The Centre also has 75 volunteers from across the community who help to run and also participate in activities. This all helps to engage and strengthen the community.

Targetting disadvantage in rural / urban areas:

From the Warwick District Social Exclusion Index report pages 13 & 14:

- Sydenham West - eight target indicators (where this area is above the district average) include; Employment & Support Allowance (ESA) benefit claimants, lone parent with dependent children, Free School Meal claimants, disability claimants.
- Sydenham North - ranks as worst performing for Health & Wellbeing and Communities of Interest. This area is worst for Health & Wellbeing due to higher than average proportions of ESA claimants and long term disability claimants, severe mental impairment discount (Council Tax benefit), overweight or obese children and active presentations for alcohol/drugs. Creating a better outdoor space at the Centre in the Sydenham estate directly targets disadvantage in this urban community. As well as providing a fun outdoor space, it is likely that people will then engage with the other services that the Centre provides such as volunteering opportunities, baby & toddler group, youth group and more.

Total cost of scheme (including VAT where appropriate)

£12,722 Excluding VAT - organisation will pay VAT as they will then be reclaiming

Funded by:

Status

29 May 1961 Trust £6,361 Already awarded

Own Funds £0

Total RUCIS **£6,361**

equates to **50.0%**