

RURAL/URBAN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPLICATION FOR 9TH MARCH 2016 EXECUTIVE :

**Applicant :** Radford Semele Parish Council

**Description of scheme:** The village playground equipment is somewhat tired, old-fashioned and does not challenge the children either physically or mentally. The Parish Council would like to be able to improve the existing playground facilities for younger children (up to 6-7 years old) as well as providing additional play equipment for older children (up to 12 years old). The existing talk tubes, toddler swings and spring animal are to remain but the older junior and toddler climbing units are to be removed to make way for new and exciting pieces:

Younger Children:

- Installation of new equipment; squirrels tree toddler unit, see saw, toddler carousel, junior activity tower, junior spinner copper, additional swing and a sit-in spring rider
- Lay wet pour surfacing to new play areas and repair to damaged areas, and repair of old footings

Older children:

- Installation of new equipment; small "trim trail" leading along pathway to play area, Hestia feature climber, waltz, tyre cantilever swing and a concrete table tennis table
- All equipment will have grass matt safer surfacing

In addition to the play equipment four new bench seats will be installed around the playground areas to enhance the socialising aspect of the playground.

The RUCIS grant is to be used as the Third Party Funder payment to unlock a WREN capital grant which will used to part fund the project noted above.

**Evidence of need:** There is a visble need for improving the play ground, in addition to this;

- A survey conducted in the village primary school and at village fun days indicated a real desire for improvement to provide something new; over 60 signatures were received of which the vast majority agree that these proposals will meet the local need.
- Local school children have submitted drawings and statements about what they would like to see in the park.
- Local residents have lobbied the Parish Council who is now committed to implementing a general refurbishment of the playground and the provision of additional items of play equipment

**3 years accounts received?** 2013 - 2015 accounts have been received, along with recent bank statements covering the period 13th November to 10th December 2015; this evidences sufficient cash reserves to meet the contribution stated on the application form.

<b>Financial Performance; minus figure = deficit</b>	<b>Year ended</b> 31/03/15 £9,702	<b>Year ended</b> 31/03/14 -£3,237	<b>Year ended</b> 31/03/13 -£4,431
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<b>Available Funds ( cash and reserves )</b>	<b>Year ended</b> 31/03/15 £30,946	<b>Year ended</b> 31/03/14 £21,243	<b>Year ended</b> 31/03/13 £24,480
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**Details of membership,  
fees etc:** None

**Details of usage:** Radford Semele is a village of some 2400 residents situated between the towns of Leamington and Southam. The children's playground, which forms part of the recreation ground, is owned and maintained by Radford Semele Parish Council. The village is very popular with young families, of which there are many living within its boundaries and further housing development is planned over the next few years, however, the village playground equipment is somewhat tired, old-fashioned and lacking in stimulation. The playground is very under used due to its limitations and only caters for a low age group; up to 7 years old maximum. Use has been declining as children vote with their feet and go elsewhere, the number of children to be found playing on the current equipment is disproportionately small in comparison to the number of families in the Parish.

**Details of Organisations  
equalities policies:** A copy of the policy has been provided, here is a brief summary:

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide equal opportunities to all employees and for everyone who comes into contact with Radford Semele Parish Council, irrespective of their characteristics (unless there are genuine occupational qualifications or objectively justified reasons for a different approach to be taken). We oppose all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination whether it be direct or indirect discrimination, victimisation or harassment on the grounds of any of the protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010.

OUR COMMITMENT

Every employee, councillor, parishioner or any one else who comes into contact with the Parish Council is entitled to be treated with dignity and respect. No form of intimidation, bullying or harassment will be tolerated.

**3 quotes provided:** Yes - three quotes have been received for each aspect of the project (12 quotes in total)

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

**Reduce anti-social  
behaviour** The variety of play equipment will be considerably more physically and mentally challenging for children in the community and will discourage them from taking up other more destructive activities locally by preventing boredom. This will help to reduce anti-social behaviour.

<p><b>Reducing obesity, particularly in children</b></p> <p><b>Increase opportunities for everyone to enjoy and participate in sports, arts and cultural activities</b></p> <p><b>Engaging and strengthening communities</b></p>		<p>Modern, structured play equipment has inbuilt fitness as well as fun and imaginary elements and it is designed to include all levels of ability; all ages and abilities of children will be able to benefit. Additionally as a result of this project children up to the age of 10-12 years will have a much more varied play experience and will be more motivated to spend time outdoors at the park. This will result in healthier, more active families. This all helps to potentially reduce obesity, particularly within children.</p> <p>Currently the play area is somewhat tired, old-fashioned, not challenging for children either physically or mentally and is not well enough equipped for the size of the community; additionally is not aesthetically pleasing or practical. The Recreation Ground overall is a large green space which is well kept but the specific play area is run down and under used, stopping young families from wanting to come and use the space. The improvements that the project will deliver will allow the space to be used by a wider range of families and this will encourage better integration and interaction of people in different areas of the village, it will therefore increase opportunities for children to participate in physical activity.</p> <p>New bench seating will be installed as part of the project to enhance the socialising area in the playground this will enable families and friends of all ages to meet and socialise. can be comfortably catered for. The existing playground doesn't cater for children between 8 - 12 years old, the project will provide equipment for older children to use which will bring more people together from within the community. The project has already facilitated families coming together to work on funding applications and research, this is something that the Parish Council would like to continue with members of the community helping to maintain the area once the project has been completed. This all helps to engage and strengthen the community.</p>
	<p><b>Total cost of scheme (including VAT where appropriate)</b></p> <p>£69,152</p>	<p>Includes the third party payment to unlock the WREN grant but excludes vat as this be reclaimed by the Parish Council</p>
	<p><b>Funded by:</b></p> <p><b>Radford Semele Parish Council</b></p> <p><b>Sunny Dhillon Fund</b></p> <p><b>Awards for All (Big Lottery Fund)</b></p> <p><b>WREN</b></p> <p><b>Total RUCIS</b></p> <p><b>equates to</b></p>	<p><b>Status</b></p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Application made, awaiting decision</p> <p>(Third Party Funder Payment to WREN)</p> <p><b>5.5%</b></p>