

RURAL/URBAN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPLICATION FOR 18th MARCH 2020 EXECUTIVE :

Applicant :

Heathcote Parish Church

Description of scheme:

Currently there is no fencing/gate in place therefore from in-front of the community centre (opposite the shops) and from the side car park there is access down the rear and side of the building, this is used as an escape route by people committing anti-social behaviour and also gives access to the rear of the building to be used by youths for drug-taking and smoking. The project will fence off the side and rear perimeter but will include a secure push-bar gate, wide enough for disabled access/egress, at each end for fire escape purposes (the current fire exit is at the side of the building and there are plans for another fire exit at the rear of the building). This will then secure the side and rear perimeter to deter anti-social behaviour resulting in the community feeling safer especially when using the centre for the many activities on offer.

Evidence of need:

It is visually obvious; currently there is no fencing/gate in place therefore from in-front of the community centre (opposite the shops) and from the side car park there is access down the rear and side of the building, this is used as an escape route by people committing anti-social behaviour and also gives access to the rear of the building to be used by youths for drug-taking and smoking. The need was also identified in 2018 by a joint working group led by Ian King (Crime Prevention Design Advisor) and includes Warwick Police, local District Councillors (Cllr Grey has provided an email of support dated 11/2/20), Rev. Rob Budd, the Warwick Gates Neighbourhood Watch Group and local shop keepers. This work forms the second part of the critical 'fencing' work identified by the above group. The first part involves the cutting back of hedges and placement of a security fence at the rear of the car park adjacent to the Warwick Gates Shops, between the Rehabilitation Centre and the Co-Op, which will be funded and completed by WDC Neighbourhood Services in Spring this year.

3 years accounts received?

2017 - 2019 accounts have been received along with a recent bank statement for all accounts held (31st December 2019); 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
31/12/19	31/12/18	31/12/17
-£2,840	£7,739	£14,503

Available Funds (cash and reserves)

Year ended	Year ended	Year ended
31/12/19	31/12/18	31/12/17
£58,569	£X	£X

NOTE: Under the umbrella of the Church of England there has been a Warwick Gates Community Church for many years which has had the lease for and run the Warwick Gates Community Centre for the benefit of the local community. This was initially St Margaret's Church, Whitnash, however, in 2018 it was decided that there should be a Warwick Gates based church and Heathcote Parish Church was created. We have the St Margaret's Church accounts for 2017 and a combined St Margaret's Church / Heathcote Parish Church accounts for 2018 but neither document the cash reserves at year-end. The 2019 accounts are purely Heathcote Parish Church's accounts and do note cash reserves at year-end. It should be noted that these reserves are church reserves from which, where necessary, funds may be committed to the community centre. These "combined" reserves are less than the combined church/community centre 12 months operating costs and therefore meet the RUCIS scheme criteria.

Details of membership, fees etc:

There is no membership fee, hire cost for the facility is £25ph although local community groups (for example; Rainbows/Brownies/Cubs/Beavers/Scouts/Explorers groups) receive a 25% discount and the 'toddler' group is run on a donation/free-of-charge basis.

Details of usage:

Heathcote Parish Church hold the lease and run, often at a loss to the church, Warwick Gates Community Centre. The centre is a very well used facility, there are regular activities for the community to enjoy and participate in and it is also used by various not-for-profit community groups. Approx. 950 residents use the centre each week, for example;

- Pop-up café with book share; weekly, approx. 10 people attend
- Toddler multi-sports; weekly, approx. 15 people attend
- Indoor Kurling; twice weekly, approx. 30 people attend
- Go4Goals (primary school aged indoor football); weekly, approx. 25 people attend
- Pilates; three times weekly, approx. 45 people attend
- Karate; weekly, approx. 20 people attend
- The Big Sing (Community Choir); weekly, approx. 30 people attend
- 'Jack-in-the-Box' toddler group; weekly, approx. 120 people attend
- Rainbows/Brownies/Cubs/Beavers/Scouts/Explorers groups; weekly, in total approx. 150 people attend
- FL Exercise (exercise class for ladies); weekly, approx. 40 people attend
- Spa Striders (circuit training); twice monthly, approx. 15 people attend
- Badminton (four separate groups); four sessions weekly, in total approx. 75 people attend
- 'Monster Mischief' (new born to pre-school children); weekly, approx. 45 people attend
- Leamington & Warwick Academy of Dance (LWAD) Acrobatic Arts (two Foundation Levels); weekly, approx. 25 people attend
- Children's ballet school LWAD (dance); weekly, approx. 60 people attend
- Headway Support Group (for people with head injuries; physical exercise, combat isolation); twice monthly, approx. 20 people attend
- Baby clinic; monthly, approx. 75 people attend

There is also ad-hoc hire of the facilities;

- Badminton courts available to hire for long term lettings; approx. 600 long term lettings per annum
- Children's parties; approx. 40 booking per annum

Details of Organisations equalities policies:

There is no formal equality policy, however, the centre is open to all members of the community without discrimination. All are welcome.

3 quotes provided:

Yes - 4 quotes in total

Which of the Council's Corporate Priorities are met?

Reduce anti-social behaviour

Evidence

The centre is a very well used facility, there are regular activities for the community to enjoy and participate in and it is also used by various not-for-profit community groups, for example;

- Pop-up café with book share; weekly
- The Big Sing (Community Choir); weekly
- Rainbows/Brownies/Cubs/Beavers/Scouts/Explorers groups; weekly
- Leamington & Warwick Academy of Dance (LWAD) - Acrobatic Arts (two Foundation Levels); weekly
- LWAD children’s ballet school (dance); weekly

There is also ad-hoc hire of the facilities;

- Badminton courts available to hire for long term lettings; approx. 600 long term lettings per annum
- Children’s parties; approx. 40 bookings per annum

This all helps to reduce anti-social behaviour. However, in addition to this the project will fence-off the rear and side of the building which is currently used as an escape route by people committing anti-social behaviour and also gives access to the rear of the building to be used by youths for drug-taking and smoking. This will then secure the building perimeter to further deter anti-social behaviour resulting in the community feeling safer especially when using the centre for the many activities on offer.

Reducing obesity, particularly in children

Whilst the project doesn’t directly impact on this, the centre is a very well used facility which offers regular sporting/physical activities for the community to enjoy and participate in, for example;

- Toddler multi-sports; weekly
- Indoor Kurling; twice weekly
- Go4Goals (primary school aged indoor football); weekly
- Pilates; three times weekly
- Karate; weekly
- FL Exercise (exercise class for ladies); weekly
- Badminton (three separate groups); three sessions weekly
- LWAD Acrobatic Arts (two Foundation Levels); weekly,
- LWAD Children’s ballet school (dance); weekly
- Spa Striders (circuit training); twice monthly

This all helps to reduce obesity including within children.

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

If the project isn’t completed there is the potential for opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in sports, arts and cultural activities to be reduced either through activity providers, volunteers or individual members of the community to not feel safe enough to attend due to anti-social behaviours around the building.

Engaging and strengthening communities

The centre is a very well used facility, there are regular activities for the community to enjoy and participate in and it is also used by various not-for-profit community groups; a wide range of people from the community attend and are able to socialise with one another which also helps to reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness. The centre has approx. 15 regular volunteers from across the community who help with activities such as the toddler’s groups and the pop-up café as well as helping to maintain the garden/grounds. This all helps to engage and strengthen the community. If the project isn’t completed there is potential for the community usage and/or volunteer work to be reduced through not feeling safe enough to attend due to anti-social behaviours around the building which would disengage and weaken the community. On-going anti-social behaviour in itself disengages and weakens the community.

Total cost of scheme (including VAT where appropriate) £3,480

Funded by:

Status

Organisations Own Funds £100 Approved

Warwick Town Council £596 Application made; waiting for a decision

Total RUCIS **£2,784**

equates to **80.0%**