

RURAL/URBAN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPLICATION FOR 8TH FEBRUARY 2017 EXECUTIVE :

Applicant :	Canal & River Trust		
Description of scheme:	Between Packwood Lane, Lapworth (OS Grid SP 17418 71214) and Dicks Lane, Rowington (OS Grid SP 18683 69978) there is approx. 3.2km of canal towpath. The towpath attracts considerable pedestrian usage at either end of these two points due to previous levelling and stone surfacing of these sections. A section in the middle of some 730 metres has not benefited from previous stone surfacing, consequently, it is uneven in nature with large single stone projections and, at times of rainfall, muddy and waterlogged. The project intends to link the existing two stone surfaced sections together by constructing the same surfacing in the middle for some 730 metres. This would benefit the community by providing a 3.2km walk on an even, durable and firm all-weather surface. In providing this facility the towpath walk would be open to a much greater diversity of pedestrians all-year-round.		
Evidence of need:	Walkers have been observed avoiding the section that is not stone surfaced and people being left in vehicles because they did not feel steady enough on their feet to use the uneven and poor section of towpath. You can visually see that the general appearance of the area, especially the poor condition of the towpath, is in need of improvement to ensure that local footpaths and the canal towpath are used and enjoyed by as many people as possible. Lapworth Parish Council support the improvement of the towpath so as to provide a much greater local amenity than that which can presently be enjoyed; without this work the towpath will become less accessible to more people as its condition is likely to dissuade them from using it due to the Health & Safety risk of slips, trips and falls.		
3 years accounts received?	2014 - 2016 accounts have been received; this evidences sufficient cash reserves to meet the contribution stated on the application form.		
Financial Performance; minus figure = deficit	Year ended 31/03/16 -£5.6m	Year ended 31/03/15 -£3m	Year ended 31/03/14 -£1.4m
Available Funds (cash and reserves)	Year ended 31/03/16 £23.1m	Year ended 31/03/15 £45.7m	Year ended 31/03/14 £41.9m
Details of membership, fees etc:	Canal & River Trust issue boat licences to people wishing to use craft on the canal, pedestrians and cyclists are not charged to use the towpaths. Canal & River Trust encourage individuals to join the Trust through its charitable giving scheme but this is voluntary.		
Details of usage:	The towpath along the Stratford-on-Avon Canal between Lapworth and Rowington is used by thousands of people each year; the last reliable figures for annual pedestrian usage was 10 years ago in 2006 when over 122,000 pedestrians walked along the Stratford Canal at Lapworth. Visual analysis to-date suggests this number is now higher; the towpath at Lapworth is easily accessible from the village centre, has free car parking and is also near a well connected railway station. The towpath provides exercise combined with the ability for pedestrians to enjoy the amenity of local environment and outdoors.		
Details of Organisations equalities policies:	Canal & River Trust have a formal Equality & Diversity Statement (V4FV 18.8.16), the following is a highlight from the policy: "At the heart of our values is a commitment to treat everyone with respect, so that we treat each individual as you would expect to be treated yourself. We will not tolerate discrimination against anyone on the basis of: sex, sexual orientation, race, disability, religion or belief, age, marital or civil partner status, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity."		
3 quotes provided:	N/A - costs supplied via CCS Government Framework contract for Building Materials & Associated Services RM 3747. Emailed confirmation (10/01/2017) has been received from Rebecca Reading (WDC Procurement Officer) that 3 quotes are not required in this instance; "I can confirm that the Charity Commission is listed under Third Sector and Charities as able to use the framework, and that as the Canal & River Trust is sited under their website link in the notice, they are also able to use the framework. Having spoken to John (Roberts), I can confirm that in this case, as a framework is being used to supply the pricing, no further quotes are needed."		
Which of the Council's Corporate Priorities are met?	Evidence		
Reduce anti-social behaviour	The project will bring more people to the centre of Lapworth and also to the adjacent parish of Rowington. With greater numbers of people visiting the locality the propensity for anti-social behaviour such as vandalism will diminish. The enhancement of the towpath will create an all-year-round activity for a greater diversity of pedestrians and will improve the overall appearance of the area; there is a clear and accepted view that alleviating boredom and the more a place looks tidy and cared for the lower the incidence of problems such as anti-social behaviour.		
Reducing obesity, particularly in children	The creation of a longer length of towpath with a higher standard of surface will enable a much greater use by all ages and groups of people including children. The towpath climbs at its northern end by over 62 metres that adds to the aerobic exercise potential that is available when combined with the greater distance of 3.2km in total that will be available to pedestrians. This helps to reduce obesity including within children.		

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

The establishment of a stone surfaced and longer length of towpath as the canal goes through the village will attract and enable much greater use by all ages and groups, including older people, individuals with adapted needs and young families. This provides the practical and personal enjoyment of the natural environment in the countryside. The project will enable a greater diversity of pedestrians to utilise the towpath which increases opportunity for the community to enjoy and participate in physical activity.

Engaging and strengthening communities

The project enables investment in a rural facility enjoyed by the local and wider district community and involves the use of volunteers to construct the facility. The local 'Towpath Taskforce' operated by Canal & River Trust enables volunteers from the local community to regularly contribute to the amenity of life in the local community and environment. The enhancement will attract more usage of the towpath and encourage more visitors to Lapworth and Rowington. This will benefit local amenities such as local public houses, the Post Office and general stores. The facility will also be accessible by public transport via the railway station at Lapworth so this enables accessibility to those without the use of a private vehicle. This all helps to engage and strengthen the community.

Total cost of scheme (including VAT where appropriate)

£9,897

Funded by:

Status

Lapworth Parish Council

£980

Approved

Organisations Own Funds

£1,000

Approved

Total RUCIS

£7,917

equates to

80.0%