

**RURAL/URBAN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPLICATION FOR 12th FEBRUARY 2020 EXECUTIVE :**

**Applicant :** **Leamington RFC**

**Description of scheme:** The project is to further open up the main club room to make it more welcoming to all community groups who use it, expand the outside seated space, install two new pitch shelters and a new septic tank system to meet 2019 government regulations. Due to the design of the clubhouse and the lack of outside extended space it means it is very difficult to run combined group events between the rugby, netball and hockey sections of the club as the entrance and lounge areas are not attractive nor big enough to hold these events. Therefore:

- Part one of our project; install an internal sliding partition into the lounge area and extend the existing outside seating space linking this with the use of double glazed opening conservatory style doors so that all groups can have easier and open access to the bar and club room which will create a more welcoming and light club environment. Additionally, some windows need replacing throughout the clubhouse due to their age and rotten condition (circa 1970) and there is a need to ensure the club has adequate alarm security post doing all these improvements.
- Part two of the project is to help with pitch facilities by providing two new pitch shelters for players when the weather is inclement
- Part three of the project and to comply with Oct 2019 septic tank regulations the club need to install a new septic tank system to ensure the clubhouse is operational due to its high people usage on a week on week basis. Essentially the current septic tank was installed when the clubhouse was built (circa.1970) and is regularly causing financial problems (about £2,500 per year) due to it not being able to cope with the increased numbers using the clubhouse.

**Evidence of need:** Recently the club has had to close the clubhouse for short periods while sewage works are carried out which has meant suspension of all group activities whilst this was being done; the completion of the project will therefore mean the club can continue to support sport in the area. It is also visually obvious; due to the design of the clubhouse and the lack of outside extended space it means it is very difficult to run combined group events between the rugby, netball and hockey sections of the club as the entrance and lounge areas are not attractive nor big enough to hold these events. Having a more attractive clubhouse will help with retaining more of the existing playing membership, especially in the transition from Youth to Adult and help to develop the club; they are working hard to reduce drop out levels and recruit more participants. It is expected that the enhanced facilities will enable the club to attract both new players to rugby, netball and hockey as well as enable other community organisations to make use of their valuable facilities. For many years the club has developed and sustained a close and strong working relationship with other community organisations within the area and the proposed project will benefit many people for the next 30 years; the clubhouse will be usable and open due to the new septic tank and will help the club financially by reducing maintenance costs along with aiding and attracting participation from female members due to the more open environment and the rugby, netball and hockey members interacting and using the facilities more. An email of support has been received from Cllr Kohler dated 2nd January 2020.

**3 years accounts received?** 2017 - 2019 accounts have been received along with a recent bank statement for all accounts held (dated 29th November 2019); 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> 30/04/19	<b>Year ended</b> 30/04/18	<b>Year ended</b> 30/04/17
	£9,319	£10,396	-£2,001

<b>Available Funds ( cash and reserves )</b>	<b>Year ended</b> 30/04/19	<b>Year ended</b> 30/04/18	<b>Year ended</b> 30/04/17
	£43,768	£41,936	£17,000

**Details of membership, fees etc:** The membership structure for the club is as follows:

- Costs for hiring the club for an ad-hoc event, for example birthday parties = £150 per night
- The hire for the jazz club is £70 per night
- Players subs = £200 a year for seniors and £100 per year for juniors
- Gym membership = £50 per year

**Details of usage:** The rugby club currently has 400 playing members and runs 3 adult male teams (80 members) that play on a Saturday and train on Tuesday and Thursday each week. It has a vibrant u16s (20 members) along with growing mini and junior sections for girls and boys from Under 7 to Under 16 (300 members) who play on a Sunday. The mini and junior festival hosts teams from around the country annually with approx. 200 people attending. This is incorporated with the ground and clubhouse being used by other rugby clubs such as South Warwickshire RFC and by representative sides twice a season and approx. 50 people from the community. Leamington Hockey and netball clubs also use the clubhouse as a social base whilst playing their matches elsewhere and are now an integral part of Leamington RFC with 150 members using the clubhouse. Leicester Tigers use the ground and clubhouse every year for a week long coaching course for junior players from the area with approx. 300 people taking part. There is a gym on-site which besides being used by players also has its own members (approx. 20 members). Car boot sales are held at the club every week during the summer and an annual bonfire and firework display is held which attracts up to 400 people from the local community and beyond. The clubhouse is also used on an ad-hoc basis for Leamington Jazz Club who hold twice monthly evenings for the local community to enjoy. The clubhouse is available for hire from members of the community for events such as birthdays and funerals with varying amounts of people using the facility.

**Details of Organisations equalities policies:** The club encourages all members of the community to take part in all activities at the rugby club, they have an equity policy which is based on the RFU policy which has helped the club gain it's RFU Club Accreditation. Highlights of the equity policy include:

- The club respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat everyone equally within the context of their sport regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status
- The club is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy their sport in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse

**3 quotes provided:** Yes - 15 quotes in total to cover all aspects of the project works

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

**Reduce anti-social behaviour**

The club provides a contribution to reducing anti-social behaviour by involving all areas of the community and giving young people a place to meet new people and gain friendship for life. The club currently has 400 playing members and runs 3 adult male teams (80 members), a vibrant u16s (20 members), along with growing mini and junior sections for girls and boys from Under 7 to Under 16 (300 members). In addition to this there are regular group activities and events that are held in the clubhouse, an annual bonfire & fireworks display, an annual rugby festival, regular car boot sales throughout the summer and ad-hoc hire for parties. The project will deliver entrance and lounge areas that are attractive and big enough to hold combined group events between the rugby, netball and hockey sections. It will also ensure that the clubhouse stays usable for all the people and community groups for the next 30 years. By providing things to do for the community and opportunity to be involved within teams and groups all helps to reduce anti-social behaviour.

**Reducing obesity, particularly in children**

Whilst the project doesn't directly impact on this; the sporting activity (regular rugby matches and training sessions, netball and hockey teams) provided by the club for both adults and children helps to keep people fit and healthy. In addition to this there is a small gym which has its own small membership as well as regularly being used by the players. This all help to reduce obesity including in children.

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

The project will improve lounge facilities which will increase opportunities for social/cultural activities and events across all sections of the club (rugby, netball, hockey) and also create opportunities for the community generally as the club will be able to hold night time events throughout the year. Additionally, the project will replace the current septic tank which is at the end of its life; failure to do this will lead to further closures of the clubhouse which in turn reduces the opportunity for the community to enjoy and participate in sports and social/cultural activities.

**Engaging and strengthening communities**

The club is run by a wide range of volunteers from across the community and the members of teams that are based at the club across a range of sports (rugby, hockey, netball) who use the clubhouse facilities are also made up from a wide range of members of the community, across a wide range of ages. Appropriate and well-maintained facilities also enable members of the community to come together for events and activities; the project will improve lounge facilities which will increase opportunities for social/cultural activities and events. This all helps to strengthen and engage the community.

**Total cost of scheme (including VAT where appropriate)** £71,352

**Funded by:**

**Status**

**Organisations Own Funds** £500 Approved

**Old Milverton & Blackdown Parish Council** £100 Awaiting a decision

**Viola Environmental Grant** £32,752 Approved

**Sports England Community Grant Fund** £10,000 Approved

**Total RUCIS** £28,000

**equates to** 39.2%