

**RURAL/URBAN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPLICATION FOR 9TH DECEMBER 2021 CABINET:**

**Applicant :** **Whitnash Town Council**

**Description of scheme:** Whitnash has had a measured mile for over five years in its park at Acre Close. It was well used but due to an increase in rain all-year round it suffered with parts of it being impassable at times. The Town Council have agreed to put a new measured 'mile' at Washbourne Playing Fields to create a park more about health and nature and making Acre Close an activity park for indoor and outdoor sport. The project will deliver a tarmac path around the Washbourne playing field for residents to use for exercise; the Town Council want the 'mile' to encourage people to walk, run, use wheelchairs, and push prams around it.

**Evidence of need:**

- 1) Usage of the current mile at Acre Close; it has been well used weather allowing.
- 2) Health and safety issues with the current mile at Acre Close due to heavy rain and drainage; Washbourne Playing Field does not have the same issue.
- 3) Discussions with residents using Acre Close. A survey has also taken place at the 'One Year to Go' event at Washbourne to explain what the Town Council would like to do and seek residents' comments; 100% of those asked agreed with the idea and hoped the 'mile' would be installed soon.
- 4) Whitnash Neighbourhood Plan (2015) 2011-2029, the vision for Whitnash is; "In 2029 Whitnash will have a strong, local identity of a sustainable, thriving town which serves its local residents and businesses well and continues to have close family and community support. Community facilities will be enhanced, green spaces and historical links maintained and a realistic number and mix of housing built in and around Whitnash will meet the needs of all ages and groups in the town."

**3 years accounts received?** 2019 - 2021 accounts have been received along with a recent bank statement for all accounts held (August 2021); this evidences sufficient cash reserves to meet the contribution stated on the application form. Please note the high cash reserves include; Civic Centre construction funds from PWLB, WCC, Sport England, Lotteries grants totalling £476,352.50, other grants totalling £2851.77, funds the Town Council have been saving for towards start up and running costs etc for the Civic Centre and Earmarked reserves for F&GP, H&PF.

<b>Financial Performance; minus figure = deficit</b>	<b>Year ended</b>	<b>Year ended</b>	<b>Year ended</b>
	31/03/21	31/03/20	31/03/19
	£1,175,270	£725,021	£375,253

<b>Available Funds ( cash and reserves )</b>	<b>Year ended</b>	<b>Year ended</b>	<b>Year ended</b>
	31/03/21	31/03/20	31/03/19
	£1,089,845	£724,381	£365,880

**Details of membership, fees etc:** There is no charge for using the playing fields.

**Details of usage:** Washbourne Playing Fields provides recreation facilities for Whitnash residents, it has always been the park without organised sporting activities but with trees and bushes, a natural feel. A place where the play equipment is good, dog walkers like to use it and there are benches for people to sit on. It is impossible to quantify numbers as it is an open field; it is used all-year round, it is especially busy when the local schools finish at the end of the day, at weekends and school holidays and is used by all age ranges.

**Details of Organisations equalities policies:** Whitnash Town Council is a local authority subject to statutory duties applicable to a public body. Whitnash Town Council is subject to the Equality Act 2010, but as a public authority it has additional obligations in the 2010 Act. It must have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and harassment, victimisation and to advance equality of opportunity in the exercise of its functions. A local council is also a public authority for the purposes of the Human Rights Act. There is also a "policy statement of equal opportunities" in place, a highlight from this is; any discrimination, victimisation, or harassment in the workplace, or any other action that affects the dignity of our employees, customers, suppliers and visitors is totally unacceptable and will be investigated. The Equality Policy has been forwarded as part of the final application package.

**3 quotes provided:** Yes - three written quotes have been provided. The preferred supplier is the second cheapest quote, the rationale noted on the application form is; "2nd Cheapest, local AND removes the waste from site. Cheapest (though also local) does not include that in the price."

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

**Reduce anti-social behaviour** Playing fields provide opportunity for physical activity and act as a focal point for members of the community to congregate and socialise. Washbourne Playing Fields already has good play equipment, dog walkers like to use it and there are benches for people to sit on. The project will deliver a measured 'mile' path that can be used by all members of the community across all age ranges all-year round to walk, run, use wheelchairs and push prams around it to exercise and socialise. This all helps to reduce anti-social behaviour.

**Reducing obesity, particularly in children** Washbourne Playing Fields provides opportunity for physical activity; dog walkers like to use the area and besides the green space there is a range of good play equipment for children to use. The project will deliver a measured 'mile' path that can be used by all members of the community across all age ranges all-year round to walk, run, use wheelchairs and push prams around it to exercise which will further help to reduce obesity including in children.

**Increase opportunities for everyone to enjoy and participate in sports, arts and cultural activities** The project will deliver a measured 'mile' path that can be used by all members of the community across all age ranges all-year round which will increase opportunity for the community to participate in physical activity.

**Engaging and strengthening communities** Playing fields provide opportunity for physical activity and act as a focal point for members of the community to congregate and socialise. The project will deliver a measured 'mile' path that can be used by all members of the community across all age ranges all-year round, it will provide residents a place to be that helps with peace of mind, engaging nature while getting healthy. This will help to further engage and strengthen the community.

**Total cost of scheme  
(including VAT where  
appropriate)**

£36,327 This is the net cost as the Town Council will be reclaiming VAT from HMRC.

**Funded by:**

**Status**

**Organisations Own  
Funds**

£18,163 Approved

**Total RUCIS**

**£18,164**

**equates to**

**50.0%**