

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

**Applicant :** Kenilworth RFC

**Description of scheme:** As part of the club's relocation project they have constructed a new habitat to relocate the Great Crested Newts (GCN's) into. In spells of dry weather, the club needs to ensure that the ponds are sufficiently full to sustain and protect the GCN's. To achieve this, they are installing ground water capture tanks which will be linked to both the site irrigation system and the ponds hosting the GCN's. As a backup to mitigate the scenario of the tanks running dry, the club are intending to install a borehole to top up the tanks. The borehole supply would mean that they would not have to draw clean water from Severn Trent thus saving a valuable resource in times of dry weather. On the eastern plot the club will construct a large underground surface water catchment tank which will collect the surface run-off water and store it. If the tank needs to overflow due to excessive and persistent rain it will do so into a ditch and then into a pit within the ancient woodlands. The tank overflow easement is currently being negotiated. The surface water tank will be used for two distinct purposes:  
 1. To top up the 2 ponds created to relocate the Great Crested Newts (GCN's) as and when required - this is a condition of Natural England for granting the relocation licence for the GCN's  
 2. To feed the irrigation system for the pitches  
 In periods of prolonged dry weather, it is likely that the tank will run dry and will therefore require topping up. If this happens, the club would either have to purchase water from Severn Trent, if it was available to them in dry periods, or utilise a borehole to ensure that they can draw a measured supply of ground water on a daily basis. The artificial pitch construction requires regular watering as do the grass pitches therefore if the irrigation is not in place to support periods of prolonged dry weather, the pitches will then deteriorate thus shortening the effective life of the playing surfaces and potentially making them unplayable with a potential impact on obesity and anti-social behaviour. This application is for a contribution to the project to create the borehole.

**Evidence of need:** The need for this project is driven by the requirement to conserve water (a precious resource) and ensure pitches remain irrigated in periods of prolonged dry weather whilst ensuring a robust solution to protect the GCN's which are a protected species; this is a condition of Natural England for granting the relocation licence for the GCN's

**3 years accounts received?** 2019 - 2021 accounts have been received along with a recent bank statement for all accounts held (15th August 2021); 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>	<b>Year ended</b>	<b>Year ended</b>
	30/04/21	30/04/20	30/04/19
	£101,043	-£5,366	-£12,831

<b>Available Funds ( cash and reserves )</b>	<b>Year ended</b>	<b>Year ended</b>	<b>Year ended</b>
	30/04/21	30/04/20	30/04/19
	£100,553	£16,634	£10,816

NOTE: Cash reserves are inflated due to forward funding and grants received for the ground relocation project. The balance sheet for year ending 30th April 2021 notes overall current assets of £414,098 against net current liabilities of £374,956

**Details of membership, fees etc:** **Annual Subscription Rates for 2021-2022:**  
**Mini & Junior Membership;**  
 Players under the age of 18, will be joining under one of the following family membership schemes, whereby membership is granted to the whole family:  
 • Family (single child) £100  
 • Family (2+ children) £140  
**Senior Membership;**  
 • Adult Player (18 or over) £110  
 • Member (Non-Playing) £110  
 • Vice President £135  
 • Life Member £1,200  
 Qualification for reduced subscription rates for student memberships, and concessions for armed forces personnel and low attendance players or members is determined at the discretion of the Management Committee.

**Details of usage:**  
 MAIN CLUB SITE (4 acres): one full size pitch with lights, single story clubhouse, car parking around club and pitch. Clubhouse contains: 4 changing & shower rooms, licensed general bar area, licensed function room with bar (80 seated), toilets and kitchen.  
 COWPATCH (ROCKY LANE) SITE (18 acres): 4 full size pitches (one with lights), 8 portable floodlights, pitches double as Junior pitches, other Junior pitches fill in the space between main pitches, car parking around pitches, series of portakabins for storage, changing and very basic toilet facilities, small kitchen area with hatch snacks with eating outside, BBQ area.  
 NEW CLUB SITE (4 acres): as part of the club's recently approved planning application they will be relocating to new premises at Land to the East of Warwick Road, to the south of Kenilworth Cricket Club, CV8 1FE adjacent to the new Pavilions residential development.  
 CURRENT USEAGE:  
 Sunday: 10am to 5pm  
 • 10am to 1pm – Minis' & Juniors' training, approx. 330 players  
 • 1pm to 5pm – Womens' game every 2nd/3rd week in afternoon, approx. 20 Kenilworth players  
 Tuesday:  
 • Training for Colts (U18s) – 6pm to 8pm, approx. 25 players  
 • Training for men – 7pm to 9pm, approx. 30 players  
 • Training for women – 7pm to 9pm, approx. 30 players  
 • Kenilworth Runners Club (Cow Patch Site) – 7pm to 9pm, approx. 40-50 runners  
 Wednesday:  
 • Training for U16's - 6pm to 8pm, approx. 25 players  
 • Touch Rugby for anyone, 7pm til 8.30pm, approx. 20 players  
 Thursday:  
 • Training for men – 7pm to 9pm, approx. 30 players  
 • Training for women – 7pm to 9pm, approx. 30 players  
 Friday:  
 • Minis & Juniors training – 5.30pm to 7.00pm, approx. 170 players

The club also host Leek Wootton Boys Football Club and run community training camps run by Wasps RFC that draws children who are not necessarily members. The clubhouse & bar are very popular with the club's membership and these facilities are also used by the club's "in-house" and visiting darts teams who play in the local league throughout the year (approx. 20 to 25 players and spectators for each game) in addition to the Vintage Motor Cycle Club who have met monthly for many years (approx. 40 people per meet), Kenilworth Jazz Club (approx. 40 people meet each month) and an annual Kenilworth Golf Club lunch (approx. 50 people). The function room within the club is regularly utilised by members of the community to hold lunches and family celebrations and fund raising events for both local and national charities (approx. 10 to 12 per year, approx. number of people ranging between 30 – 150).

The Club hosts social events such as suppers:

- Burns Night (bi-annually) – approx. 60 people
- St David's Day (bi-annually) – approx. 50 people

The Club also hosts Sporting Dinners, typically 2-3 per year. Pre-COVID they have included:

- John Inverdale, BBC sports broadcaster - 80 people
- Dean Richards, Newcastle Falcons coach - 65 people
- Nigel Owens, International rugby referee - 120 people
- Scott Quinnell, Sky rugby broadcaster - 120 people

The club also host an annual 2-day festival (historically held at the end of April) which attracts the following attendance of children and their parents / guardians: Saturday approx. 500 people, Sunday approx. 1,000 people.

**Details of Organisations equalities policies:**

The club have safeguarding policies already in place which are available to view on the club's website. The club are currently in the process of agreeing a formal equality policy which will then also be published on their website, a draft policy has been provided which includes the following highlights:

"Kenilworth RFC is dedicated to encouraging a supportive and inclusive culture amongst its membership. It is within our best interest to promote diversity and eliminate discrimination at the club. All members must have a genuine and equal opportunity to participate in rugby union as well as nonrugby union activities at the club, at all levels and in all roles. That includes participation as a beginner or elite performer, and as a coach, official, referee, manager, administrator, spectator or social member. In its relationships with members, in its provision of services and any sport, it is the aim of Kenilworth RFC not to disadvantage any individual by imposing any conditions or requirements which cannot be justified. This policy reinforces our commitment to providing equality and fairness to all members and not provide less favourable facilities or treatment on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, ethnic origin, colour, nationality, national origin, religion or belief, or sex and sexual orientation. We are opposed to all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination."

**3 quotes provided:**

Yes

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

**Evidence**

**Reduce anti-social behaviour**

Currently the club has:

- 3 Mens', 1 Colts' and 2 Womens' teams who train twice a week and play regular competitive matches.
- A Minis & Juniors section of 330 children and young people every Sunday in the season - training various teams every weekday evening under two sets of fixed floodlights and two portable sets.
- Non-playing members and family memberships who utilise the clubhouse facilities and attend social events.
- Other organisations use our facilities including; Kenilworth Runners, Warwickshire Bears American Football and Royal Leamington Spa Archery Society

The clubhouse is also hired by other organisations such as the Vintage Motorcycle Club, Kenilworth Jazz Club and for ad-hoc events by the community. Members also hold several social events and charity fund raising events each year. The project will also support all-year round use of the pitches including in adverse dry weather conditions. All the above helps to reduce anti-social behaviour.

**Reducing obesity, particularly in children**

The nature of the club is sporting activity, this helps to reduce obesity. The project will provide a facility to support the irrigation system in periods of prolonged dry weather which will help ensure that the playing surfaces are playable all-year round allowing club members, the linked community groups and other sports organisations to use the facility (these include Leamington Archery Society, Kenilworth Runners, Kenilworth School). This will assist in tackling obesity by encouraging community groups to be active in a setting that is disciplined, safe and secure. KRFC's Mini and Junior Section (M+J's) have a membership of circa 330 boys and girls who meet, train and play at the club. This ensures their health and welfare, helps combat obesity and generally instils discipline into them thus reducing the potential for anti-social behaviour.

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

The club's migration to the new ground will deliver improved clubhouse and changing facilities which will facilitate further usage and increased social activities, the project will provide a facility to support the irrigation system in periods of prolonged dry weather which will help ensure that the playing surfaces are playable all-year; this will increase opportunities for everyone to enjoy and participate in sports activities.

**Engaging and strengthening communities**

The club is run by a wide range of volunteers from across the community, in addition to which there are family memberships, with parents regularly attending to watch their children train and play, and also social events attended by a wide range of people/members. The club's migration to the new ground will deliver improved clubhouse and changing facilities which will facilitate further usage and increased social activities further helping to bring people and families together. The project will provide a facility to support the irrigation system in periods of prolonged dry weather which will help ensure that the playing surfaces are playable all-year round which maintains social interaction throughout the year. This all helps to engage and strengthen the community.

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

£8,250 This is the net cost as the club will be reclaiming VAT from HMRC.

**Funded by:**

**Status**

**Organisations Own Funds**

£1,200 Approved

**Kenilworth Town Council**

£450 Applied for; if the application is unsuccessful the project shortfall will be covered by Kenilworth Rugby Club from their cash reserves. These funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of a recent bank statement.

**Total RUCIS**

**£6,600**

**equates to**

**80.0%**