

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

Applicant : **Whitnash Windmill Petanque Club**

Description of scheme:

Whitnash Windmill Petanque Club (WWPC) has been based at the Whitnash Sports & Social Club (WSSC) since 2007 when members of the Petanque Club turned a large piece of waste WSSC ground into a smart new petanque facility. Since then, the petanque club has continually maintained and improved the petanque terrain, adding a wooden pavilion, shed, seating and fencing. This grant application is to enable the club to make the following improvements:

- WSSC is generously allowing WWPC to expand the petanque facility by utilising a large area of land (18m x 18m) adjacent to their current facility. This will enable the club to build another six pistes (playing lanes) which would increase the playing facility to 16 pistes in total. This is the perfect number of pistes for any petanque facility as it allows 32 teams to play comfortably which is the ideal number for all major competitions. The area will of course need to be fenced off, especially from a H&S point of view as they are playing with heavy metal boules, and the club would also like to replace an existing fence along their current facility with similar fencing, which will then aesthetically make this area a smart and fully enclosed space. The total length of fencing required is 72 metres.
- WSSC has also recently allowed WWPC to extend one of the pathways around their existing terrain by 2 metres wide all along the 35 metre (approx.) length of the current club facility. This has addressed a H&S issue as the original pathway was only one metre wide and has now given the club the opportunity and capacity to add spectator/player shelters along this pathway which will be a major part of this project. WWPC are therefore applying for funding of the materials to build two 7.2m x 2m wooden gazebos/pavilions for erecting down this new widened pathway. Manufactured wooden gazebos/pavilions are very expensive and in fact the dimensions are not conducive to the area they have, so the club preference is to build their own bespoke gazebos which will ideally meet their requirements. Petanque is an all-year round sport and these gazebos will provide players with shelter from the elements (rain or sunshine) during and in between play when necessary. The gazebos will also be invaluable as spectator shelters when the club host large competitions throughout the year.

Evidence of need:

The need for this project has simply evolved through ongoing development of the club terrain; it is the club's desire to make this facility the best there is and to encourage more people to get involved. This application will not only enhance and improve the current petanque facility but will also allow the club to take full advantage of the generous gesture by WSSC to offer the extra land to expand the club terrain by 50 per cent, and inevitably the club will need funds to help achieve this. It has been agreed between WSSC and WWPC that although this extra space has been allocated for petanque, it could also be used for, say, an outdoor exercise class, or a summer fete or beer festival, farmers market, etc if required in the future, by mutual agreement.

3 years accounts received?

2018 - 2020 accounts have been received along with a recent bank statement for all accounts held (September 2021); this evidences sufficient cash reserves to meet the contribution stated on the application form. However, it was noted that there were insufficient cash reserves to fund the VAT costs of the project whilst waiting for the monies to be reclaimed from HMRC, as a result the Playing Captain has loaned WWPC £1,300 which will be repaid to the individual once the VAT reclaim has been received. This 'loan' has been evidenced with the latest bank statement dated 22nd September 2021.

Financial Performance; minus figure = deficit

| Year ended | Year ended | Year ended |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 31/12/20 | 31/12/19 | 31/12/18 |
| -£1,249 | £756 | -£3 |

Please note that in the 2020 financial year WWPC loaned WSSC £1,400 which has been paid back to WWPC in the 2021 financial year; without this loan payment the 2020 financial year would have been a profit of £151

Available Funds (cash and reserves)

| Year ended | Year ended | Year ended |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 31/12/20 | 31/12/19 | 31/12/18 |
| £3,127 | £4,303 | £3,547 |

Details of membership, fees etc:

As a section of the Whitnash Sports & Social Club, the WWPC has no hire costs but are required to be members of the WSSC:

- Seniors = £8.50pa
- Adults = £13.50pa
- Juniors = £2.50pa

WWPC members fees:

- Subscription is £5pa.
- Members are also individually required, for insurance purposes, to hold a licence with the National Body, Petanque England, which is currently £28pa.
- In addition, members are charged £1 for each week that they use the facility to help with the upkeep of the terrain.

All in all, a very affordable pastime and sport.

Details of usage:

Whitnash Windmill Petanque Club (WWPC) is a sports section of the Whitnash Sports & Social Club (WSSC). Petanque (French boules) is a sport for all ages and club members (currently 32 but increasing) range from 10 to 90 years of age.

- The club facility is open to individual members to use any time seven days a week.
- The 'club night' is Mondays; members meet every week of the year in all weathers.
- Members occasionally meet on other days/nights individually.
- Many of the more competitive members not only play on 'club night's' and closed competitions, but also play in regional competitions, playing at home and other venues within the Heart of England region.
- Some of the more serious players play at national level, travelling all around the country to play, and currently there are four members who play for England, including one 23-year-old, Rachel Kelly, who has recently become the Petanque England National Ladies Singles Champion for 2021 and has also qualified for the England Ladies Squad 2021/22, along with fellow member Hannah Griffin.
- The club holds several club competitions at weekends each year: approx. 15 per year, with approx. 20 members attending each competition.
- The club competes in the regional Warwickshire and West Midlands Summer league matches which are held on Wednesday evenings; this runs from May to September each year. This year's event has just been completed with one of the Whitnash 3-man teams finishing top out of sixteen regional teams and retaining the Championship title from 2019. Two of the other three Whitnash teams finished in the top half of the table.
- The club organises two or three large open events during the year hosting 32 triples teams; such is the quality and reputation of the club, they are often invited to host national competitions by their national body, Petanque England. This year, for example, the club has been invited to host the national Champion of Champions Pairs and Triples competitions for England on 18th/19th September.
- In the past the club has invited schools, youth clubs and scout groups to come and try the sport to provide youngsters with a worthwhile pastime; the groups that took up the offer always enjoyed it.
- Last year the Club was voted 10th in the top venues in England.

Details of Organisations equalities policies:

The Club operates an 'open to all' policy, irrespective of age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, religion or sexual orientation. Currently there is no written equality policy as such but is an unwritten rule which will be included in the club's constitution at their next AGM.

3 quotes provided:

Yes - six written quotes have been provided (three quotes for each aspect of the project works). Fencing; the preferred supplier is the lowest quote and includes installation. Gazebos; commercial gazebos are not available to the size required, the club have chosen a bespoke design, to ideally fit the area required, at more than half the price, and installation will be by volunteer members to cut down the cost on labour. The preferred materials supplier is the second cheapest quote, the rationale noted on the application form is; "we have selected Building & Plumbing as our preferred supplier, as we have found them very reliable and helpful in the past."

Which of the Council's Corporate Priorities are met?

Evidence

Reduce anti-social behaviour

The club provides sporting activities and social interactions for 32 members ranging from 10 to 90 years of age.

- The facility is open to individual members to use seven days a week.
- The 'club' night is Monday; members meet every week of the year in all weathers.
- Members occasionally meet on other days/nights individually or in groups.
- Many of the more competitive members not only play on 'club' nights and closed competitions, but also play in regional competitions, playing at home and other venues within the Heart of England region.
- Some of the more serious players, play at national level, travelling all around the country to play, and currently there are four members who play for England.
- The club holds several club competitions at weekends each year: approx. 15 per year, with approx. 20 members attending each competition.
- The club competes in the regional Heart of England Summer League matches which are held on Wednesday evenings; this runs from May to September each year and during the winter months the Heart of England region organises a Winter pairs tournament over four months, for which our members are eligible to play.
- The club organises two or three large open events during the year hosting 32 triples teams; such is the quality and reputation of the club, we are often invited to host national competitions by our national body, Petanque England. This year, for example, the club has been invited to host the national Champion of Champions Pairs and Triples competitions for England on 18th/19th September.
- In the past the club has invited schools, youth clubs and scout groups to come and try the sport to provide youngsters with a worthwhile pastime; the groups that took up the offer always enjoyed it.
- The club is always endeavouring to advertise the petanque sport to the community and will continue to encourage all members of society to build a worthwhile environment.

The project will increase the number of pistes (lanes) which will enable more players to play at the same time. This all helps to potentially reduce anti-social behaviour.

Reducing obesity, particularly in children

Petanque may look a fairly gentle sport, but in fact it is quite strenuous, as you have to continually bend to retrieve your boules from the ground, you walk up and down the lanes several times in a game, (which can last up to around one and a half to two hours) and the throwing action itself is a great form of exercise. You keep fit whilst enjoying yourself and you don't really notice how much exercise you have done. Petanque is therefore great for keeping fit without going to the gym. The club provides this sporting/physical activity for 32 members ranging from 10 to 90 years of age.

- The club facility is open 7 days a week
- Weekly 'club' nights are held
- Members play individually whenever they wish to do so
- Club competitions are held at weekends
- The club competes in the national summer league between May and September.

The project will increase the number of pistes (lanes) which will enable more players to play at the same time. This all helps to potentially reduce obesity across all sectors of the community including children.

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

The project will increase the number of pistes (lanes) from 10 to 16 which will enable more players to play at the same time and will help to facilitate all-year-round play by providing shelter for players and spectators from the elements. This will help to increase opportunities for everyone to enjoy and participate in this sporting activity throughout the year.

Engaging and strengthening communities

The club is managed and run by a wide range of volunteers from the local community and the sporting activity provided builds friendships, company, and social interaction, which is important for everyone for mental wellbeing as well as physical wellbeing, especially at this time of the Covid-19 pandemic. Social interaction is across age ranges and is important for older members who otherwise could be left quite isolated. The project will further improve the club facility and increase opportunity to enjoy and participate in sporting activity which potentially will also attract even more players to WWPC and more national competitions to our region. This all helps to engage and strengthen the community.

Total cost of scheme (including VAT where appropriate)

£6,586 This is the net cost as the club will be reclaiming VAT from HMRC.

Funded by:

Status

Organisations Own Funds

£1,317 Approved

Total RUCIS

£5,269

equates to

80.0%