

RURAL/URBAN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPLICATION FOR 8th JANUARY 2014 EXECUTIVE :

Applicant : Leek Wootton & Guys Cliffe Parish Council

Description of scheme: The village playground equipment is in need of replacement as it is now tired and old fashioned. The project is to replace all the equipment and to revitalise and enhance the landscape of the area to make it a more exciting and welcoming place for children and their families.

Evidence of need: The primary reason for establishing the project was that it became noticeable that fewer and fewer children were using the existing equipment – what is there is clearly not stimulating or exciting enough to bother going to the playground. The children seem to be voting with their feet. A survey was conducted at the village school and it was evident that the equipment wanted was a far cry from what currently exists. The Parish Council has debated the issue and agreed that something should be done and is the instigator of the project.

Written and verbal support for the project has emerged from both children and adults in the village - copies of letters / emails of support have been provided.

3 years accounts received? Independently audited accounting statements have been received for the years 2012/13, 2011/12 and 2010/11; the most recent accounts, 2012/13, were signed off by the external auditor (Grant Thornton UK LLP) on 18.9.13

Financial Performance; minus figure = deficit

Year ended	Year ended	Year ended
31/3/13	31/3/12	31/3/11
£1,375	- £322	-£44

Available Funds (cash and reserves)

Year ended	Year ended	Year ended
31/3/13	31/3/12	31/3/11
£8,505	£5,155	£5,477

Details of membership, fees etc:

There is no membership as the playground is owned and maintained by the Parish Council and has free access for all.

Details of usage:

The Parish Council owns and manages the village children's playground in Leek Wootton and recently agreed to the complete replacement/refurbishment of the play equipment in the playground. The playground is situated between the Village Hall and the Sports Club and is used mainly by children of the village; the village electoral roll is approximately 950 people with a further 350 young people.

Details of Organisations equalities policies:

The playground is free and open to all with access for those with reduced mobility. The Parish Council complies with the District Council's equality policy.

3 quotes provided for schemes in excess of £10,000:

Yes - three quotes have been received

Which of the Council's Corporate Priorities are met?

Evidence

Reduce Anti Social Behaviour

The new playground will hopefully be a 'cool' place to meet and socialise and thus encourage young people to congregate there rather than in other less supervised places. Having a focal point like this will potentially reduce anti-social behaviour and promote co-operation and caring.

Reducing Obesity, particularly in children

Most modern structured play equipment has inbuilt fitness as well as imaginary play elements and is designed to try and include all levels of ability. The new equipment will encourage a wide range of children from the community to get outside into the fresh air and participate. The Stay and Play group and the Brownies who use the facility are keen supporters of renewal and the regular use of the new equipment will certainly help reduce obesity in children.

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

The playground is open at all times and free for all to enjoy, not just village residents. The envisaged landscaping of the area and equipment to be installed will greatly enhance the enjoyment and participation of all who visit and particular note has been taken in making both the space and the equipment accessible for those with disability.

Engaging and strengthening Communities

This project will further enhance the existing community spirit and ethos and will encourage participation in people not yet included. Letters of support for the project come from a wide section of the population; young people, parents, grandparents, playgroups and brownies, all use the facility to meet in and spend time together, thus strengthening the community.

Total cost of scheme (including VAT where appropriate) £45,449

Funded by:

Status

Parish Council / Own Funds

£1,049 Approved; evidenced in the minutes of the PC meeting held on 9th April 2013

BIFFA

£40,000 Requested

Total Rural / Urban Initiatives Scheme

£4,400

This is to cover the Third Party Payment that is required to obtain the release of the BIFFA grant award

equates to

9.7%