

Rother Community Grants Summary of Applications – Round 1, 2022/23

1. Brede Parish Council

Total cost of project: £22,000 (net VAT)

Funding secured: £11,000

Funding shortfall: £11,000

Amount requested: £11,000

Percentage of total project costs requested: 50%

Funding shortfall if full grant approved: nil

Applicant and Grant Request Details

The applicant is Brede Parish Council.

The grant will be used for providing a new piece of multi-purpose play equipment 'Captain Mannering' for the recreation ground, suitable for several children to play together, with a variety of experiences contained within it. This is the second phase of the project following the installation of swings partly funded by a Rother Community Grant in 2021.

Benefits

The Parish Council has been aware for several years that the play provision is very limited and has received many requests to update the provision and range of equipment to interest and excite the children.

Children between the age of 3-10 will benefit from the upgrade of equipment, getting those additional minutes of daily physical activity, recommended to keep them fit and healthy, as well as the wider community, allowing families time to socialise together, supporting their own mental health and well-being.

Councillors have carefully considered the needs of the Parish. While a more disability friendly piece of equipment could be purchased, it does not have the depth and variety of play experiences as the Captain Mannering, which itself can be accessed in part, with some help, to those with some mobility issues. The Council has not been made aware of a greater need for disability accessible equipment for the moment but will strive to consider all needs as new equipment is considered and purchased. There is a bucket swing currently provided.

Support for the Project

The school has noted how the recreation ground is an integral part of the Brede Community and how the children and families regularly make use of the play equipment before and after school. It has welcomed the opportunity to be part of the consultation process for the new equipment as the children were incredibly disappointed when the pirate ship had to be dismantled following the annual playground check.

The children of Broad Oak Primary school were asked to contribute their wishes and ideas for the recreation ground, and almost 100 responses were received with drawings of their ideas with many requests for slides, climbing walls, scramble nets and more.

Councillor Maynard has provided his support for the project, as have other Members of the Parish who have emailed their ideas and suggestions following a request made in the Parish newsletter.

Project Sustainability

Brede Parish Council pays yearly for inspections, and maintenance is carried out as required to ensure play equipment is in good working order and passes any regulations required and is included within the Parish Council's revenue budget.

Funding Details

The applicant is contributing £11,000 towards the project. Should the grant be successful this will be acknowledged by way of an article in the Parish newsletter, plus a news items on the Parish website and on local social media.

Environmental Considerations

The mulch surface is made from recycled rubber. The company that has been proposed to install the equipment has environmental, sustainable policies. The equipment has been chosen for its expected lifetime and is made from wood.

Panel observations and recommendation:

The panel noted that accessibility is key and needs to be in place.

Grant £11,000, subject to standard conditions and:

- a) That consideration be given to creating an accessibility path to the play equipment in the future project development.

2. Fairlight Parish Council

Total cost of project: £10,120 (excluding VAT)

Funding secured: £5,060

Funding shortfall: £5,060

Amount requested: £5,060

Percentage of total project costs requested: 50%

Funding shortfall if full grant approved: nil

Applicant and Grant Request Details

The applicant is Fairlight Parish Council who wish to provide new playground equipment and appropriate safety matting for the younger and less able children who live in Fairlight or who visit the village.

Benefits

This project will make a great difference to the children and parents within Fairlight and surrounding communities. Facilities would be available for all ages in the playground and would be more inclusive for the under 5's and less able who have not been provided for in the past. The proposed equipment includes a wheelchair accessible train.

Parents/carers will be able to bring younger children to a safe fenced area with other siblings and let them enjoy the facilities provided together. It has been observed that the demographics of the community are changing, and more families are moving to

the village. It has also been observed that the recreation ground and play area usage has increased as people want to spend more time outdoors.

The current playground is situated on the recreation ground which is either accessed via a tarmac with a concrete path and wide gate for wheelchairs, buggies, prams etc. or via the car park and across the recreation ground. From the car park a new wider access has recently been provided including a new short concrete path.

Support for the Project

District Councillors Roger Bird and Andrew Mier are in support of the project, along with the Fairlight Nursery and Playgroup and the St Peter's Church's Teddy's Group who will have age-appropriate playground equipment to use as part of the main recreation ground. Local families have also provided their support.

Project Sustainability

The equipment and matting proposed is very low maintenance and any running costs and annual equipment checks will be provided by Fairlight Parish Council.

Funding Details

The Parish Council is contributing £5,060 towards the project. Should the grant application be successful, this will be acknowledged by placing articles on the Parish Council's website and newsletter. Other acknowledgements would be in the village magazine, community website, local press and at the site of the playground.

Environmental Considerations

The proposed equipment is either made from sustainable pressure treated timber or 100% HDPE recycled plastic, both of which are maintenance free. Rubber safety matting, made from recycled rubber, is also being provided for the apparatus rather than playground bark chips. This matting will be low maintenance and will not require topping up on an annual basis like the bark chippings. This will save trees being used for the chippings and reduce other pollutants in the production and transportation of the chippings. In addition, chemicals will not need to be used to remove weeds etc. which would grow in chippings.

Any materials to be removed from the site such as soil etc. will be done by the contractor and be reused.

Panel recommendation:

Grant £5,060, subject to standard grant conditions.

3. Northiam Village Hall Trust

Total cost of project: £21,500

Funding secured: £11,000

Funding shortfall: £10,500

Amount requested: £10,500

Percentage of total project costs requested: 49%

Funding shortfall if full grant approved: nil

Applicant and Grant Request Details

Northiam Village Hall Trust is a registered charity with the aim to ensure that Northiam Village Hall shall be held upon trust for the use of the inhabitants of the Parish of

Northiam, including use for meetings, lectures and classes and for other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.

The applicant wishes to convert an existing storage area into a meeting room, requiring the provision of an inclusive external access ramp, new accessible width entrance door, upgrading of existing WC facilities plus the upgrading of heating, lighting, flooring and decoration.

Benefits

The applicant has observed that the current meeting room is increasingly being booked by small exercise groups as an alternative to the larger and more expensive main hall. This has led to booking clashes with local social groups requiring the room for their needs.

The Trust Committee has identified an area currently being used for random storage that could be upgraded to create a suitable additional meeting room with a dedicated external entrance. The new meeting space will have its own accessible entrance, with a turning point at the top of the ramp.

This project would provide additional facilities to enable both small exercise classes and local group and society meetings to be held concurrently. The additional space would also result in a quicker room set up for local groups as the current set up entails the regular removal and replacement of the large meeting room table and chairs.

Support for the Project

District Councillors Ganly and Mooney have provided their support for this project along with Northiam Parish Council and community groups who use the hall.

Project Sustainability

If the grant were successful, maintenance and running costs would be maintained by the Northiam Village Hall Trust via increased meeting room booking revenue.

Funding Details

The applicant is contributing £10,000, with the Parish Council awarding £1,000. This leaves a shortfall of £10,500 (nil if full award requested granted).

If successful, the applicant will acknowledge the contribution by including within the village hall newsletter and website plus a plaque in the meeting room.

Environmental Considerations

Additional insulation will be applied where appropriate. The heating will be controlled by the computerised booking system to ensure energy is matched to the room usage. The existing fluorescent lighting is to be replaced with low consumption LED lighting controlled by movement sensors. A strong preference will be given to the employment of local trades people.

Panel recommendation:

Grant £10,500, subject to standard grant conditions, and:

- a) That environmental upgrades are considered in conjunction with recommendations of energy site assessments under the RDC Village Halls Energy Project if participating.
-

4. Rye Harbour Sailability

Total cost of project: £17,750

Funding secured: £5,300

Funding shortfall: £12,450

Amount requested: £8,875

Percentage of total project costs requested: 50%

Funding shortfall if full grant approved: £3,575

Applicant and Grant Request Details

Rye Harbour Sailability (RHS) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the aim to provide or assist with the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time activities for people who have need of such facilities by reason of their disabilities and with the object of improving their conditions of life. RHS is a small but established charity with 45 members and has regular sailors.

The applicant wishes to purchase a stable adapted dinghy to enable people with disabilities to sail at Rye Harbour as a replacement to a dinghy that was a second-hand gift to RHS when they were established in 2017. This vessel is now coming to the end of its life.

Benefits

The main people who will benefit are people with disabilities such as autism, dementia, schizoaffective disorder, mild mobility issues, special needs, Cerebral Palsy, Fibromyalgia and Multiple Sclerosis for example.

RHS takes people with disabilities out sailing at Rye Harbour under the watchful eye of a Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Senior Instructor. The charity is run entirely by volunteers who give up their time and share their skills to run Sailability sailing days once or twice a month from April to October.

The vessel that is being replaced has a heavy lifting keel that only the strongest of crew can lift. This restricts the number of volunteers who can crew for that dinghy. The proposed new dinghy will correct this imbalance as well as ensure that they can keep taking people with disabilities out sailing. To be able to take the 10 regular sailors sailing over a tide, two reliable sailing dinghies are required. With only one boat, if sailors, because of the nature of their disabilities, they must wait too long in between sails and this can be frustrating for them. There are restrictions due to the tides at Rye Harbour and so have a limited time to sail at each event.

Support for the Project

Testimonials for the project have been received from existing users of the facilities, noting the freedom the events provide; a break from the routine and opportunity to meet other people and how accommodating and understanding the volunteers are.

The project has received support from the Mayor of Rye, Rotary Club of Rye and Winchelsea and Rye Harbour Discovery Centre and other local groups.

District Councillors Hacking and Osborne have provided their support. Icklesham Parish Council is supportive of RHS and will consider a grant application in September 2022.

Project Sustainability

The ongoing maintenance costs will be met by RHS, through membership fees and fees for sails. The group's profile has been raised in the local area by holding events at different venues within the local area. At each event new people are met who are interested in volunteering their help, resulting in a dedicated and increased regular volunteer sailors and other support.

Funding Detail

The applicant is contributing £2,800. The applicant has successfully received £2,500 from Little Cheyne Court Wind Farm Fund. A funding application is due to be considered by Icklesham Parish Council in September 2022. The applicant has a detailed funding plan for the £3,575 shortfall to be raised by December 2022 should the grant be approved of £8,875. This includes an Opera Night in October 2022 (in 2021, this raised £2,000) and a quiz and film night (in 2021, this raised £1,000).

Should the grant be successful, this will be acknowledged on the RHS website and social media. They would be happy to add RDC as a sponsor of RHS on their website.

Environmental Considerations

The sailing vessel planned to be purchased is built by the company that designed it. It is planned to purchase an electric outboard for the boat rather than a petrol run outboard. The existing vessel will be disposed of with due consideration to the environment by sorting the different materials that make up the dinghy.

Panel recommendation:

Grant £8,875, subject to standard grant conditions and:

- a) Confirmation of successful funding from Icklesham Parish Council.
- b) Confirmation of funding for £3,575 shortfall.

5. Winchelsea Beach Community Association

Total cost of project: £86,000

Funding secured: £25,000

Funding shortfall: £61,000

Amount requested: £30,000

Percentage of total project costs requested: 35%

Funding shortfall if full grant approved: £30,000

Applicant and Grant Request Details

Winchelsea Beach Community Association (WBCA) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation set up to secure the existence of the established Winchelsea Beach Community Hall to provide events and activities for the local community.

In 2021, the applicant was granted planning permission for a single floor extension to the front of the Community Hall which will be used to upgrade the toilet facilities to include an accessible toilet with baby changing facilities. Included in the design is a ramped accessibility and wider front doors.

The grant request is to part-fund this extension.

Benefits

The ramped access and wider entrance to the Community Hall will make entering the building safer and easier for all members of the community.

Events and classes, such as chair based pilates, baby sensory, coffee mornings, dances and craft fairs are well attended but the stepped and narrow entrance makes all events at the hall difficult to access by wheelchair users, less mobile people and adults with pushchairs.

The current toilet used by the disabled is tiny and does not meet current standards. The toilet areas have not been updated since the 1980s. The addition of an accessible toilet with baby changing facilities will be an encouraging addition to improve the inclusivity to the building as noted on the aims and objectives of the WCBA.

The proposed works will widen the group of people in the community promoting physical and mental wellbeing.

It is planned to use a part of the extension to store items such as tables out of the main hall and increase the amount of space that can be utilised by groups.

Support for the Project

District Councillor Lizzie Hacking has provided her support for this application, noting how this worthwhile project will make a positive difference to the Hall which is already an important part of the village. Several community groups and Icklesham Parish Council support the project.

Project Sustainability

The ongoing maintenance will be completed by the WBCA management committee, through revenue raised and is included within their budgets each year.

Funding Details

The applicant is contributing £25,000. A funding application has been made to the National Lottery Community Fund for £30,000. Icklesham Parish Council is due to consider grant applications in September 2022. This leaves a shortfall of £30,000 (nil if full grant is awarded).

Should the grant be successful, this will be acknowledged on the Winchelsea Beach Village Hall website and social media.

Environmental Considerations

The applicant will be using local suppliers and builders to complete this project and aims to use the eco-friendliest methods and fittings that the budget allows.

Panel recommendation:

Grant £30,000, subject to standard grant conditions, and:

- a) Confirmation of successful funding from the National Lottery Community Fund.
- b) Confirmation of successful funding from Icklesham Parish Council.
- c) That environmental upgrades are considered in conjunction with recommendations of energy site assessments under the RDC Village Halls Energy Project if participating.