

East Peckham Parish Council – Refurbishment of Junior Playpark

Organisation	East Peckham Parish Council	Number of Electors	2,600
Grant scheme	Section 136 Special works grants to parish councils		
Project title	Refurbishment of junior playpark		
Grant Requested	£7,500	Estimated project cost	£17,975
Balance to be funded by	The Parish council and East Peckham Playing Fields Company		
Description of Project			
<p>The purpose of the project is to refurbish the junior play park, in the playing fields, and provide new items of play equipment. It currently has a climbing frame and some swings. Facilities for 7 to 14 year olds are lacking in the village and much needed, as highlighted in the recent TMBC survey of Leisure provision. It will be of great benefit to this age group in our community, and will enhance the very successful toddlers play park provided last year. The project will provide 3 new items of play equipment, a Nexus Freeride, a Nexus Tornado overhead carousel and a Junior Slide. It will also provide wet-pour safety surfacing for the rides, some seating and a litter bin. During a funding attempt last year, which was unsuccessful, a survey amongst parents was carried out to establish the most suitable types of equipment. Quotes have been received from two playground equipment providers both around £18,000.</p>			
Member's Consultation			
No responses received			
Officer's Comments			
<p>Chief Leisure Officer: The provision of children's outdoor play facilities contributes to the Council's key corporate objectives of "giving priority to involving and meeting the needs of young people" and "promoting, encouraging and providing opportunities for healthy living". The availability of accessible, safe and well equipped play facilities is highlighted as a priority in both the Leisure & Arts and Local Play Strategies, both of which also recognise the benefits of play in reducing crime and disorder. It is essential that play areas and play equipment are safe; otherwise the facilities need to be taken out of operation to avoid any potential risk of accidents to children and young people. The application received has been brought forward both to address safety concerns and also to provide new equipment.</p> <p>Crime Reduction Coordinator: The Parish Council may wish to consider crime prevention items to prevent vandalism of the playpark, for example, anti-graffiti coating for the equipment. They also may wish to consider the lighting for the play park. If there is lighting in the evenings this may attract older children to gather in that area, not necessarily a bad thing, but just something to bear in mind.</p>			

Trottiscliffe Parish Council – Children’s Play Area

Organisation	Trottiscliffe Parish Council	Number of Electors	424
Grant scheme	Section 136 Special works grants to parish councils		
Project title	Children’s play area upgrade		
Grant Requested	£6,464	Estimated project cost	£12,464
Balance to be funded by	Parish council, reserves expected to be £11,500 at 31/03/09		
Description of Project			
<p>The purpose of this project is to upgrade the safety flooring in all areas of the children's play area to the modern "Wet Pour" system. This is needed to satisfy health and safety regulations and, if not carried out soon, it will be necessary to close the area.</p> <p>At present bark is used in the multi-play area which needs replacing annually at a cost of approximately £1,800 to keep it up to safety standard, concrete is now showing through in places. The Wet Pour system would have a life of at least 10 years.</p> <p>The current tiled safety flooring in the junior and toddler swing area is breaking up and needs replacing. At present there is nothing under the seesaw and this has been identified as a potential safety hazard.</p> <p>The play area is used by children from outside the parish and is also very well used by Trottiscliffe children. In addition the adjacent primary school used the facilities and also Brownies when camping in the village hall.</p>			
Member’s Consultation			
Councillor Balfour expressed support for the application while Councillor Kenp declined to comment due to her conflict of interest arising from her position as Chairman of the Parish Council.			
Officer’s Comments			
<p>Chief Leisure Officer: The provision of children's outdoor play facilities contributes to the Council's key corporate objectives of "giving priority to involving and meeting the needs of young people" and "promoting, encouraging and providing opportunities for healthy living". The availability of accessible, safe and well equipped play facilities is highlighted as a priority in both the Leisure & Arts and Local Play Strategies, both of which also recognise the benefits of play in reducing crime and disorder.</p> <p>It is essential that play areas and play equipment are safe; otherwise the facilities need to be taken out of operation to avoid any potential risk of accidents to children and young people. The application received has been brought forward to address safety concerns.</p>			

West Malling Parish Council – Play Equipment – Cable Runway

Organisation	West Malling Parish Council	Number of Electors	1,936
Grant scheme	Section 136 Special works grants to parish councils		
Project title	Play Equipment - Cable Runway		
Grant Requested	£6,048	Estimated project cost	£10,000
Balance to be funded by	Parish council, reserves expected to be £7,000 at 31/03/09		
Description of Project			
<p>Due to safety advice from a specialist play consultant, the cable runway, which has been the most popular piece of equipment in the children's play area in Norman road, especially with older children for whom there is little other equipment to attract them; has been taken out of use.</p> <p>This play area has benefitted from Council grants in both of the previous two years and residents have been extremely appreciative of the improved facilities. They want a replacement cable runway as it provides a physically challenging activity for older children. We have made parents aware that we would be applying for the Special Works Grant, which in less straitened times we would have taken for granted.</p> <p>Three quotations have been sought and the best value option will be selected.</p>			
Member's Consultation			
Both Councillors Luck and Luker expressed support for the scheme but also concern that the cost of the project seems high and recommended that the parish seek more competitive quotes.			
Officer's Comments			
<p>Chief Leisure Officer: The provision of children's outdoor play facilities contributes to the Council's key corporate objectives of "giving priority to involving and meeting the needs of young people" and "promoting, encouraging and providing opportunities for healthy living". The availability of accessible, safe and well equipped play facilities is highlighted as a priority in both the Leisure & Arts and Local Play Strategies, both of which also recognise the benefits of play in reducing crime and disorder.</p> <p>It is essential that play areas and play equipment are safe; otherwise the facilities need to be taken out of operation to avoid any potential risk of accidents to children and young people. The application received has been brought forward to address safety concerns.</p>			

St James Centre Trust – Establishment of the St James Centre

Organisation	The St James Centre Trust		
Grant scheme	Capital Grants to Village Halls and Community Centres		
Project title	Establishment of the St James Centre		
Grant Requested	£25,000	Estimated project cost	£150,000
Balance to be funded by	£50,000 from KCC, £10,000 from East Malling & Larkfield Parish Council and £65,000 from existing Trust funds		
Description of Project			
<p>To establish a community facility within part of the former St James the Great Primary School (to be closed in Summer 2009), the remainder of which is to be used as a children's centre and retained for school use.</p> <p>The East Malling Partnership has undertaken an extensive 9 month consultation process to identify key issues for residents and to inform community regeneration work. The need for a community drop-in facility, café and space to accommodate a range of local groups and activities were identified as high priorities. Consequently the St James Centre has been identified as a key objective in the East Malling Partnership's adopted community action plan. KCC has agreed in principle to offer the St James Centre Trust a lease for that part of the former school building to be given over to the Trust for use as a community centre and community café.</p> <p>The St James Centre will be a new facility and the uses the Trust envisages are: Special interest groups, young parents group, well-being drop-in (including specifically for young people), skills and training courses and counselling.</p> <p>The community café will provide a local facility to enable people to meet and socialise and break down some barriers. It will provide a focus for healthy eating in East Malling where there is poor health outcomes related to levels of deprivation, obesity has been identified as a specific problem.</p> <p>The café also has the potential to act as a training facility for residents, many of whom have a culture of benefit dependency going back a couple of generations.</p> <p>We believe this project is essential to the community development and regeneration of East Malling. The St James Centre will act as a focus for the community and a hub for services. It will operate differently from a traditional village hall and make a significant contribution to the efforts being taken to address local community issues.</p> <p>East Malling is the most deprived community in Tonbridge and Malling when judged against the Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation and has previously been identified as a priority ward under the County Council's supporting Independence Programme.</p> <p>The opportunity for the St James Centre to contribute to the regeneration of the Ward is considerable; it will act as a beacon of positive change, raise community pride and foster community involvement.</p>			
Member's Consultation			
<p>Councillor Simpson declared an interest as Chair of the Trustees of the St James Centre Trust and gave this comment:</p> <p>"I wholeheartedly support this application. This is a much needed and anticipated local facility. The community cafe is designed to provide healthy food in a pleasant setting where the community can come together and be encouraged to use the numerous facilities and services that will be provided. We also hope that it can be used as a training facility for local residents who would be able to access basic food handling etc to help access to employment. There is a queue of organisations waiting to use the rest of the facilities to provide services to all ages and sections of the community. We also have a day nursery waiting to move in and provide quality child care for working parents. I do hope that the Borough Council will support this application."</p> <p>Councillor Woodger declared an interest as one of the Trustees of the St James Centre Trust and gave this comment:</p>			

"I heartily endorse the reuse of part of the former school for community use and community cafe. I know the school well having taught there for many years and have some understanding of the needs in that area of East Malling which is one of the most 'deprived' communities in Tonbridge and Malling. The existing village hall and Institute hall are in the old part of the village and are both fully booked. There has been extensive consultation and questionnaires resulting in enthusiasm and interest to develop this facility and enable community groups to use the St James Centre. This facility is essential to the continued process of community development and regeneration in East Malling."

Parish Council Consultation

David Thornewell – Chairman of East Malling a Larkfield Parish Council: "The Parish Council supports this project earnestly, has £5,000 in it's own 2008/09 budget towards it and intends to budget another £5,000 in 2009/10.

We consider such a community facility located here will be of real benefit to East Malling.

Officer's Comments

Community Partnerships Officer: "As chairman of the East Malling Partnership, I echo the views expressed in the St James Centre application that this is a much needed resource for one of the most deprived communities in the borough bringing a wealth of opportunities to local people and providing further support for partnership working."