

Facility Grants Scheme * new application

Town:	Pease Pottage
Title of project:	New sports and community pavilion at Finches Field Recreation Ground
Applicant:	Slaugham Parish Council
Type of applicant:	Parish Council
Previous Grants in past 5 years:	None
Grant Request to MSDC	£ 500,000 (95%)
Total project cost:	£ 525,000

Financial Summary

Sources of funding and whether secured

n/a

Summary of project proposal and aims:

The design, construction and ongoing management of a new community and sports changing facility at Finches Field Recreation Ground, Pease Pottage.

Background

Finches Field Recreation Ground, Old Brighton Road South, Pease Pottage is owned by Mid Sussex District Council. The recreation ground accommodates one senior football pitch and a temporary metal changing unit which is used by Furngate Football Club. The Council has recently acquired some additional land, adjacent to the recreation ground, in order to secure the east – west football pitch configuration which is necessary to avoid overhead power cables and long term access to the public open space West of The Hemsleys. Land to the West of the recreation ground is owned by the Mrs H. M. Simpson Will Trust and is used by Furngate junior football club.

The need for a permanent community facility in Pease Pottage has been identified for many years and emerged as a priority through neighbourhood planning consultation in 2013. The need for a community facility at Pease Pottage arises from the distance from facilities in Handcross and Crawley, which are difficult to access without private transport. The village is expanding rapidly, due to housing growth, and there is a need to provide new social and recreational facilities for the local population.

Slaugham Parish Draft Neighbourhood Plan policy 16 supports the development of a new community centre for Pease Pottage at Finches Field. The Parish Council has developed a business plan which states that the aim of this project is 'to provide a multi-purpose community

facility for the growing community of Pease Pottage which also supports existing outdoor sports and play provision at Finches Field, contributes to the health and wellbeing of the local community and is both financially and environmentally sustainable.'

The Parish Council carried out a Community Survey to determine the number of potential users of a community hall and have identified a range of clubs and activities which could take place in the new facilities. These range from Women's Institute, Book Club and Residents Association meetings to keep fit, martial arts, education classes, private parties, scouts, guides, youth club and activities for older people such as short mat bowls, whist drive and a lunch club for the over 60's. Some of these groups are already established and others will need to be developed.

The Parish Council has developed a business case based on the potential number of users / hirers throughout the year and the budget forecasts estimate income and expenditure over a five year period. Income from hirers is expected to amount to between £10,600-17,000 per annum which will be sufficient to cover all outgoings (utilities, insurance, cleaning, caretaking etc.) and create a small reserve for ongoing maintenance and improvements. The Parish Council aims to raise £20,000 toward the cost of equipment before the building is opened.

In February 2016, Slaugham Parish Council invited Expressions of Interest for the design and construction of a new single storey community centre, comprising of a large hall, community spaces, changing rooms with showers, storage and kitchen, office and toilets. The contractor will be expected to have a proven track record of experience in design proposals and costings for the development of public buildings, including outdoor sports. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to tender and submissions will be evaluated to ensure quality and value for money.

The capital project is scheduled to take place between April – November 2016 and is estimated to cost £525,000. The District Council also has an allocation of £50,000, in the Major Capital Renewals budget, to resurface the car parking area once the construction project element has been completed.

The Council is holding a number of Section 106 contributions from developments in Slaugham which can be allocated toward this project. It should be noted however, that due to the new pooling restrictions recently introduced by the government, no more than five contributions received after April 2010 can be used toward a single project. The amount currently available will leave a shortfall of £47,158 but if necessary the Parish Council could apply for an additional grant utilising one more Section 106 contribution toward this project, if and when more funds are received in respect of new development in Pease Pottage.

On 24 March 2014, Cabinet resolved to agree the Heads of Terms for a lease, for a completed building at Finches Field. As this situation has changed and the Parish Council are now taking the lead on the building works it will be necessary for Corporate Estates & Facilities to seek Councillor approval to enter into agreement allowing them to build and run the pavilion. Slaugham Parish Council will be expected to take on full responsibility for ongoing repairs, maintenance and management of the building. A Management Committee will be set up to take on the day to day running of the facility, reporting to the Parish Council.

Head of Finance Comments

Slaugham Parish Council is a statutory body and therefore it is not normal practice to comment on the organisations financial accounts.

How does the project meet the Council's aims?

Better Lives

The project will provide a fully accessible social meeting place which will enable local residents to meet and participate in community and sporting activities. The facilities will provide opportunities for community networking and ensure Pease Pottage is a resilient and sustainable community with a strong community identity. The venue will be available for hire for a range of functions, social and physical activities.

Better Services

The provision of a new community centre with sports changing at Finches Field, Pease Pottage is identified as a High Priority project in the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy (2015-31). The village is expanding rapidly and these facilities are needed to meet increased local demand and provide a focal point for the community.

Better Environment

The new modern building will be attractive and welcoming, energy efficient and sustainable, and should provide a community resource for the next 40+ years.

Corporate Grant Assessment Group evaluation of the project

The assessment group feels that this project to design and construct a new community and sports changing facility at Finches Field Recreation Ground, Pease Pottage will benefit the residents of Pease Pottage and the surrounding area by providing improved social and recreational facilities. The need for a community facility in the village was identified several years ago but the increasing population makes this an even more pressing priority to bring the community together. The new facility will also provide purpose built sports changing facilities for the playing pitches, to replace the existing metal unit which is a temporary arrangement.

Corporate Grant Scheme Assessment Group Recommendation

The Assessment Group recommends that the Cabinet Grants Panel award Slaugham Parish Council a Facility Grant of £472,842 (90% of the total project cost) to fund the design and construction of a new community and sports changing facility at Finches Field Recreation Ground, Pease Pottage, which is made up of the following Section 106 contributions –

- P35/559a Hemsley Nursery Phase 1 (£126,830 Community Buildings & £33,546 Formal Sport) – 2005
- P35/559b Hemsley Nursery Phase 2 (£198,170 Community Buildings) – 2005
- P35/545b Land at Dorset House/Caffyns Cottages (£5,917 Formal Sport) – 2005
- P35/650 Land at West Park Road (£2,249 LCIF & £540 Community Buildings) – 2008
- P35/745 Land at the Fountain Inn (£10,829 Formal Sport) – 2011
- P35/698b Land at CUC House Phase 2 (£7,160 Formal Sport & £3,110 Community Buildings) - 2011
- P35/755 Land at Former Grapes PH (£5,304 Formal Sport & £2,304 Community Buildings) - 2012
- P35/756 Land adj Black Swan Close (£53,600 Formal Sport & £23,283 Community Buildings) - 2013

This grant offer is made subject to the following special conditions:

- ***that it can be demonstrated that the project can be funded in its entirety within 12 months of the grant offer***
- ***the project must be completed within 12 months of project funding being obtained***
- ***a suitable lease agreement is drawn up between the Council and Slaugham Parish Council, to the satisfaction of the Head of Leisure and Sustainability***
- ***planning approval is obtained for the project***
- ***a viable business plan for the new facility is submitted, to the satisfaction of the Head of Leisure and Sustainability***

Facility Grants Scheme * new application

Town:	Hurstpierpoint
Title of project:	South Avenue play area upgrade
Applicant:	Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
Type of applicant:	Parish Council
Previous Grants in past 5 years:	None
Grant Request to MSDC	£ 99,943 (100%)
Total project cost:	£ 99,943

Financial Summary

Sources of funding and whether secured

n/a

Summary of project proposal and aims:

To extend and upgrade the play facilities at the South Avenue Recreation Ground to add more equipment and improve provision for toddler, junior and teenage users.

Background

The existing play equipment at the South Avenue playground was installed many years ago; it looks dated and is starting to need high maintenance to keep it safe and in use. This project is identified in the Council's Infrastructure Development Plan (HPP/SI/9) and was approved at a Parish Council meeting on 26 November 2015, subject to funding.

The Parish Council carried out some consultation with residents and the Play Area Working Group considered three tenders for improvement works. The preferred bidder will deliver a scheme for a fixed price of £99,942.82 plus VAT to install new equipment and safety surfacing. The new design includes swings, seesaws and roundabouts and a large 'Octa Net' rope climbing structure with slide which will need planning permission as it stands 6m high. The Parish Council has submitted a planning application (reference: DM/15/5115) which is to be determined.

The existing play area will be extended by a total of 315 square metres to provide new equipment that is suitable for children of all ages. The project is due to take six weeks to complete and the Parish Council is keen to finish the works before the school summer holidays.

The project is to be fully funded through developer contributions for playspace and a Section 106 contribution resulting from the loss of land allocated for formal outdoor recreational use in respect of the Chalkers Lane development (Saved Local Plan Policy HU2).

Head of Finance Comments

Hurstpierpoint Parish Council is a statutory body and therefore it is not normal practice to comment on the organisations financial accounts.

How does the project meet the Council's aims?

Better Lives

Play is an essential part of every child's life and vital to their development, it is the way children explore the world around them and practice skills. Play promotes a healthy and active lifestyle and develops social inclusion by bringing children from different backgrounds together.

Better Services

The project will enlarge the play area and provide a greater range of equipment that is fun, appealing and suitable for children of all ages. The project will provide additional facilities to meet the increased demand as a result of new housing in the village.

Better Environment

The project will improve the public realm by replacing and updating the old equipment to create a new and modern play area in the recreation ground.

Corporate Grant Assessment Group evaluation of the project

The assessment group considers this project to expand the play area and install new equipment at South Avenue Recreation Ground will benefit the residents of Hurstpierpoint and the surrounding area by updating the facilities available for children of all ages.

Corporate Grant Scheme Assessment Group Recommendation

The Assessment Group recommends that the Cabinet Grants Panel award Hurstpierpoint Parish Council a Facility Grant of £99,943 (100% of the total project cost) to fund the upgrade and expansion of the South Avenue playground, which is made up of - £86,687 (PL12-000366 Land South of Chalkers Lane) Policy HU2 contribution towards additional outdoor recreation facilities in the Parish of HPP and Sayers Common, £6,546 (P35/533 Land at 25/29 Cuckfield Road) and £6,710 (P35/509 Land at 135-137 High Street) Section 106 Playspace monies.

This grant offer is made subject to the following special conditions:

- ***the project must be completed within 12 months of project funding being obtained***
- ***planning permission must be obtained***