

APPENDIX A

Facility Grants Scheme * new application

Town:	Lindfield
Title of project:	Acoustic quilts for cricket nets
Applicant:	Lindfield Cricket Club
Type of applicant:	Community Amateur Sports Club
Previous Grants in past 5 years:	None
Grant Request to MSDC:	£ 2,860 (100%)
Total project cost:	£ 2,860

Financial Summary

Sources of funding and whether secured:

n/a

Summary of project proposal and aims

Purchase of acoustic quilts to reduce sound levels at the cricket nets at Lindfield Common.

Background

Lindfield Cricket Club was established in 1747. It has a thriving membership with over 90 senior playing members fielding four league sides on a Saturday and one friendly side on a Sunday. In addition, they have an Academy of over 200 junior members; boys and girls aged 7-15. Membership subscription costs up to £60 per annum for full playing members plus match fees of £6-9 per game.

All members have access to training facilities during the summer and winter nets are available from February to April at Ardingly School. The senior and junior sections have access to a number of ECB qualified cricket coaches. The Social Committee also ensures regular activities throughout the season including barbeques, curry, darts, poker, karaoke and cocktail nights.

The club has attained a number of accreditations including Sussex Cricket Board Focus Club and ECB Clubmark status. Clubmark shows that the club is well run as a safe, rewarding and fulfilling place for participants of all ages. Focus Clubs can demonstrate that they are prioritising junior development and meet a high quality benchmark for community cricket.

Lindfield Cricket Club has received complaints regarding the noise when the cricket nets are in use. They have been working with the Council's Environmental Health Team to find an effective solution and would like to purchase weatherproof 'acoustic quilts' to reduce the sound to an acceptable level. The quilts have eyelets and can be hung on the chain link fencing for the duration of the cricket season (May- Aug).

The installation of the quilts will enable the club to continue providing nets training for Academy and senior members who wish to play and improve their skills; and retain its Clubmark and Sussex Premier League status.

The facilities are leased from the Council and the club currently has permission to use the cricket nets between 9am-8.30pm Monday to Friday and 9am-1pm on Saturday and Sunday. It should be noted that a new lease is currently being negotiated and this will need to be finalised before the Council can provide Landlords Consent.

The applicant has indicated that the cash reserves shown below are being held toward the cost of an extension to the pavilion (which is also used by Lindfield Junior FC, Lindfield FC and the Montessori Nursery) plus ongoing asset replacements and maintenance.

Head of Finance Comments

Independently examined accounts have been submitted for the year ending 30th September 2016 which show a deficit of £1,938.

Total income was £68,148; mainly generated from Rental Income (£15,110), Fundraising and Gift Aid (£14,727), Bar, Catering & Socials (£13,979), Match Fees and Training (£10,269), Subscriptions (£8,907), Donations (£5,020) and Investment Income (£136).

Total expenditure was £70,086; consisting of Supplies and Services (£54,064) and Premises Related (£16,022).

Balances held at the end of the period showed Net assets of £35,001, comprising of Cash £48,632, Stock £843, Debtors £248 and Creditors (£14,724).

How does the project meet the Council's aims?

Better Lives – the club has a wide membership and provides opportunities for people of all ages to participate in activities which benefit their health and wellbeing, develop their social and sporting skills and are a focus of community life.

Better Environment – the acoustic quilts will reduce the noise of cricket training at the nets to acceptable levels which will improve the environment residents living nearby and satisfy the demands of the Council's Environmental Health Team.

Corporate Grant Assessment Group evaluation of the project

The Assessment Group feels that this project to purchase acoustic quilts to be installed during the playing season at the cricket nets at Lindfield Common will benefit local residents by reducing noise levels and will enable the club to continue the training sessions which are needed to meet accreditation standards and remain competitive.

Overall Score: 7

Corporate Grant Scheme Assessment Group Recommendation

The Assessment Group recommends that the Cabinet Grants Panel award Lindfield Cricket Club a Facility Grant of £2,860 (100% of the total project cost) toward the cost of acoustic quilts at Lindfield Common which is made up of – £2,860 (P35/662 Land north of Newton Road) Formal Sport contributions.

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

- ***the project must be completed within 12 months of project funding being obtained***
- ***completion of a Lease that includes the site of the practice nets and landlords consent for the acoustic quilts***
- ***planning approval to be obtained, if necessary***