

## Response ID ANON-UB58-Q9XU-U

Submitted to SDC Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Spending Board - Applications for CIL Funding  
Submitted on 2022-07-12 20:21:05

## Your Details

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Rachel Hewett

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:  
Weald Parish Council

4 Position/ Role in organisation

Position/ Role in organisation:  
Parish Councillor

## Section 1- Project Details

5 Scheme Name

Please type your answer into the text box:

Weald Recreation Ground

6 Description of the Scheme

Please type your answer into the text box:

- 1) To provide a parking area for the recreation ground to improve road safety, especially for children, during the winter months
- 2) To provide mains electricity at the ground, replacing an inefficient and out-dated diesel generator thereby improving the facilities and the ability to use power to complete routine maintenance of the buildings and ground
- 3) To tarmac the access track to the ground, removing the need for regular inefficient and ineffective patching, improve accessibility for everyone and provide a longer term surface

7 Is this scheme promoted by your organisation in partnership with another organisation(s)?

Yes

8 If you answered YES to question 6, please provide the following details:

Please type your answer into the text box:

Weald Cricket Club, Weald Stoolball, Weald Wolves Football Club  
See attached emails

Weald Parish Council plans to contribute £30,000 to the scheme from its reserves and precept. This represents 65% of the parish council's current precept and 30% of the scheme cost.

9 Is planning permission required for the scheme?

No

10 If you answered YES to question 8, has this been applied for?

Not Answered

Please type your answer into the text box:

N/a

11 If planning permission has been granted – please give details and a reference number.

Please type your answer into the text box:

N/a

12 Please provide details of any other consent required if appropriate (e.g. conservation, Listed Buildings, other Government bodies), including the date it was applied for/granted:

Please type your answer into the text box:

None

## Section 2 - Need for the Scheme

13 List of projects or development that result in the need for this scheme:

Please type your answer into the text box:

Weald Recreation Ground is regularly used by Weald Cricket Club, Weald Wolves football club and Weald Stoolball. In addition it is available to hire to members of the local community and has been used for adhoc sporting fixtures and birthday parties. Whilst it is a great asset to the village to encourage sport and a healthy lifestyle it is in need of significant improvements, both for safety reasons and to ensure the continued development of the above mentioned clubs and other uses. In the heart of the Green Belt and AONB development is very limited but the recreation ground is an essential facility to support the health and wellbeing of local residents. Given Weald's position it also supports residents from new developments outside the village, as evidenced by the successful growth of Weald Wolves.

During the summer months parking is available on the ground itself, however during the winter the ground is unsuitable for cars. Weald Wolves is a very successful junior football club and following the increase in numbers attending parking on Morleys Road, the road near the recreation ground, during home matches has become very unsafe. The road is not very wide and there is a sweeping bend making it difficult to see oncoming cars. Over the last few years there have been a number of near misses for both cars and child and adult pedestrians. The proposed parking area would resolve this issue.

There are two buildings at the recreation ground – a pavilion and a changing room block. Both of these are run from an ageing diesel generator. The lack of electricity also makes maintenance and cleaning of the buildings and ground very challenging.

Finally the track leading to the ground is increasingly worn with ineffective patching resulting in progressively deeper potholes. This is not only difficult for access for users of the ground but also for services such as the bin lorries and large mowing equipment.

14 How is the scheme related to these developments?

Please type your answer into the text box:

Weald Recreation Ground is a critical facility for junior and adult sport in the village.

Weald Cricket Club has been based at the recreation ground for over 125 years. It's currently an adult team but has previously also run youth coaching and is always keen to support the development of new players in the village, with an active recruitment campaign.

Weald Wolves Football Club has grown significantly over the last 10 years, partly linked to the increase in class numbers and size at Weald Community Primary School. It is a very successful club with approximately 120 members and 9 teams. It is run by volunteers and supported by a number of parents who are keen to ensure their children are active and maintain good fitness levels.

Weald Stoolball club is more recently formed and well supported by members of the local community. The availability of local sporting facilities was an essential requirement for the development of this group and would be for any future sports clubs members of the community may wish to form.

The parish council is currently in discussion with local landlords, with land adjacent to the recreation ground to provide land that will be used for off-road parking. This will significantly improve safety in the village, removing a number of cars from the roadside of a sweeping bend with very limited visibility. This road is the main road into the village with a 40mph speed limit and no pavements. The electrical connection and the new surface for the access track will improve the facilities for existing users as their clubs continue to grow and will also allow for increased usage by the community, for example for birthday parties, adhoc fixtures and hopefully the continued development of new sports groups.

Please upload any supporting documents:

No file uploaded

15 Please provide an explanation of the 'public benefit' of the scheme proposed for residents in Sevenoaks District, in terms of: Economic

Please type your answer into the text box:

The recreation ground provides a local and cost-effective facility for the clubs previously mentioned as well as many local members of the community. Having these facilities ensures users can maintain their membership, delivering community development and preserving the volunteering network which has huge economic benefits for the village and local area.

The main benefit of the parking will be safety, reducing the occurrence and impact of accidents. This is particularly important for the Weald Wolves Football club as they are currently unable to park on the ground during the winter and it will therefore allow them to continue to thrive as a club. Improved parking will also provide the opportunity for children's football and other sports camps, and use by other commercial events during the winter months thereby providing an economic benefit to the village.

Recently people enquiring to hire the ground have been put off by the lack of electricity and reliance on an old generator. It is therefore hoped that an electrical connection will encourage greater usage of the ground, providing income for the village and a space for local businesses to use. The improved track service will provide an economic benefit by removing the requirement for short term, inadequate repairs which are extremely uneconomical.

As well as the economic benefits to the village and local community mentioned above, participation in sport has numerous physical and mental health benefits. Increasing fitness and wellbeing ultimately reduces costs for the NHS and other local health and wellbeing services.

16 Please provide an explanation of the 'public benefit' of the scheme proposed for residents in Sevenoaks District, in terms of: Social

Please type your answer into the text box:

The covid pandemic has only highlighted the importance of community cohesion. Weald recreation ground and the sport it enables brings people together, supports local clubs to form and flourish and creates a strong sense of community and inclusion. By enhancing the current site, and improving the safety of parking in the winter, we hope many more people will make use of the facilities and join the available clubs.

In addition to the community benefit the recreation ground is a critical facility for supporting the well-being and health of many residents of all ages. The physical and mental health benefits of sport are well recognised. Improved educational attainment has also been linked to sport participation. Motivating students and improving social relations with peers and persons in authority stimulates co-ordination, enhances strength and further develops levels of concentration.

The safety benefit of the improved parking cannot be underestimated, particularly for children in the community who will (indirectly) be the predominant users of this when they attend junior football. The current track surface makes the ground relatively inaccessible for those with additional needs for example in wheelchairs, so the new surface will rectify this. Finally we hope the electrical connection will encourage more people to use the ground, rather than be concerned about using the generator, thereby increasing the opportunity for social gatherings.

17 Please provide an explanation of the 'public benefit' of the scheme proposed for residents in Sevenoaks District, in terms of: Environmental

Please type your answer into the text box:

Providing local facilities reduces the need for car travel, particularly given the increasingly reduced bus services to the village. The parish council is committed to updating the facilities at the recreation ground to ensure this continues to be the case, to meet the needs of local residents and those in the surrounding areas.

As well as the safety aspect the parking area will lower the environmental impact of parking along the road which currently results in significant erosion of the verges and impacts hedgerow habitats. The new parking is designed to blend with its surroundings and have a minimal impact on the environment, with grass able to grow through the matting that will be used.

The current generator used to power the buildings at the recreation ground is an ageing, inefficient diesel generator. The new electrical connection will therefore have a significant environmental benefit.

Finally the regular patching of the access track is extremely inefficient and therefore environmentally unfriendly. A new surface will allow this area to remain untouched for a number of years.

18 Is the need for the scheme identified in any adopted strategy/plan? E.g. Neighbourhood Plan, Work programme of a Statutory Body, Infrastructure Plan. If so, which?

Please type your answer into the text box:

There are a number of local and Kent wide strategies and plans that the scheme supports. For example Sevenoaks District Council Community Plan includes objectives to support community assets and community activities, to deliver the priorities of a health environment and a sustainable economy. The improvements at the recreation ground would support both of these adopted priorities.

The SDC Health Inequalities Action Plan, which is linked to a Kent wide health inequalities plan, states the need to provide sporting facilities to promote a healthy lifestyle for children and to develop healthy communities. As documented in the above benefits sections, the improvements very much support this plan.

Finally the SDC Economic Development Strategy states the need for infrastructure to service the health of our communities, which these developments will.

From a Kent wide perspective the Kent Sport strategy 'Towards an Active County' recognises the need to improve facilities, support volunteering and support opportunities for children and young people to be active. These would all be achieved through the improvements at the recreation ground, with all the main clubs using the ground currently run by an extensive volunteer network.

The Kent and Medway Integrated Care System also recognises the need for people to support their physical and mental health in preventing illness. As noted above the local facility provided by Weald recreation ground is essential for supporting the health of the local community.

19 How does the scheme identify with the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) and its priorities?

Please type your answer into the text box:

As part of the Sevenoaks District Infrastructure Delivery Plan, having community facilities such as this recreation ground to support the needs of existing residents and any future growth is key to achieving sustainable communities.

20 How does this project help the Council achieve its ambition to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions and achieve its Net Zero 2030 target?

Please type your answer into the text box:

Providing local facilities reduces the need for car travel, particularly as the bus service to Weald has been significantly reduced in recent years.

The electrical connection also provides opportunity for a greener approach than the continued use of the ageing diesel generator. UK grid electricity reduces carbon emissions by c. 18% vs oil burning to give an indication of the scale of the emissions reduction (source: <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/ffthr/biomass-energy-resources/reference-biomass/facts-figures/carbon-emissions-of-different-fuels/>).

### Section 3 - Funding

21 Total Project Cost:

Please type your answer into the text box:

£121,000

22 Funding required from CIL:

Please type your answer into the text box:

£91,000

23 Please identify other funding sources for this project, what contribution they are making and why these can not be used to fund the scheme in its entirety.

Please type your answer into the text box:

1) Weald Parish Council £30,000 formally agreed. This is approximately 65% of the annual income of the parish council, which must support the general running and maintenance of the village as well as other specific projects, for example the recent development of a community shop and an ongoing traffic management project.

2) Other applications will be progressed in parallel, e.g. Sport England, and an update provided to the CIL board

24 Is this bid for staged payments?

No

25 Will staged payments be accepted?

No

26 Please provide details of anticipated funding requirements and timetable.

Please type your answer into the text box:

Funding requirements are dependent on outside contractors scheduling. Most will require 50% upfront payments with balance to follow.

27 Has a bid(s) for CIL funding been made to relevant Town and Parish Councils?

Not Answered

Please type your answer into the text box:

The parish council has not previously applied for CIL funding.

28 If this bid is being made by a Parish or Town Council and no CIL funds have been contributed by them, please provide an explanation for this.

Please type your answer into the text box:

N/a, funding contributed by parish council

29 Would the scheme be fully funded if the CIL contribution is agreed?

Yes

30 Has this scheme already benefited from CIL funding through the CIL Spending Board?

No

Please type your answer into the text box:

31 Has this scheme/land/building already benefited from funding from Sevenoaks District Council?

No

Please type your answer into the text box:

32 Has the project, at any stage, benefited from any CIL Exemptions as laid out in the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended)

No

Please type your answer into the text box:

#### Section 4 - Deliverability

33 Does your organisation have the legal right to carry out the proposed scheme?

Yes

Please upload documentation for statutory provider support:

No file uploaded

34 Anticipated start date for delivery of the scheme:

Please type your answer into the text box:

As soon as possible dependent on contractors availability

35 Anticipated finish date for the delivery of the scheme:

Please type your answer into the text box:

As soon as possible, we will be advised by the relevant contractors how quickly work can be completed

36 Anticipated date when CIL funding will need to be made available:

Please type your answer into the text box:

We had hoped to start works in September 2022, we will need to be advised by contractors when they are available once we have funding confirmed.

37 Does land need to be purchased to facilitate the scheme?

No

Please type your answer into the text box:

38 Please provide a consultation plan to let SDC know when they can expect progress reports on the project.

Please type your answer into the text box:

The parish council is happy to provide progress reports as required. As a minimum progress reports will be provided monthly to coincide with parish council meetings.

39 Please provide details of the management and timescales of the project.

Please type your answer into the text box:

The project will be overseen by the parish council. One of the councillors and the clerk will lead the day to day work and contact with the contractors. The council have secured competitive bids for the proposed works. Final contractors will be confirmed upon approval of funding which will also confirm the timescales.

40 Has consultation been carried out on the scheme or is any planned?

Carried out

Please type your answer into the text box:

The proposed works have been discussed at parish council meetings over a significant period of time. The main users of the recreation ground, the three sporting clubs, have been closely consulted on the proposed works with details of this bid and funding shared with them. They are all very supportive of the proposals as evidenced in the attached emails. They will also be actively engaged during the works due to the potential impact on their usage of the ground.

Please attach consultation document:

No file uploaded

41 Is a relevant SDC ward member(s) supportive of the scheme?

Yes

Please provide SDC ward member signature:

No file uploaded

42 Is the relevant Town/Parish Council supportive of the scheme?

Yes

Please provide signature of a town/parish council chairman, clerk or chief executive.:

No file uploaded

43 Do you have any other local support for the scheme?

Yes

Please type your answer into the text box:

Please see attached emails showing support from users of the recreation ground and a sample of emails from local residents.

You may upload any documents demonstrating local support.:

No file uploaded

## Section 5 - Maintenance

44 Which organisation will be responsible for ongoing maintenance?

Please type your answer into the text box:

Weald Parish Council

45 Are funding arrangements in place for maintenance?

Yes

46 Please provide details.

Please type your answer into the text box:

The parish council already funds ongoing maintenance of the ground through its annual budget and income from hire, for example building maintenance, mowing, etc. The council is fully prepared to support the maintenance of these improvements.

47 Please provide any further comments here.

Please type your answer into the text box:

N/a

Attachments will all be sent by email to the CIL inbox

## Section 6 - Supporting Information

48 You can provide any supporting documents for your application here.

If you wish to do so, please provide any additional documents.:

No file uploaded

If you wish to do so, please provide any additional documents.:

No file uploaded

If you wish to do so, please provide any additional documents.:  
No file uploaded

If you wish to do so, please provide any additional documents.:  
No file uploaded

If you wish to do so, please provide any additional documents.:  
No file uploaded

If you wish to do so, please provide any additional documents.:  
No file uploaded

If you wish to do so, please provide any additional documents.:  
No file uploaded

If you wish to do so, please provide any additional documents.:  
No file uploaded

If you wish to do so, please provide any additional documents.:  
No file uploaded

If you wish to do so, please provide any additional documents.:  
No file uploaded

## Section 7 - Declaration and Further Information

### 49 Declaration

I agree to the Declaration as stated above

### 50 Name, role and contact details of the person that will be the contact for this bid:

Please type your answer into the text box:

Rachel Hewett, Weald Parish Councillor  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### 51 Name, role and contact details of the person that will be attending SDC's CIL Spending Board to support this bid.

Please type your answer into the text box:

Rachel Hewett, Weald Parish Councillor  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### 52 Name, role and contact details of the person that will be the point of contact and responsible for the Legal Contract.

Please type your answer into the text box:

John Caird, Weald Parish Clerk  
Wealdparishclerk@btinternet.com

### 53 Name, role and contact details of the person that will be legally responsible for receiving the CIL funds.

Please type your answer into the text box:

John Caird, Weald Parish Clerk  
Wealdparishclerk@btinternet.com

### 54 Full company/charity name

Please type your answer into the text box:

Weald Parish Council

### 55 Registered Charity Number:

Please type your answer into the text box:

N/a

Privacy Notice