

**From:** [Rachel Hewett](#)  
**To:** [CIL Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: CIL bid for Weald Recreation Ground  
**Date:** 12 July 2022 20:33:18

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please see below emails of support for the Weald Recreation Ground CIL bid. I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt.

Many thanks,  
 Rachel

Rachel Hewett  
 Weald Parish Councillor  
 [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Julia Thornton** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Sun, Jul 10, 2022 at 8:41 PM  
**Subject:** CIL bid for Weald Recreation Ground  
**To:** Rachel Hewett [REDACTED], <[cil@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:cil@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Julia Cllr Thornton <[cilr.thornton@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:cilr.thornton@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>, Roderick Hogarth <[cilr.hogarth@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:cilr.hogarth@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>

Dear Rachel

Thank you for sending me a copy of the bid that you are about to submit to Sevenoaks District Council to be considered for the CIL Board on 1st September.

Having now had the privilege of serving the community of Weald as your District Councillor for 11 years, I am very well aware of the need to improve & update the facilities at the recreation ground and, in particular, to find a solution to the road safety issues generated by its current users on Morleys Road. This road is not lit nor does it have pavements and is at 40 mph at the point where congestion is caused by those parking their cars to visit the recreation ground. I agree with you that it is an accident, potentially a fatal one, waiting to happen if a solution cannot be found.

By the very nature of its geography, Weald village is neither near Sevenoaks, nor near Tonbridge. It is very much halfway between the two. The children of the village predominantly travel to both towns for their secondary (& in some cases their primary) education, however they are both too far to either walk or cycle to and, with bus services being reduced to the absolute minimum, public transport cannot be relied on either to get these young people to after-school activities or weekend social and sporting events outside of the village. As such, it is imperative that a usable and attractive recreation facility remains within the village for them to use. Or, at the very least, a facility fit for the twenty first century.

With the village children travelling to these towns for education, this has in turn had a positive impact on the recruitment for the Weald Wolves Football Club in particular, attracting young players from outside the village to come along & join having heard about it from their school mates. These additional players have boosted the membership numbers and subscriptions for the club and provides evidence of how this particular recreation grounds is used by a broader section of local population, not just by Weald villagers. But they do of course have no other option of how to get there but by car.

In a village like Weald in the heart of the Green Belt & the AONB, it is unlikely that much new development will every be forthcoming apart from the occasional conversion or infill, so CIL payments to the Parish are never going to amount to the levels needed for such a major refurbishment as is required here & now at the recreation ground. However this resource is a crucial piece of infrastructure for the existing community to support the ongoing well being of the residents of the village and to encourage healthy lifestyles & all the other positives, both physical & mental, that sporting activities can bring. Plus, in a refurbished state, the facilities will continue to attract players from outside the village, thus potentially supporting residents from new developments elsewhere in the District.

I have absolutely no qualms at all in supporting you in this bid and I truly hope that the Members of the CIL Board will support it too. Many of them represent smaller communities too & understand how difficult it is to secure funding for such projects so I hope they too will look favourably on your well constructed & argued case for funding for this valuable & crucial village resource. Good luck!

With kind regards

Julia

**Cllr. Julia Thornton**  
 Portfolio holder for Development & Conservation  
 Ward Councillor for Seal & Weald  
 Sevenoaks District Council  
 [REDACTED]  
[cilr.thornton@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:cilr.thornton@sevenoaks.gov.uk)

**Roberta Briant** [REDACTED]

Mon, Jan 24, 11:33 AM

to me, Ian



To Whom it may concern.

The weald recreation ground, for the last 6 years, has been home to the only female sport team in the village for over 50 years. A ladies stoolball team was started in 2015 inviting women from the village and local area to participate in a women's sport. At the heart of the clubs constitution was and still is an inclusion for all women, regardless of ability, who show a willingness to participate and try, explore, learn and develop their skills in the sport. We have early support from the Weald Parish Council who funded our Sports Kit and we also received a grant for setting up an all women sports team. Each year we grow, and more and more women join the squad and we are promoting the sport where and when we can.

Many of the players are mums, carving out the one night a week they can enjoy sport for themselves amidst the busy children schedule.

We have a squad of around 25 women and each year attract more players, now coming down from Sevenoaks to join in the fun.

For the time we've played, we have struggled with inadequate lighting in the pavilion - specifically the ladies toilet - when you are in there you can't see, unless the door stays open a jar - which, as you can imagine is not ideal - given that we are hosting matches he's where many guests (the other team and umpires, scorers, family members) are having to struggle to see what they are doing when using the rest room.

Having electricity would be a major improvement for us and help the women with much needed light when having to deal with matters of hygiene.

Additionally, we can never offer hot drinks - and we have many older ladies from other teams playing - and if the weather is not great (which it often never is in May) - offering a hot drink would also improve and assist many players.

The track up to the grounds has given us and others cause for concern throughout - not knowing if we are going to get stuck or worse, a damaged vehicle - which would put many women off turning up - as a damaged car, has a knock on effect for their need to keep life moving and get the kids to school on time. Least of all the extra cost. So this is a worry for many players. Most players don't have a 4 by 4 and the track is a hazard for most of the smaller cars that are required to make it up to the pitch.

I sincerely hope that a request for electricity so that our female only toilet can receive the basic lighting requirement for our women to use the facilities properly without issue. And, an investment in the track will enable women (and mens) sports to continue to grow and flourish and attract even more players to the picturesque landscape out Recreation ground offers.

Your Sincerely,

Roberta Briant  
Club Chair  
Weald Ladies Stoolball Team

**Weald Wolves Secretary ZL** [REDACTED]

Fri, Jan 21, 11:06 AM

to me, Ian, Roberta, Andy



Dear Rachel

Many thanks for offering Weald Wolves the opportunity to contribute to your CIL application for the recreation ground. This is very welcome news! Below is some supporting text from Andy, which I've also attached as a PDF in case that's helpful.

We look forward to hearing further news on this as you progress.

With kind regards

Zoe

Zoe Lewis

Club Secretary - Weald Wolves JFC

To whom it may concern

The Weald Recreation Ground has over the past 14 years become the epicentre for football activities for Weald Wolves Football Club.

Mainly self-funded through player subscriptions, with occasional private kit sponsors and some local funding, we manage to retain the grounds in a useable condition. However, in the winter months this becomes extremely challenging and leads to vehicles having to park along Morleys Road due to the poor condition of the access road and lack of suitable on-site parking at the Recreation Ground. Morleys Road is not possible for us to 'police' other than to send early messages to users and advise best practice.

Funding would greatly assist with repairs to the access road and, if sufficient, further support in improving off-road parking facilities.

We would also benefit enormously from having an electrical supply at the ground. It has been challenging operating without electricity and having access to this on-site will enable us to function more efficiently and safely.

Without the use of the Recreation Ground our club would fail in its duty to the membership and wider community in being able to offer sport for all.

Weald Wolves FC, now in existence for 17 years, has become a strong partner in many of the local football leagues, inviting clubs from across Kent, Sussex and Surrey to visit us. It is without doubt that the local economy and community benefit from these visits, which allow us to showcase this beautiful area of Kent that we all love.

Andy Ginno

Chair

Weald Wolves Football Club

Ian Hewett

Tue, Jan 18, 8:39 AM

to me



Weald Cricket Club traces its roots back 125 years and the Recreation Ground is the only place in the village that cricket can be played. Some local families have played cricket together for several generations and many of the current players grew up together in the village. It has been great to see some new younger players joining recently to play alongside their dads too!

At a personal level, on moving to the village a few years ago, the cricket club was a great way to get to know people that you wouldn't otherwise meet and really helps to build this sense of community in Weald. Whilst the village has several clubs and societies for older residents, there are fewer opportunities for younger adults and teenagers to get together which emphasises the importance of the cricket club. Being based close to the village is important too, to encourage players and their families to join in with the social side (including the important post-match de-brief in The Windmill pub in the centre of Weald).

Improving the facilities at The Recreation Ground would hopefully ensure the longer term future of the cricket club and preserve a place for future generations of the Weald community to meet and play together in the years to come.

Ian (Weald Cricket Club captain).

Examples of support from local residents:

Hugh Williams

Fri, Jul 8, 8:15 AM (4 days ago)

to me



Dear Rachel,

John Parker was discussing your efforts to raise money to upgrade the Weald Recreation Ground last night in the Windmill. He encouraged us to email you with our thoughts. Hence this email. I apologise if I've got the wrong end of the stick!

Sevenoaks Weald Village is an active community. One important amenity is the Weald Recreation Ground. This green open space is used for cricket, football and stoolball. Both adult and junior teams train and play here. These activities are important for the physical and mental health of people in the village.

The village wants to upgrade the facilities of the Recreation Ground. Currently it is accessed from Morleys Road by a narrow track impassible to cars. So cars have to park in Morleys Road. The pavilion is not connected to the power network, so an electricity generator is used. The village is planning to upgrade the access track and connect the pavilion to mains electricity.

These improvements will:

1. Improve the social, physical and mental health of the participants
2. Improve the environment by using clean electricity
3. Improve the safety of the participants and the general public driving near The Ground, by removing the parking from Morleys Road and providing dedicated, organised and safe access and parking. The current parking in Morleys Road, which is narrow, is haphazard, reduces traffic to a single lane and causes a significant blockage.

Regards

Hugh Williams

Guy Durdant-Hollamby

Thu, Jul 7, 11:39 PM (5 days ago)

to me



Dear Rachel

I write in the knowledge that Weald CC are very keen to improve the very basic facilities that exist at the very lovely ground situated on Morley's Road.

I write as a Weald resident for 36 years but also having been very involved with Sevenoaks Vine CC both as a player but also as Chairman of both the Senior and Junior Clubs in the past.

Weald village has an amazing Community and the recent Jubilee event is testimony to this. Years ago the village saved its local pub and it has successfully run a Community shop for many years.

Whilst the Cricket Club has been well supported over the years it lacks the facilities ( ie. Electricity a good access and the parking ) to enable it to grow and develop to offer more opportunities to young people growing up in the Village. I have seen first hand the benefits of running an active junior section and I do think the the Club's ambition to improve should be handsomely rewarded.

I wish the club every success in their endeavours.

Guy Durdant- Hollamby