

Lydeard St Lawrence & Tolland Parish Council

Funding for replacement playground equipment

1 Funding requirement

The quote from Absolute Play to replace the playground equipment in the village is for around £48,000 although that may change as a result of significant inflation in some prices. The Parish Council could contribute around £20,000 to the project from existing funds and that leaves a funding requirement of around £30,000.

Given the current economic position of the country, funding is difficult to achieve at the moment but Absolute Play have suggested a couple of sources of funding.

2 Funding Sources

There are two bodies that may be able to help:

- (a) National Lottery – Reaching Communities Fund
- (b) Wooden Spoon Charity

2.1 National Lottery

For grants up to £20,000, the National Lottery has a relatively straightforward application process and a decision is normally reached within four months

For grants in excess of £20,000, there is a two stage application process and it normally takes around nine months to get a final decision.

For both types of grant, the application would need to emphasise the following:

Why the grant is needed

Who benefits

What difference it will make

How the project provides good long-term value

How the community is involved and supporting the project (especially the school)

How the community is involved in decision making

How the project will be managed

The success of the application will be based on the projected outcomes with an emphasis on physical and mental wellbeing and the role the project plays in strengthening the community including environmental benefits.

For grants in excess of £20,000, the application is in two parts. The first part which leads to a decision in principle takes around 16 weeks and the second more in-depth review takes a further five months.

2.2 Wooden Spoon Charity

This charity provides smaller grants (around £10,000) on a regional basis with an emphasis on physical and mental wellbeing for children. It tends to mainly support projects in more deprived areas.

3 Approach

Both of these potential funding sources have quite strict application criteria but can fund in conjunction with each other.

The Council could also consider involving the community in the project through fundraising events and donations from individuals and/or local businesses. It would be helpful to involve the school in the project from the outset.

The Council is invited to discuss how the project should be progressed.