

National Lottery Community Fund Application

Renewal and replacement of children's play equipment at the village park for Lydeard St Lawrence and Tolland Parish Council

About our Organisation

Lydeard St Lawrence and Tolland Parish Council ("LSLPC") is committed to improving the health, wellbeing and quality of life of everybody living in our rural community in Somerset.

We own and maintain the village cricket pitch and playground which provides the only free and accessible outdoor spaces available to local residents.

Our parish has around 320 residents and includes families with children and older people. People also visit from the neighbouring small villages. The playground is well used throughout the year but is now around 25 years old and in a very poor state of repair. One piece of equipment has rusted badly and now has to be removed because it is not safe to use.

Our Project

We are seeking funding from the National Lottery Community Fund to replace or refurbish old playground equipment and create a modern, inclusive and accessible play area that encourages children of all ages and abilities to play together.

The existing equipment has reached the end of its useful life and consistently fails the annual safety inspection in a number of areas. The existing equipment has reached the end of its useful life and one item needs to be removed for safety reasons. The current layout does not properly meet the needs of today's families.

The new playground will include:

- . Inclusive play equipment for children with a range of abilities
- . Equipment designed for toddlers, children and older children.
- . Accessible safety surfacing
- . Landscaping and biodiversity enhancements where appropriate
- . Accessibility for wheelchair users and pushchairs

Why this project is needed

The playground is the only outdoor play facility in our village and is used by families and neighbouring communities.

Consultations held with residents and at community meetings have consistently identified the replacement of the playground as one of the community's highest priorities.

The project will:

- . improve children's physical health through active outdoor play
- . Support mental wellbeing by encouraging time outdoors
- . Reduce social isolation by creating opportunities for families to meet
- . Encourage intergenerational use of the recreation ground
- . Provide an inclusive environment where children of different abilities can play together
- . Offer a safe, free activity for children of families encountering cost of living challenges

Without investment, the quality and safety of the existing play area will continue to decline, limiting opportunities for children and reducing use of this important community asset.

Community Involvement

Our community has been central to the development of this project.

We have:

- . Consulted with residents
- . Dealt with questions at public meetings
- . Gathered feedback from parents and the local school
- . Engaged young people to identify the type of equipment they would like to see
- . Worked with local groups to build in inclusive design principles where possible

Community volunteers will also assist events celebrating the opening of the new play area.

Who will benefit

The project will directly benefit:

- . Children aged 0-14 years
- . Families and carers
- . Children of all abilities
- . The local school and early years groups
- . Community organisations and the cricket club
- . Residents of neighbouring villages who use the facility

We estimate that more than 250 people will benefit annually.

Outcomes

Our project will help people to:

- . Be more physically active
- . Improve their mental health and wellbeing
- . Build stronger community relationships
- . Feel proud of their local area
- . Spend more time outdoors
- . Access inclusive recreational opportunities regardless of ability or income

Sustainability

The Parish Council owns the recreation ground and is responsible for its long-term maintenance. We have allocated budget for inspection, maintenance and repair and will continue to carry out those functions.

We undertake regular inspections alongside the annual independent safety inspection.

The new equipment is expected to have a lifespan of 20 years and will benefit future generations.

Value for money

The project has been developed following competitive quotations from recognised playground suppliers. The equipment has been selected for durability, accessibility and low maintenance costs ensuring the best long-term value for public investment.

The Parish Council will contribute towards the equipment, project management, ongoing maintenance and volunteer support.

Funding requested

We are requesting [£20,000] towards the total project cost of [£xx,xxx].

Funding will contribute towards the:

- . Purchase of the equipment
- . Safety surfacing
- . Installation
- . Groundworks
- . Accessible pathways
- . Landscaping
- . Project management

Conclusion

The project represents a significant investment in the future of our community.

A new, inclusive playground will provide a safe, welcoming and accessible place where children can play, families can meet and residents can enjoy a healthier and more connected community.

With support from the National Lottery Community Fund, we can transform an ageing playground into a vibrant community space that will benefit local people for many years to come.