



Organisation Name	Hawridge and Cholesbury Cricket Club
Project Name	Hawridge and Cholesbury Cricket Fresh Start
Funding Stream	Community Area Priorities / Health & Wellbeing
Total Cost of project	£11000
Amount of Match Funding	£0
Amount being applied for	£7500
Amount suggested	£7500

Project Summary

The Club has been playing cricket on the Common since 1885. We have always existed to serve the local community and to be an important part of village life. However, we realise we need to engage in a different way with the men and women and boys and girls who are part of our club as well as the local community. We want to become a better cricket club, playing the best cricket we can from our youngest member (5 years old) to our senior players (over 70). This means we need to work hard to improve our playing facilities, particularly our 'ground's playing surface. Everything good that comes from the Club starts with this. With a better pitch we will be able to give those of all ages and genders more opportunity to participate, increase the number of members and provide an excellent and healthy pastime for a diverse group of local people.

Therefore, our hope is to invest in a piece of ground equipment that will transform how we work as a club. This machinery will not only give us the best playing surface we have ever had, but more importantly, it will reduce hugely the amount of time our volunteers have to spend preparing the pitches. Often our volunteers have to break off from coaching the children and players to prepare the pitches by hand. Going forward they will be able devote their time to giving our members, of all ages and abilities, the best experience they can have at the club. This in turn will mean that the fitness and exercise our members enjoy will increase and help towards a healthier lifestyle.

How does the project address local priorities?

Health and wellbeing:

By improving the playing facilities at the club we will free up valuable volunteer time to increase the health and wellbeing of all those who participate in our activities. This will also attract new people who may not have taken up a healthy lifestyle hobby before, but are inspired by what our cricket club has to offer. Also those who have not considered cricket to be a pastime they could participate in.

The men and women, boys and girls of all ages who are playing or are social members of the club will benefit. Those who live in the community and could be encouraged to join in or come along to watch. Teams from the surrounding area, who we play with, or may use our facilities.

How does the project align with the values, objectives and corporate priorities of Buckinghamshire Council?

Strengthening Communities

The aim of the project is to improve the participation, health and wellbeing of those living in the community (i.e. The Chesham and villages Community Board Area). One of our principal aims is to make the people in the villages around us proud of what we do, by having the best facilities which allow us to play a better standard of cricket, we will demonstrate that aim clearly and be a beacon of sporting opportunity and participation, for people also in Chesham and the villages around this part of the Chilterns.

How does the project achieve value for money?

Several quotes have been obtained for machinery. The project costs for the machinery including VAT is £9000 and a secure external steel container for housing machinery is £2000. The project would achieve excellent value for money to increase participation at the club and allow for a smoother operation for years to come. The rest of the funding will be sought elsewhere.

Community Board Coordinator comments

The cricket club has a number of grounds machines that they currently use but they are old and in need of regular repairs which is time consuming for volunteers who are mending the equipment. It is unreliable and inefficient. Volunteers would be able to use their time coaching and helping members of all ages if the equipment was functioning rather than distracted with mechanical tasks.

The club had hoped to raise the funds to cover the cost of the machinery but the pandemic and lockdown has had a huge impact on fundraising, leaving little cost for maintenance.

The cricket club has partnered with Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council and Christine Stott - Lord of the Manors of Hawridge and Cholesbury who is the landowner, to support this application.

The cricket club is a valuable local asset which requires funding to be operational.

The applicant will be required to agree to terms and conditions, which include a monitoring agreement, as discussed with the Community Board Coordinator before the fund will be formally awarded.