



Organisation Name	Oving Parish Council
Project Name	Oving Recreation Ground and Playground Accessibility
Funding Stream	Community Area Priorities
Total Cost of project	£1750
Amount of Match Funding	£750
Amount being applied for	£1000
Amount suggested	£1000

### Project Summary

Oving Parish Council has a number of facilities in the village for residents to enjoy and benefit from. As it stands currently, wheelchair users, parents with pushchairs and those with mobility difficulties such as sticks or walkers would find it challenging to gain access to the sports field, village hall and playground. Visitors and villagers have made representations to the Parish Council in relation to being able to access these community assets.

Oving Parish Council has already taken steps to improve access to facilities by installing a level tarmac path two years ago which provides pedestrian access to Oving's popular tennis courts and club, well-supported village hall, its enlarged and improved children's adventure playground, and the widely-used village recreation ground & sports field including football pitches, 5 a side goals, cricket nets, community orchard and large areas for walking.

The path should be accessed from Bowling Alley's pavement through a pair of wooden Memorial Gates (2021 being the 90th anniversary year of the gates). The gates are damaged and cannot currently be used, making the path inaccessible, and there is no adequate, safe and level access to any of the facilities for pedestrians with impaired mobility.

A further obstacle to pedestrians is at the end of the path, by the vehicle barrier on the village hall's access road, which is kept shut for security except when needed by deliveries/hirers to the hall. Here, pedestrians are obliged to step over wooden sleepers which form the boundary of the recreation ground carpark. There is an urgent need for a short section of level path around the barrier with a ramp to the roadway to provide a continuous level route from Bowling Alley to the hall, tennis club, playground, walking areas, community orchard and cricket nets.

These two obstructions make it very difficult, and often impossible, for people to gain access to all these well-used village facilities, particularly those individuals with limited mobility and users of mobility vehicles (of which there are residents in Oving). This especially affects older people who may rely on the hall events and regular football at the Rec for social mixing and entertainment, and the avoidance of social isolation.

The historic Oving Villages Cup football tournament matches and its final each April are especially popular, and those who cannot reach the recreation ground are obliged to watch matches at a distance, standing on

the roadside beyond the recreation ground. The popular children's playground has been designed with an accessible roundabout for wheelchair users but there is no step-free level access from Bowling Alley. This also affects those pushing prams and buggies. These obstacles are also a serious difficulty for the many people attending the village hall, which provides a range of events for all ages, and classes and gatherings for parents of young children, who arrive on foot with prams and pushchairs.

It is envisaged that the Hall will shortly offer a children's nursery in the mornings which will, again, require access for buggies especially. There are two disabled car parking spaces outside the hall but these are not accessible for general use, they are for hall hirers and the barrier is kept closed unless the hall is in use.

How does the project address local priorities?

### **Health and wellbeing**

This project is in line with the Winslow and Villages Community Board priority of Health and Wellbeing in that it promotes activities and inclusivity for villagers and visitors.

Oving is an inclusive community fortunate enough to have a much-loved recreation ground visited by villagers and those from further afield. There are many activities in the Rec. including tennis courts, football pitch, 5 a side goals, cricket nets, playground with accessible equipment, zip wire, netball, village hall, walking areas and community orchard. Post-Covid, all activities will be taking place and we would like all comers to enjoy them without any problems reaching the areas.

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

### **Strengthening our communities**

Aims to ensure inclusion in all activities within the village to enable everyone to enjoy the facilities at the Recreation Ground together without barriers to entry.

### **Improving our environment**

The projects aims to ensure all users are able to enjoy the facility and all events held there with adequate access will hugely improve the environment of the Recreation Ground. The funding will be a contribution to a well-used facility and the restoration of the village gates contributes to the identity and heritage of the village.

How does the project achieve value for money?

The contractor that the Parish Council is proposing to use is a well-known local business that has been used before. This demonstrates that the quote is from a reliable source and will be competitively priced.

Match funding has been offered by Oving Parish totalling £750. It should be noted that this is lower than the 50% of the total project cost that is normally required.

### **Community Board Coordinator comments**

Oving Parish Council's proposed project aims to improve access to the village's well used facilities by repairing the 90-year-old village gates and installing an accessible path. Having reviewed the information provided I believe that this project meets the criteria and aligns with the Community Board's and the

Council's Priorities. I feel that improving access for all users is important to remove barriers to people participating in community activities which contributes to community cohesion and promotes healthy lifestyles.

While the Parish Council is not able to provide 50% match funding to the project, the difference is small and the project is a worthwhile cause. It is therefore recommended that the Community Board should absorb the difference of £250 towards the project on this occasion.

**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.**