



Organisation Name	Holmer Green Sports Association and Holmer Green Football Club (HGSA/HGFC)
Project Name	Prevention measures - vandalism
Funding Stream	Community Priority
Total Cost of project	£3,400
Amount of Match Funding	N/A
Amount being applied for	£2,500
Amount suggested	£

Project Summary

HGSA and HGFC share responsibility for the management of the facilities at Watchet Lane, Holmer Green. Following a series of incidents of ASB over the past 6 months it has been resolved to improve security. A meeting was held with Lucy Groves PCSO and based upon her 10 principles of crime prevention they have produced a plan which is detailed in this document.

Incidents of vandalism and ASB happen on a regular basis and are likely to increase again as the weather improves and lighter evenings arrive.

A presentation was made to the Community Safety group and a subsequent meeting held with the officers from Community Safety. Appropriate measures were discussed for improving security. Also discussed was the possibility of creating diversionary activities.

To further this idea, Rob Shed from HGSA has approached other clubs in the area to see if a joint approach could be made. In addition, the Board are looking at possible 'Street Art' projects which could be utilised to help alleviate the problem.

It has also been suggested that youth workers from the youth club attempt to chat with the young people involved to try to ascertain the root cause of the issue.

It is possible that making the sports ground a less attractive proposition for vandalism and gathering, that the issue will move elsewhere in the village. But if the young people involved can be identified then approaches can be made to work with them in a constructive manner.

How does the project address local priorities?

Community Safety, Health and wellbeing, Youth support and provision

The project supports all 3 of the above priorities and links the work together. As well as vandalism, there is evidence of drug and alcohol use in the area

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

Which Buckinghamshire Council priorities does your project support and how?:

Strengthening our communities & protecting the vulnerable

HGSA are dedicated to providing great facilities for the community they serve. Every penny raised goes to maintaining and improving the facility. The ASB that has been experienced is not unique to the Club and it is important that it be prevented in order to make Holmer Green a safe and pleasant community for all. The maintaining of a great destination for people to enjoy their leisure is their objective and that starts with respecting the premises.

How does the project achieve value for money?

The project will help to improve security and reduce the vandalism and subsequent costs for renewal or repair. Longer term, it could lead to more engaged young people who are active in their community.

Community Board Coordinator comments

The project addresses the immediate issue of vandalism and antisocial behaviour. The club is well used by other young people from the village and surrounding areas and it is disappointing that a small group feel the need to spoil the environment.

The installation of improved security measures does need to be followed up with provision of diversionary activities which should be identified by engaging the young people. The Community Board have already started to investigate possibilities but it should be informed by what young people want to see.

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.

The Plan (as submitted by HGSA and HGFC)

1. **Target hardening** – making locations more resistant, more difficult to damage or enter with robust boundary controls i.e. fencing, hedges & gates

HGSA/HGFC Propose:

- New fencing/gate/posts etc at the entrance near the Tennis Club. The fencing is available so labour plus some materials needed to carry out the work. **Budget £300**
 - Perimeter Hedges. There are numerous gaps that have been made in the hedges over time. Not only does it look scruffy where they have been blocked up but they also provide easy access. Proposal is to fix 1200mm wire stock fencing to the interior of the hedges where they are vulnerable. Volunteers to carry out the work so material only. **Budget £400**
 - Reduce the height of the entrance bushes to the same height as at the lowest points, in order for the club to be more visible from the road, where residents and the school can see if people are in our car park etc. The farmer who carries out the hedge cutting to be approached to carry out the work. **Budget £250**
2. **Target Removal** - removing the purpose of the attraction to the location. i.e. if they are visiting the location because there is seating and shelter look to remove that aspect where possible.

Unfortunately, we cannot remove the stands and dugouts for the football club as these are needed for the grounds. We have removed excess plastic chairs and all the small goalposts to try to help the situation.

3. **Remove the means to commit the crime** - if there is an object that is helping them gain access look to remove that i.e. climbing aids – already done with the gate

We have tried to remove all climbing aids that are visible, including making the gap in between the football club gate and post narrower, so they cannot put their foot into the gap. This work has been completed and seen to be successful.

4. **Reduce the pay off** – n/a as this about property marking valuables N/A

5. **Access Control** - Look to restrict access to the site whether that is some form of hardware i.e. gate or a chain. Have rules in place that visitors have to be accountable e.g. signing in process, membership

HGSA/HGFC propose:

- A chain/barrier at the main entrance to deter people from assuming they can just walk into our premises. We have identified some materials that can be utilised for this purpose and volunteers

can hopefully carry out the work at no cost to the Club. However, a post will be needed to be installed within the opening for which a contractor will be needed. **Budget £300.**

- We already continually change the padlock combination to the main green gate which leads you onto the main fields.

6. **Visibility/Surveillance** - ensuring offenders would be visible this will deter them from carrying out a crime/ASB this can be in the form of natural surveillance i.e. low hedges and lighting and formal surveillance e.g. CCTV or security guards.

HGSA/HGFC Propose:

- We do have CCTV cameras at various points around the clubhouse but not over by the football club, or by cellar door and patio doors and what we do have is very old technology and not good quality images at all.
- We have had a quote to add more cameras to the premises at a cost of approx. £230 per new camera – we would certainly need a minimum of 4. **Budget £920**
- What would provide far better images and sound however would be to upgrade the whole CCTV system to the main clubhouse and to extend it to cover the football club also. We have had a quote for this of approx. £3,500 – £4,000. This level of expenditure is not really viable at the moment and instead have obtained a separate proposal to install two cameras linked to a hard drive and installed at the Football Club entrance. **Budget £400**

7. **Environmental Design** – This is a wider topic about changing an environment to reduce the opportunities for committing crime and mainly applies at the planning stage.

8. **Rule Setting** – Introducing code of conduct which set out rules and behaviours. This can be applied using signage or amending membership rules or publicising new practices on social media to the community. Broken window theory outlines how an environment looks can determine behaviours and encourage crime. i.e. graffiti can encourage further graffiti, litter and overgrown vegetation can indicate a lack of routine monitoring and recommend as part of good 'housekeeping' areas are kept tidy and free of rubbish.

HGSA/HGFC Propose:

- We will get some signage made up to say that regular patrols take place on this premises and to please respect the venue. **Budget £80**
- The area to the front of the football club entrance will be cleared. General car park litter clearing is already done regularly, and empty barrels are removed weekly behind our cellar.
- We have already started publicising on social media in this way and will continue to do so.

9. **Increase the chance of getting caught** – this links in with surveillance as above, implementing anything that slows them down or increases the chance of detection.

HGSA/HGFC propose:

- Repairs to our security lighting where needed and introduce some more security lighting over by the football grounds. This work is awaiting improved weather to enable to work to be carried out. Budget £750
- HGSA/HGFC are looking at the costs of a private company doing dog patrols on a regular basis, however at a cost of £40+ per visit this will be very costly for HGSA.

10. **Deflecting Offenders** – either involving those causing the issue to participate legitimately in the club or the council reviewing diversion schemes for local youth i.e. youth clubs/activities.

This is something we as a club and the various sections here are looking at. We do of course already engage with local youth with the sporting teams we already manage but if this can be widened then we will. We will bring the subject of greater engagement to the attention of our committee for ideas. However, we have already made contact with Mark Olsen at HGYC, Mike Fulham at Prestwood FC and Chris Geen of Bucks Community Safety group seeking this improved relationship with local youth.

HGSA/HGFC REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

Aside from the costs associated with dog patrols, we believe the cost to achieve the other things documented would be in the region of £3,000, as indicated above. This of course excludes the major upgrading of our CCTV installation that we have referenced. HGFC and HGSA will utilise funds plus volunteer help to carry out as much of the other work as is possible. However, following the long shutdown and restricted operation funds are substantially depleted.

We appreciate the support received from the Community Board for the diversionary measures. This work will be ongoing.

The purpose of this submission is to formally request that financial assistance be given to the Club. This would involve the granting of funds, with the objective of ensuring all of the above being undertaken now rather than waiting for when funding we might generate ourselves, by being open, being available.