

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leader an Cabinet

8 February 2007

AUTHOR/S: Chief Executive / Sports Development Officer

APPLICANT: COTTENHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE DUAL USE SPORTS FACILITY PROJECT

Purpose

1. To consider a request for grant aid and make a decision on the level of award.

Proposal

2. As part of the Council's approved Dual Use Sports Facility Strategy, the proposal for Cottenham is to provide an outdoor floodlit artificial training pitch (76m x 50m) with a high quality specification suitable mainly for football. In addition the project involves extending and improving the current changing facilities to meet FA standards, incorporating officials changing and disabled changing/shower facilities and also general improvements to the sports centre reception area.

Background

3. Cottenham Village College Sports Centre was given dual-use status in 1989. The addition of a fitness room, office, reception and multi-use courts enabled the residents of Cottenham and the surrounding villages access to an excellent facility. The site has served both the college and community well, and the addition of a sport specific training area, and extended/improved changing facilities will add to the 'complete centre' approach.
4. The Business Plan indicates that the College Board of Governors together with the Community Sub-Committee have acknowledged that the development of sports on the Cottenham Village College site should be based on the following principles:-
 - The college has priority use of the sports facilities between 9.00am and 4.30pm during term time. This is referred to as 'core time'.
 - The community has priority use of the sports facilities outside 'core time' including early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays at a level that matches the District Council's usage targets and the requirements of the user groups. In addition the management allows for some community use during the school day.
 - The College will consider the needs and plans of the current sports user groups in the development of its sports facilities. It should also consider the needs of potential user groups.
5. Cottenham Village College Sports Centre currently provides the following facilities for use by the community:
 - Fitness room with a range of modern exercise equipment
 - 3 badminton court size Sports Hall
 - Gymnasium with standard wall bars and equipment
 - Fenced floodlit hard surface area for netball, tennis and basketball
 - Changing rooms used by both the College and Community Sports
 - A new Dance/Aerobic studio to be provided by Jan 08 funded through New Opportunities Funding (NOF) and the Village College.

6. The need for the provision of the external $\frac{3}{4}$ size floodlit artificial training pitch has been identified in the County FA facilities strategy and therefore may be eligible to receive Football Foundation funding.
7. The development plan is focused on the provision of more training and playing opportunities for a variety of groups. The Community Sports Manager aims to address the local inequalities that exist in sport, and take positive action to overcome these by actively encouraging greater participation by young people, participants with a disability, women and girls and the 55 + age group. The plan also aims to improve the sports infrastructure within the community and offers more “grass roots” opportunities by developing strong links with clubs, for coaching, junior links, matches, training and provision of changing facilities. The key sports that have been identified for development are badminton, basketball, football, hockey, netball and tennis

Considerations

8. Beyond the village of Cottenham, the nearest Sports Centre is at Impington Village College. The nearest floodlit artificial training pitch is at Histon, situated 2 miles away, with a surface best suited to tennis. The catchment area for the facilities at Cottenham is likely to be a radius of 10 miles, taking in a population of 16,550.
9. At present the all weather macadam surface is used 35% of the time for football training and 5-a-side football. Currently 3 clubs/groups use the facility on a weekly basis, even though it is not an ideal surface for playing football. There are currently 620 junior players and 40 junior teams playing youth football in Cottenham and the surrounding villages. There are also a number of girls and women’s football teams that train and play in the village and a new artificial surface would provide an ideal venue for football development within the area and provide the FA recommended training surface.
10. The National Junior Sports Programme aims to encourage young people to gain the foundation skills to be able to partake in a wide variety of sports including football. The College has excellent links with the local feeder primary schools and the provision of an all weather surface would allow access to this facility for after school coaching sessions. In addition a junior football league could also be established for local primary schools and football clubs.
11. The location of the artificial surface has been chosen as it will offer the following:
 - It will be used to its maximum possible capacity as it will be used during the school day for curriculum use.
 - Good security as it will be situated close to the sports centre, which is open seven days a week and is well lit. Access to the site is locked over night.
 - Easy accessibility as it will be close to the changing rooms; in addition, users will not have to walk on grass to get onto the surface.
 - It will not interfere with any pitches on the playing field.
 - Straightforward installation of floodlighting as it will be close to the all weather macadam tennis/netball courts.
 - The Sports Centre manager and staff will organise bookings; furthermore, they will perform daily and weekly checks.
 - Enhanced health and safety procedures as there are staff trained in First Aid on site.
 - A wide range of holiday courses/taster sessions organised by Sports Centre management.
 - Good car parking and access to grass football pitches.

Options

12. To offer a grant will provide enhanced sports facilities, increasing opportunities and improving access to all members of the community. Not to offer a grant will lead to further deterioration of the facilities therefore forcing local community groups and sports clubs to travel further to access adequate facilities which are already used to capacity.

Implications

13. Financial	<p>Total Cost £724,650</p> <p>Changing room extension £102,000 Alterations to existing changing Rooms £ 80,000 Mechanical and electrical installations £ 49,350 Artificial training pitch £250,000 External works/paths £70,000 Drainage £20,000 Services £16,000 Preliminaries £48,000 Contingencies £40,000 Fees/additional costs £49,300</p> <p>Amount Raised - £50,000 Cottenham Village College - £150,000 Cambs County Council - £230,280 Football Foundation t.b.c. - £5,000 Parish Council - £23,720 Fundraisng</p> <p>Total Raised - £459,000</p> <p>Population of Cottenham - 5820 Total Grants since 1977/8 - £5.91 (Average = £43.45) Per head of Population</p>
Legal	The Village College and Cambridgeshire County Council sign up to the Council's Dual Use Agreement.
Staffing	The facility will be staffed by Cottenham Village College. Officer time is dedicated to oversee the project.
Risk Management	Very low risk – no requirement on the council except to provide grant monies and some Building Control resources. The facility will remain in the ownership of the Local Education Authority.
Equal Opportunities	This facility will be used to help deliver the Councils Sports Development programme and encourage participation by specific target groups, including girls and women, people with a disability and Travellers.

Consultations

14. All local clubs were consulted and were in favour of the refurbishments planned for football training. The partner club, Cottenham Football Club, assisted in the development of this facility and are actively working with the school and the Council to secure the football Foundation funding. In addition, these clubs are going to work towards the FA Charter standard. All clubs have expressed a wish to hire the facility for training. There is a high demand for provision of an artificial turf surface in this catchment area due to the number of clubs with growing junior sections and lack of local facilities. A new artificial turf area will particularly help to develop youth sport in the area.

Councillor Consultations

15. Cllr Wotherspoon, Cllr Edwards and Cllr Bolitho all fully support the project.

Effect on Annual Priorities and Corporate Objectives

16. Affordable Homes	None
Customer Service	None
Northstowe and other growth areas	None
Quality, Accessible Services	The provision of these Dual Use Sports Facilities provides a very good value approach.
Village Life	These Dual Use Sports Facilities provide residents with the opportunity to improve their health, physical fitness, mental well-being and social life.
Sustainability	Providing better sports facilities on school sites ensures less travelling and more sustainable leisure opportunities for all.
Partnership	Working with the community enables residents to identify local needs and achieve improvements in their quality of life.

Conclusions/Summary

17. This facility is part of the Councils Dual Use Strategy and officers have been working closely with the school, Cambs County Council, the Football Association and the many different sports clubs during the past 18 months in planning for the project.
18. The facility will enhance the current provision for the residents of Cottenham and surrounding villages. In addition, it will strengthen existing links between schools, clubs and individual users of the current facility. Furthermore, providing a true multi-sport environment will allow the development of a more extensive range of sporting activities and facilitate the development of sports for girls, boys and adults of all ability levels.

Recommendation

19. It is recommended that Cabinet award a grant of £265,000. This represents 37% of the total cost of the project.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Application Form and attached documents.

Contact Officer: Jane Lampshire – Sports Development Officer, telephone: (01954) 713349
Jane Thompson – Cultural Services Manager, telephone: (01954) 713348