

NEW COMMUNITIES CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

APPENDIX 2 - PLAY FACILITY GRANTS

1. Who is eligible to apply?

Parish Councils or their representatives, village hall committees or recreation ground committees.

Grants are only available to smaller villages within the District.

Villages with a total population of 1,000 or less are eligible for up to 50% of the total cost in grant awards (please see point 5).

Villages with a total population of 2,000 or less are eligible for up to 25% of the total cost in grant awards (please see point 5).

The application must come from the organisation with legal ownership or long-term tenure of the facility or land in question. The applicant must have day-to-day responsibility for the play area.

In exceptional cases, SCDC Housing Associations or Tenants' Groups may also apply subject to the approval of the landowner (normally SCDC) and written evidence of insurance and long term management/liability arrangements. SCDC will not take any responsibility for managing these facilities. The Parish Council must be supportive of the project and will normally be expected to take responsibility for its management and maintenance.

2. What projects are eligible ?

New play areas and improvements to existing play areas.

Grants may be awarded towards equipment, safety surfacing, fencing, bins, benches and signage as well as associated paths, landscaping and cycle parking.

All play areas must meet ROSPA approval and meet standards EN 1176 and BS EN 1177 (parts 1-7) and any further amendments.

Play areas must be accessible to children and carers with a disability and designed with all abilities in mind.

Please note that grants are also available for outdoor facilities aimed at teenagers such as skate parks, facilities for wheeled sports and ball courts/informal multi use games areas.

These come under a different grant aid scheme:-

The Youth Sport Initiative (See Appendix 3).

3. Health and Safety

Applicants must make it clear who is responsible for the application of relevant health and safety laws for the play facility, for the life of the equipment. Where this is not the landowner (or long term lease holder), a written contract must be produced and a copy attached to your application form. This contract will be between the landowner (or long term leaseholder) and the organisation providing the safety checks.

For child protection reasons, the Council advises that children's play areas should be overlooked (from a distance) by family homes, where possible. This allows for natural surveillance. The Council also advises that children's play areas should be protected from dog fouling, including provision of appropriate signage.

4. Consultation

Consultation must involve local children and young people as well as parents and carers; this might involve working with your local primary school.

In particular you must consult fully with residents who are likely to be most affected by any new or improved play facility or structure and we suggest you discuss your plans with all people living within 100m of the site, as well as wider consultation. The latter is the case regardless of whether Planning Permission is required or not.

5. Level of grant awards available.

The Council will consider awarding maximum grants for between 25-50% total project costs, depending on the size of the village, with a maximum of £40,000.

For villages with a population of up to 1,000, no grants will be for more than 50% total costs and SCDC awards will normally be for 25% - 35% total cost. If appropriate, applicants may return to the Council for a further "top up" award if they can provide evidence that all sources of funding have been exhausted.

For villages with a population of up to 2,000, no grant will be for more than 25% total cost and SCDC awards will normally be for 15-20% total cost. If appropriate, applicants may return to the Council for a further "top up" award if they can provide evidence that all sources of funding have been exhausted.

6. Contact Officer

For more information and an application pack please contact the Resource Officer, Sustainable Communities on 01954 713359, or by email at sustainablecommunities.grants@scambs.gov.uk