



14 Trapfield Close
Bearsted
Maidstone
ME14 4HT
29 October 2020

Dear Members of the Western Area Committee

Newington Parish Council would like to apply for a grant from the Swale Area Committee towards improvements to the car park and track at the Recreation Ground.

The track to the car park needs to be improved to allow better access to the car park which also needs to be resurfaced to enable greater use of the local amenities. The Council has received three quotations with a quote of £11,900 being the preferred option.

Adjacent to the car park is the community woodland which is enjoyed by residents. The allotments are also next to the car park and some of the allotment holders have limited mobility and need to drive there. The Recreation Ground is well used by those living in the parish as well as others from Hartlip, Lower Halstow and the surrounding areas. This project will be beneficial to all age groups.

In the last three years the Parish Council has invested heavily in the Recreation Ground. It has completely refurbished the Pavilion to enable use by a local junior football team and community groups and it also provides affordable private hire for small parties. The Council has installed five-a-side goal posts on the playing field and it has also added a zip wire next to the play area; this has generated significant interest in and usage of the Recreation Ground. The Council is currently embarking on a project to refurbish and extend the play area. The proposed improvements to the track and car park will make the Recreation Ground and play area more accessible. The improvements so far have seen an increase in visitors to the area enjoying the amenities available.

In the 2011 census, the percentage of residents in Newington rating their health as 'very good' is less than the national average. Also, the percentage of residents in Newington rating their health as 'very bad' is more than the national average, suggesting that the health of the residents of Newington is generally worse than in the average person in England.

Improving the car park and access will meet identified local needs, making leisure and recreation facilities readily available to the whole community and improving local amenities. Greater use of the facilities will benefit residents' physical and mental well-

being. It will contribute towards the objectives of Swale Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2023:

Priority 3: Tackling deprivation and creating equal opportunities for everyone:

Promote wellbeing and enjoyment of life by signposting and encouraging a wide range of sporting, cultural, leisure and development activities appropriate and accessible to each age group.

Newington Parish Council is fully committed to these amenities and the improvements to the car park and track will enable the facilities to be more accessible to residents of the parish and surrounding areas. This will encourage people to be more active and it will improve their general well-being and enjoyment of life by participating in a wide range of activities. The Parish Council would like to request a grant of £4,000 towards this project.

Kind regards

Wendy Licence

Wendy Licence (Mrs)
Clerk to Newington Parish Council