

Dear members of the Sittingbourne Area Committee

The Milton Creek Country Park Trust would like to apply for a grant from the Sittingbourne Area Committee towards improving facilities at the Country Park.

During the last year it has become evident how important the Park has become to people locally as somewhere to get out into the fresh air, exercise and get the benefits of being close to nature. As many people have no longer been commuting due to the Covid pandemic the Park has become increasingly popular, allowing people who had previously never visited to benefit from being closer to nature without having to travel too far. It would be a real benefit to the Park users, as we come out of lockdown, to have some more furniture of the same quality and design that has already been installed. Picnic tables in particular have been requested by Park users, a number of areas have been identified as not having a litter bin and there is scope to add a number of additional benches. The cost of 3 disabled access picnic tables, 3 benches and 3 litter bins with delivery is £4653.

We would also like to provide training for the growing band of volunteers. They provide the essential workforce that is required to carry out the recently completed management plan, in order to maintain the environment for the benefit of both the public and the wildlife, some of which is rare and endangered. There are 3 courses covering brush cutter training, chainsaw cross cutting and felling up to 200mm. For 4 volunteers on each course the total cost would be £3110.

Each year since 2013 we have added a piece of artwork to the Art Trail but the initial piece, the Shril Carder Bee Mural in the children's play area is now looking rather sad and has suffered from some fire damage so we would like to get this repainted this spring. I am still waiting for a quote from the local artist who did the mural on the storage container but I estimate that this will cost £600.

The Park has been entered into the South & South East In Bloom competition and has won gold for the last 7 years. We would like very much to do so again this year and the installation of additional facilities and the strong volunteer commitment would enhance our entry. We are also working towards entering it for a Green Flag.

This project will contribute towards the objectives of Swale Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2023:

Priority 2: Investing in our environment and responding positively to global challenges:

2.4 Recognise and support our local heritage to give people pride in the place they live and boost the local tourism industry.

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

3.5 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. Our plan is to encourage community involvement, increase their pride in the environment and get actively involved in a wide range of activities to increase enjoyment and wellbeing.

Yours sincerely



Lynda Marshall