



NEIGHBOURHOOD CIL APPLICATION FORM 2020

What's Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)?

Neighbourhood CIL is intended to help address the demands of a new development on the local area. This neighbourhood proportion is up to 25% of CIL receipts in areas with an adopted Neighbourhood Plan and up to 15% (capped at £100 per existing council tax dwelling) in areas without a Neighbourhood Plan. Therefore, if development occurs in an area, funds will be collected for the community to use to mitigate any impacts they have identified

At Solihull, a bidding system is open to communities to attempt to secure funding for projects that will benefit the local area. The fund total will be released annually, in April, and these funds will be open to bids until 1st September 2020. Solihull MBC aim to fund the most appropriate projects (for an area), to ensure this, a screening application form will enable officers to best allocate funding. The funding will be become available once the ward allocation pot reaches £10,000.

Completing this form:

A set of guidance notes on our website www.solihull.gov.uk/cil is available to assist with the completion of this application form, together with guidance around how we make decisions on how funding is distributed and what is expected following the completion of a successful bid. If you need any further advice, please contact the CIL team on 0121 704 8008 or cil@solihull.gov.uk

IMPORTANT: THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA IS MANDATORY IN ORDER TO BID FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD CIL

- Project should be classed as Infrastructure/meets the demands development places on an area
- Projects should not require on-going maintenance
- The body applying should be:
 - o Formally constituted
 - o Has a bank account requiring two unrelated signatories
 - o Has at least two unrelated management committee members if they are an unincorporated organisation or voluntary group
 - o Demonstrates good financial management procedures including records of income and expenditure (or to be partnering with a delivery body who has these structures in place

N.B you may be asked to provide evidence of the above when submitting an application.

PART 1: ABOUT YOU/YOUR ORGANISATION

Name of organisation applying:	The Knowle Society [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Address:	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Contact Phone Number:	[REDACTED]
Contact Email Address:	[REDACTED]

Which Neighbourhood fund would you like to bid from?

Dorridge & Hockley Heath <input type="checkbox"/>	Shirley East <input type="checkbox"/>
Knowle <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shirley West <input type="checkbox"/>
Olton <input type="checkbox"/>	Shirley South <input type="checkbox"/>
Silhill <input type="checkbox"/>	St Alphege <input type="checkbox"/>

Location of the Proposed Project:

Full Address and please attach site plan/map showing the location of the project.

Knowle Park, Lodge Rd, Knowle, Solihull, B93 9HT@





	██ ██
Phone Number (If different from above)	████████████████
Email Address (If different from above)	██

What is the legal status of the organisation?

Registered Charity Charity Registration Number: ██████████

Company limited by guarantee: Company Registration number: ██████████

An unregistered organisation

Part of regional/national organisation

PART 3 – SOLIHULL MBC APPLICATIONS

Name of Service Area	
Project Manager	
Extension Number	
Email Address	

PART 4: ABOUT THE PROJECT

Project Name:
#LoveKnowle Park

Total amount CIL amount requested: (Please see www.solihull.gov.uk/cil for information regarding current funding availability)
£35,000

Project Summary:
<i>Outline of proposed project you want to deliver.</i>

The Playground equipment in Knowle Park has served the community well but is now requiring investment and there is a need to introduce new equipment to further expand the suitable age range. Furthermore, the village has seen growth since the equipment was installed, including three significant housing developments, putting additional pressure on these community facilities.

The project proposes to fulfil four main objectives in response to the community needs:

- Renovate or replace existing tired equipment;
- Expand the age range that the facilities address;
- Expand the capacity of the facilities to meet the demands of the growing community;
- Incorporate Inclusivity into the Playground Scheme to meet the needs of people with physical and mental disabilities.

The project will be focused on the existing play area of the Park, the grassed area adjacent to the play area and the existing exercise area, but does not impact on other areas or the adjacent Nature Reserve.

The project is deliverable in four phases as follows:

Phase One – Installation of Kinetic Equipment with Toddler Multi-play and Obstacle Course

Phase Two – Installation of Junior Equipment with Landscaping and seating area

Phase Three – Installation of a Basket Ball Court

Phase Four – Installation of Exercise Equipment

The timescales for the overall project will be determined by the availability of funding. The detail in the Costs and Timescales sections of the application below reflect both those of the first phase alone. There is sufficient confidence of funds being raised for the first phase, subject to the approval of this application. It is to be delivered by end March 2021 at a cost of £65,000 and would provide for a high quality multi-play unit for toddlers and a brand new area dedicated to older children (8 to 14) with kinetic equipment.

The overall project, at a cost of £150 - 180K, inclusive of first phase cost, will be progressed as funds are raised.

It might be noted at this point that a 2016 Solihull MBC report recommended as follows, with regard to future investment in outdoor play area equipment:

“Once annual costs of maintenance ... are deducted from the overall budget there is limited scope and funding left for development of existing or new sites. ... Section 106 funding may still be available in the future and this is likely to be a pot that community groups can bid into ... Exploring funding bids and grants with community groups could be the best way forward to securing money for this agenda in the future.”

The application is supported by following Appendices.

- [1 Project Team Members](#)
- [2 Letters of Support](#)
- [3 Outputs from Residents Survey](#)
- [4 Community Preferences Feedback](#)
- [5 Photos of Community Engagement Event – 12 September 2020](#)
- [6 Project Press Release](#)
- [7 Quotation from HAGS](#)
- [8 Quotation from Kompan](#)

¹ Outdoor Play Sites, Managed Growth & Stronger Communities Transformation Team, 2016

Project Outcomes and Benefits:

Please explain how your project outcomes will benefit communities and how this will be shown after the project is completed.

Project output	Project benefits	Evidence
<i>Outputs should be tangible deliverables from your project . E.G. New Playground Equipment</i>	<i>How will you know the project has been a success? E.G. Increased use of the park</i>	<i>How can you provide evidence to show this has been a success? E.G. Survey of numbers of people using the park</i>
New and wider range of playground equipment.	Health and Wellbeing benefits as 'Outdoor Play' reports referenced above/below.	Survey of parents/carers and children in August 2021.
	Increased numbers of users of the facilities	Before and after audits – September 2020 / September 2021.
	Older children using the play facilities	

Mitigating the impact of Development:

Please explain how your project will support development in the Neighbourhood, this could address a Social or a Physical need.

Development and increased population puts demand on all services, including provision for children and young people. The 2016 Ward Profile for Knowle stated that 17% of the ward population, was aged 0-15 years, ie not far short of 2000 children, and there is no reason to believe that will have changed significantly.

The Ward Profile also stated that 22% of Year Six pupils in Knowle were classified as having excess weight (the age group used as a national measure of excess weight and obesity). There would be reason to speculate that the 'lockdown' in the current year might have increased levels of unhealthy weight.

A Solihull MBC Report from 2016¹ quoted Play England in its section entitled 'Conclusions & Key Points' as follows:

"Play is an essential part of every child's life and is vital for the enjoyment of childhood as well as social, emotional, intellectual and physical development. When children are asked about what they think is important in their lives, playing and friends is usually at the top of the list."

The initial point above is expanded in Play England's Charter for Children's Play, which sets sets out that:

- *"play is an essential part of every child's life – vital to his or her development. It is the way that children explore for themselves the world around them; the way that they naturally develop understanding and practise skills."*
- *"play is essential for healthy physical and emotional growth, for intellectual and educational development, and for acquiring social and behavioural skills."*

Furthermore, a Public Health England report² published earlier this year affirmed that Greenspace (defined as incorporating Public Parks and Play Space for Children and Teenagers) is thought to be linked to health and wellbeing in a number of ways, including:

- the promotion of healthy behaviours;
- increasing social contact;
- giving a sense of belonging;
- supporting skills development;
- reducing exposure to potential harm.

The recent Covid-19 outbreak and lockdown has had the effect of emphasising for parents the importance of good quality public play facilities and has increased demand for this project to provide positive activities for children when not at nursery or school.

Knowle Park is a substantial asset with the capacity to play a significant role in the development, health and wellbeing of all local children and young people, but is generally underused relative to its potential not least because its play equipment shows its age and the facilities do not cater for older children with an age range of 10 -14 year old.

Accordingly, an upgrade and enhancement to the play facilities, inclusive of investment in the accommodation for family members, is not only required to meet the need occasioned by population growth, but also to meet demand that public health policy seeks to stimulate to realise the benefits of all age 'greenspace' use.

¹ Outdoor Play Sites, Managed Growth & Stronger Communities Transformation Team, 2016

² Improving Access to Greenspace, PHE, 2020.

Community Support

Please provide evidence of local support or backing for this project. Additional documentation should be submitted to support this. Please evidence any support from Local Ward Councillors.

Evidence can include letters, emails, petitions or fundraising efforts.

The community of Knowle is widely behind this project. Initially proposed by Alistair in mid-June in the community Facebook Group thread, it elicited an immediate positive response which led to an initial survey, designed to quantify interest in such a project and perceptions of need, which was launched in early July. A total of 636 responses in favour of such a project confirmed the local appetite.

As well as the widespread support for the equipment proposed in this application for Phase One of the project, the survey gave an indication of types of equipment the community wanted to see for older children, with high supported items listed below;

Obstacle Course – 76%
Trampoline – 72%
Climbing Wall – 69%
Basketball Court – 62% -

The introduction of new exercise equipment also has wide support with 47% of the survey returns indicating a desire to see the introduction of Cross Trainer and kinesthetics Workout equipment.

All of those elements are being included in the relevant phase of the planned scheme. More detail of the Survey can be found appended as Appendix 3.

All equipment for Phase One was also included in Preferences Testing at the Community Engagement at an event on Saturday 12 September, the results of which can be found appended at Appendix 4.

As the project gained further momentum the following individuals and community groups have added their encouragement and support and letters/emails from them are attached at Appendix 2 as evidence:

Saqib Bhatti MP
Cllr Diana Holl-Allen
Cllr Alan Rebeiro
Cllr Jeff Potts
Knowle Primary School PTA
Knowle and Dorridge Lions
Visit Knowle (representing Knowle's business network)

Verbal support has also been given by Knowle and Dorridge Round Table.

The crowdfunding donations page was opened on August 12 and in the first 14 days has raised £10,190 from community giving to add to the opening balance of £5,000 provided from Knowle Society funds.

A successful Show and Tell event was held in Knowle Park on Saturday 12 September and approximately 300 people passed through the exhibition which had been set up, engaged with the team and expressed equipment preferences. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Details of the feedback can be found in Appendix 4.

Council Plan

Does the Project align with any of the priorities set out within the Solihull Council Plan which can be found at

http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Portals/0/Ourvisionandpriorities/Council_plan_on_a_page.pdf

This project aligns with Priority no 8 of the Council Plan - enable communities to thrive.

The outcome of the project, the replacement and enhancement of playground equipment in Knowle Park, with provision for young people of all ages will contribute to the strengthening and development of the community, its cohesion and wellbeing, by bringing more individuals and families into the Park for positive activities. An emphasis of provision for youngsters with disabilities will further ensure this outcome.

The approach being taken with the project is one of high levels of engagement, both with residents and with representative community organisations. The 636 residents have indicated support and encouragement for the project evidences the connectivity within the local community around this common goal.

Thus the project is aligned with two Priority no 8 objectives as stated in the Council Plan:

"> Strengthening our localities – continue to grow locality working to include all partners with focused action plans;

> Connecting and engaging communities, by changing conversations."

Is your project supported by polices or priorities of a neighbourhood plan?

Y

(If Yes please provide details below)

N

The Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Plan in its summary of the key opportunity and issues emerging from the evidence base stated (page 18):

"There is a high level of dissatisfaction with the suitability and availability of indoor and outdoor facilities in the Area for sport, leisure, exercise and recreation."

and

"There is a need for improved social facilities for the young (under 18's)"

In its Policy ECF5 (page 54) the Neighbourhood Plan observes:

“The Residents’ Survey, in particular, provides evidence on the shortage, for different age groups, of recreational, leisure and sporting facilities in the Area. The benefits of such facilities for the health and wellbeing of people of all ages are widely acknowledged.”

The Policy states support for developments which:

- “- widen the range of local sport, leisure and recreational facilities;*
- allow use by all groups, community sectors and individuals within KDBH;*
- be conveniently located relative to sustainable forms of transport;*
- cause no material harm to residential amenity.”*

Also, the Plan’s Appendix 4 – Community Actions includes (page 72):

“ensure that existing public sports, leisure and recreation facilities are maintained to their existing standard or, where possible, improved.”

This project will widen the playground facilities by replacement of no longer fit equipment and provision of additional apparatus, matched to the wishes of the community as recorded in our survey.

It will be free to use and open to all in relevant age groups, conveniently and accessibly located, with good parking in the Park’s substantial car park, adjacent to the local bus route and in a relatively central location in Knowle.

By replacing existing facilities and using only a minor level of additional area with the substantial grounds of the Park, intended for all age leisure, there will be no harm to residential amenity.

How will this project be delivered and who will deliver it?

Who will be involved in running the project? Who will carry out the work? Do they have any previous experience of this work? What kind of skills/resources will be needed? Are there any risks?

The project will be overseen by the Trustees of Knowle Society, four of whom have been appointed to a sub-committee to meet regularly and review progress against the project plan and project budget. The Project Manager will be Alistair Innes, an experienced Construction Projects Controller in the automotive sector by day and recently co-opted as a Knowle Society Trustee.

Alistair has recruited volunteers from the community to form two teams. One, with links to the three local schools, will lead fundraising work, the other will oversee design and equipment selection.

Knowle Society is bringing a rich mix of professional skills and experience to the project. In addition to our Project Manager's experience in planning and managing large scale commercial initiatives:

- Our Chairman has over 50 years of experience with construction industry projects, large and small, as an industry professional and Fellow of the RICS;
- Our Deputy Chairman has significant experience of project planning and management in the manufacturing/engineering sector;
- Our Community Services Chair has many years' experience of Directorate Management, leadership of and fundraising for large projects in the Care Sector as well as liaison with Council personnel in voluntary roles;
- The Leader of the Playground Sub-committee led the Society's successful Village Greens project which included raising donations to pay for the legal fees, liaising with Council Officers and briefing the barrister who led the Public Examination, as well as the witnesses who gave evidence on our behalf and preparing all the evidence for the Examination.
- A Trustee on the Project Sub-Committee brings experience of delivering initiatives aimed at children and young people from her previous role as Head of a Primary School.

More detail of the Project Team can be found appended at Appendix 1.

The Society has a proven record in project delivery over almost 60 years and is a recipient of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in recognition of its volunteer led achievements in the local community. Recent successes include:

- the securing of Village Green status for two areas of the former 'Knowle Bypass' route;
- A four year programme of fundraising and planting which has seen approximately 135,000 daffodils, crocuses and snowdrops planted on the approaches to Knowle, with the support of the Council and its contractors.

Identified risks are detailed in the relevant section below.

Ongoing Maintenance– see guidance criteria

Will there be any on-going maintenance? How would this be funded?

Emma Sibbing, Parks and Open Spaces Officer, Public Realm Team, Solihull Council is directly engaged on an ongoing basis in the design phases of this project. Her department will be consulted fully during the tendering process to ensure that the Council is satisfied with equipment selection and plans, and has confirmed Council will continue to maintain the playground as at present.

Replacing equipment will reduce the need and expense of maintenance over that required for the existing time-served equipment. Furthermore design for reliability and low maintenance will be key criteria in the selection of equipment for installation.

The use of local residents and CSR volunteers in undertaking unskilled elements of looking after these play areas is to be further developed as a part of the project programme.

TIMESCALES

Please outline a proposed timeline for the project

Proposed Date	Key Milestones
27.10.2020	Phase One Fundraising Complete
27.11.2020	Tender Issued
15.12.2020	Tender Return
18.12.2020	Supplier Appointed
01.02.2021	Contractor On Site
31.03.2021	Completion and Handover
01.04.2021	Proceed with Subsequent Phases

COSTS

Please outline the predicted costs for the project and outline if any other funding has been raised for the proposal:

Please attach evidence of quotes that have been sought as confirmation of the cost breakdown.

Note: Two quotations are attached as Appendices 7 and 8, the costs are similar and the Kompan quote has been used to populate the table below.

Cost (Phase One only)	£	Funded from?
Pendulum Swing – Purchase plus Installation	8.8K	54% NCIL/46% Other
Spire Net – Purchase plus Installation	14.4K	54% NCIL/46% Other
Carousel – Purchase plus Installation	4.9K	54% NCIL/46% Other
Birds Nest Swing – Purchase plus Installation	2.9K	54% NCIL/46% Other
Three Tower Unit– Purchase plus Installation	18.0K	54% NCIL/46% Other
Grass Mats - – Purchase plus Installation	5.8K	54% NCIL/46% Other
Site Works and Equipment Carriage	10.3K	54% NCIL/46% Other
TOTAL	65.0K	35K NCIL/30K Other

RISKS

Are there any risks associated with the project?

What is the risk if work does not take place? Is there any reason why the work would not be fully completed if funding were to be granted?

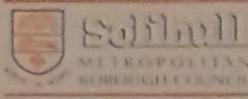
There is a risk that the entire project will take longer than planned because of a shortfall in fundraising. However, the project is designed so that it can proceed flexibly in phases which are not mutually dependent, if necessary, as milestone funding targets are reached. The Neighbourhood CIL funding would be applied to the first phase for which £65,000 is needed in total and just over £10K of other funding has already been secured within one month of the crowdfunding appeal launch. Neighbourhood CIL funding would not be called off until Phase One is ready for commencement.

There is, as with any project, a risk of cost overrun. This risk will be mitigated through the experience of the project manager and of other Knowle Society Trustees in rigorous cost management, through the selection of contractor, establishment of appropriate contract terms and monitoring through the delivery stage.

As with any construction project, there is a risk to public safety during the construction phase. This will be particularly so in a leisure environment used by inquisitive young people. Precautions will need to be rigorously defined and maintained and will be the subject of dialogue with prospective contractors, compliance with industry standards and Regulations, including Construction Design Management Regulations.

The risk of choosing of unsuitable or substandard equipment will be mitigated by use of established provider/contractors along with vetting by Council Officers prior to adoption.

There is a risk of failure to secure planning permission, for instance with a potential 4 metre height limit on equipment (limited to one piece of planned equipment to be located away from residential housing) and any other factors. Liaison with the Council Planning Officers will be essential to mitigate such a risk.



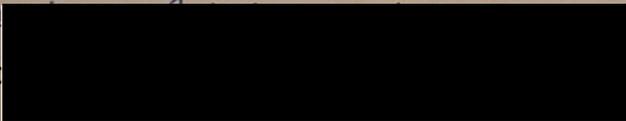
Certification:

I confirm the information supplied is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand and accept that providing deliberate false information could result in Legal action being taken against me and withdrawal of funds awarded

I confirm I have read and understood Solihull MBC Policy and Engagement Privacy Notice

<https://www.solihull.gov.uk/About-the-Council/Data-protection-FOI/Solihull-Council-Statement>

SIGNED



14 Sep 2020

ON BEHALF OF:

Knowle Society