



NEIGHBOURHOOD CIL APPLICATION FORM 2021

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 30th September 2021. 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 (Company no 05514023, Charity No 1111085)
Address:	[REDACTED]
Contact Phone Number:	[REDACTED]
Contact Email Address:	[REDACTED]

Which Neighbourhood fund would you like to bid from?

Dorridge <input type="checkbox"/>	Shirley East <input type="checkbox"/>
Knowle <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shirley South <input type="checkbox"/>
Silhill <input type="checkbox"/>	St Alphege <input type="checkbox"/>

Location of the Proposed Project:

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





Proposed Basketball court location identified by white rectangle

If your project is located outside of the ward pot you wish to bid from, please explain why you believe that funding should be used for your project in a different ward: (optional)

Who will be responsible for delivering the project?

Community Group Please go to Part 2

Other Group/Organisation Please go to Part 2

Solihull MBC Please go to Part 3

PART 2: COMMUNITY GROUPS/OTHER GROUPS ORGANISATIONS

Please provide the details of the organisation responsible for the project delivery

Organisation Name	
Project Contact/Person Completing this form:	
Organisation Address (If different from above)	
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	Environmental Services
Project Manager	Public Realm Team
Extension Number	6516
Email Address	[REDACTED]

PART 4: ABOUT THE PROJECT

Project Name:
Knowle Park Basketball Court

Total amount CIL amount requested: (Please see www.solihull.gov.uk/cil for information regarding current funding availability)
£12,000

Project Summary:
Following the successful NCIL Application last year and the delivery of new play equipment into Knowle Park the community has been very appreciative of the investment but would now like to see further provision made for Teenagers. In the previous application we set out to install £180k investment spread over 4 phases; 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 Basketball Court Phase Four – Installation of Exercise Equipment

Phase 1 has now been completed and in response to public opinion we want to bring forward Phase 3 which would see the installation of a Basketball court to provide a sports facility specifically dedicated to meeting Teenager's needs.

Knowle Park has served the community well but is now requiring investment and there is a need to introduce further sports facilities to expand the suitable age range. Furthermore, the village has seen growth since the Tennis Courts 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:

- Expand the existing sports provision within the Park;
- Cater for Teenagers who want to see high energy outdoor activities;
- 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 the grassed area adjacent to the existing exercise area but does not impact on other areas or the adjacent Nature Reserve.

The project is deliverable in four phases with a total investment of £150-180K. Phase 1 saw £65k invested into Knowle Playground, bringing Phase three forward would see another £25K invested.

We have confidence that the project can be fully funded having received indication from other organisations businesses and the community that want to see this facility installed in Knowle Park.

We anticipate the following split in funding:

- £12K - NCIL Application
- £5K - Police CIF Fund
- £5K - Sports Company Sponsor
- £3K - Community Fundraising

Although confidence of fundraising is high the scheme can be altered accordingly by scaling back the size of court installed according to the funds available.

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.

- Appendix No.1 Project Team
- Appendix No.2. Letters of Support
- Appendix No.3 Outputs from Residents Survey
- Appendix No.4 Community Preference Feedback
- Appendix No.5 Photos of Community Engagement
- Appendix No.6 Press Release
- Appendix No.7 Quotation Ten Construction
- Appendix No.8 Quotation Bradleys
- Appendix No.9 Hawker Construction

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 Sports Facilities.	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.
	Facilities catering for Teenagers	

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 the sports facilities are limited and do not cater for the preferences of Teenagers who are not interested in Tennis

Accordingly, an upgrade and enhancement to the sports facilities, inclusive of investment in the accommodation for Teenagers, 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.

2 Improving Access to Greenspace, PHE, 2020.

Community Support

The community of Knowle is widely behind this project to see investment in Knowle Park. The idea to improve the park was initially proposed by Alistair in mid-June 2020 in the community Facebook Group thread '#Love Knowle Park' #LKP, 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 2020.

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% -

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.

This project phase is in line with the communities desires as shown in the percentage of support above and builds on a successful delivery of Phase 1 to see an improve play are for young people.

A public engagement exercise event was carried out in September 2020 where we obtained direct endorsement for the equipment being proposed. Appendix 4 shows the support for Basketball Court in support of this application.

#LKP community group now has over 800 Followers and the social media feed regularly sees over 3000 people reached.

The project has been further endorsed by the following individuals and community groups have added their encouragement and support and letters/emails from them are attached at Appendix 2 as evidence:

Cllr Diana Holl-Allen

Cllr Alan Rebeiro

Knowle Primary School PTA

Extract from Social Media Engagement

Phase 1 saw over £65k raised of which £20k was direct from the community with a further £10k from businesses.

For this phase we are confident we are building on the successful delivery of the new play equipment and have the level of support to achieve full funding of this current proposal.

Council Plan

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

The outcome of the project, the enhancement of Sports facilities and the the provision for Outdoor activities for local Teenagers and 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 indicated support in 2020, they have since communicated their ongoing support via social media especially encouraging consideration for Teenagers.

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 sports facilities on offer by enhancing diversity of activities in line with 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?

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.

The Knowle Society will manage and administer the funds obtained through the fundraising activities

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 having been in the telecommunications engineering sector involved in network project planning;

- 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

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. The department will be responsible for the tendering and contracting of the work to ensure that what is specified meet their requirements and is minimal maintenance.

TIMESCALES

Please outline a proposed timeline for the project

Proposed Date	Key Milestones
25.03.22	Fund Raising Completed
02.04.22	Tender Issued
23.04.22	Tender Return



07.05.22	Supplier Appointed
23.05.22	Start on Site
09.07.22	Practical Completion

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. Without the submission of quotes, your application will not be taken further.

Cost	£	Funded from?
Supply turnkey Basketball Court into Knowle Park	22,656	52%NCIL / 48% Other
<i>Note: For detailed breakdown of costs please refer to appendix 7 and 8</i>		

RISKS

Are there any risks associated with the project?

There is a small risk to funding the full scheme due to the nature of fundraising, if the full funding was not reached the scheme can be scaled back by altering the size of the proposed Basketball Court from a half court to a practice area.

There is, as with any project, a risk of cost overrun. This risk will be mitigated through the experience of the Public Realm Team 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 public space. 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.

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/Solihull-Council-Statement/Economy-and-infrastructure/Policy-engagement>)

SIGNED:



ON BEHALF OF: The Knowle Society