



Friends of
Canada Woods
and Community Park

Meeting of the Parish Council – 18th June 2024

Agenda item 24/25-28b

Report title	Request to Parish Council from Friends of Canada Woods & Community Park Community Group
Report author	Carol Hackett (Clerk) – from information provided by Community Group
Purpose of report	For decision
Statutory authority	Recreation – Power to provide a wide range of recreational facilities (includes sports facilities) – Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19 Highways – Power to repair and maintain public footpaths and bridleways – Highways Act 1980, ss 43, 50 Open spaces – Power to acquire and maintain land for public recreation – Public Health Act 1875, s. 164

Background information

Under the Terms of Reference for the Community Group, there is a requirement to present any proposals to the full Parish Council for consideration of approval.

Details of proposal

The Community Group would like to seek permission from the Parish Council to apply for grant funding when it becomes available from a variety of sources. The two main grants which the Group have registered an interest in are from 'Action for Communities in Rural England for green spaces' (*please see note below regarding the funding criteria for this grant*) and 'Local Giving Community Funding'. Both these grant opportunities will open over the summer. There are also other grants that can be applied for to fund the smaller items.

The Group hope to be able to apply for funding for the following projects and items:

- Accessible Footpath from Grove Road into Community Park and possibly continuing through Community Park (this is instead of going to LHFIC for funding, which would then leave this avenue open for a possible grant application from the Parish Council to help with funding repairs to the bank slippage on MLAV2 if appropriate)
- Drainage for water capture on Community Park
- Repairs for MLAV2 on the upslope from the bubbling kettle
- Natural play equipment to link the woodland to Community Park, this equipment was requested by the youth groups, such as a zip wire and monkey bars, possibly a swing from a large bough identified by the river if suitable and accessible – The Group understands that it will need to liaise with the Parish Council to agree the final designs for any equipment, and its exact positioning within Canada Woods / Community Park
- Battery operated maintenance equipment for woodland footpaths and Community Park
- Small event and educational facilities such as 'A' frame chalk boards and gazebos
- Wild flower seed mix
- Additional seating facilities within the woodland and Community Park
- Large children's 'board' games for family events

Decisions requiring approval

- Consider giving permission to the Community Group to apply for grant funding for the items as detailed above.

Criteria for grant:

Community Green Spaces Fund – Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Defra has announced a new fund offering grants of up to £75,000 to help communities to plant fruits, vegetables and trees, creating orchards and kitchen gardens for all to access and enjoy. Landscaping projects could also create raised beds and improve areas to plant different flowers around village hall facilities and other community green spaces, making space for pollinators and nature to thrive.

Funding will also be awarded to support the expansion of natural play facilities which encourage children to spend more time outdoors, in addition to projects which focus on improving access to green spaces such as new paths and seating. To make the spaces more accessible to disabled people, funding will also be available for the creation of disabled parking spaces.

Applications are expected to open in the summer.

Examples of what some of the equipment may look like – only examples at this stage, meeting being held with supplier next week:



