



Botus Fleming Parish Council

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THE RECREATION FIELD AT HATT PROJECT KEMENETH

7th April 2022

PROJECT NAME

PROJECT KEMENETH (COMMUNITY)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The parish needs a fit-for-purpose community centre that serves as a social hub for a wealth of activities and events. In addition to being an unsustainable parish, we are also disadvantaged in not having a publicly owned community centre.

The parish did not own any green spaces for our children or young people's sport or leisure activities. This was almost unique in Cornwall. The Recreation Field was the only public amenity and it was under constant threat of being lost if sold. The parish purchased the Recreation Field to inject some energy and enthusiasm into our flagging community.

We have already demonstrated that the wellbeing of our children and young people are incredibly important to our community. The driving force behind the purchase of the Recreation Field and the money raised by our residents for the purchase of playground equipment evidence our commitment to our children and young people. It reflects what people think and feel about their lives, the quality of their relationships, building early learning friendships, their positive emotions and resilience, the realisation of their potential and their overall satisfaction with life.

We support Saltash United (Juniors) Football Club playing in Hatt and aspire to provide changing rooms, toilets and storage facilities in a community centre.

Our community is more than willing to volunteer and commit to hard work and even donate their own money to improve their facilities, but we realise that we need more help and resources to achieve our aspirations through a Community Infrastructure Levy.

(250 WORDS)

VALUE FOR MONEY

The Parish of Botus Fleming is defined by its quiet, rural nature and occupies a narrow strip of land to the north of Saltash. It is a small parish consisting of a total area of 1.78 square miles and a population of about 750.

Hatt stands in stark contrast to Botus Fleming. The number of people living within the parish has risen sharply in recent years, as Hatt became a dormitory settlement for Plymouth.

Hatt underwent considerable development in the 1970s and 80s. Some of this development occupies high ground near the A388 and is visually prominent. Over 71% of the parish population live in Hatt.

Past experience shows that the long-term social needs of a new community such as Hatt, are often overlooked in the drive to deliver housing on a large scale.

In 2018 Cornwall Council's Sustainability Appraisal declared that our parish did not meet the standards for sustainability. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) also confirmed that our parish did not meet the conditions as a sustainable community in the areas of economic, social or environment. The parish has very little in the way of infrastructure or services for the existing residents and our community is in the precarious position of being one of the UK's "left-behind places".

The parish did not own any green spaces for sport or leisure activities. This was almost unique in Cornwall. The parish did not have the £70,000 in its reserves to purchase the rented Recreation Field outright, but decided to apply to the Public Works Loan Board for the full amount. Our application was successful and the loan is now being repaid monthly over a 15-year period. The purchase of the recreation field was in our view a real opportunity to inject some energy and enthusiasm into our flagging community.

The playground facilities on the Recreation Field have been woefully and frankly an embarrassment to our community for several years. The "facilities" have consisted of a set of rusty swings. A group of residents have raised £25,000 for playground equipment to be installed on the Recreation Field in the summer of 2022.

The benefits that arise from investing in social infrastructure are typically depicted in terms of their importance to the quality of relationships and connections among different parts of a community.

Community services and facilities should not be unnecessarily lost where there is a genuine demand from a "left behind" community. The benefits that arise from investing in social infrastructure are typically depicted in terms of their importance to the quality of relationships and connections among different parts of a community.

Such an understanding rests upon the widely held belief that communities with more and better forms of social interaction are likely to be healthier, happier, more trusting and cooperative, and more replete with social capital.

Our community is more than willing to volunteer and commit to hard work and even donate their own money to improve their facilities, but we all realise that we need more help and resources to achieve our aspirations.

Sustainability is the golden thread that runs through all thriving communities. Unfortunately our parish has been unable to keep up with the 21st century. Many residents and the Parish Council are all too aware that we lack many of the facilities that are enjoyed by many other towns and parishes throughout the UK. We intend to apply for several grants, arrange crowd funding and to seek sponsorship and donations from businesses and philanthropists allowing us to build a community centre that all of us can be rightly proud.

The injection of money from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) would go a long way towards reversing much of the negative impact on our community and encouraging others to financially contribute to our project.

DECLARATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Edwards', written in a cursive style.

David James Edwards

Botus Fleming Parish Council

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