

Facilities Improvement Grant application form

Grant scheme aims

The aim of the Facilities Improvement Grant Fund is to develop and improve village halls, community centres, sport, and leisure centres, play facilities and public open spaces, protecting and enhancing the quality of life for residents within East Cambridgeshire.

Section A - Eligibility of the project for Facilities Improvement Grant funding

The Facilities Improvement Grant is for capital expenditure only. Ongoing project running costs are not eligible.

Any parish which has an allocation of Section 106 (S106) funding or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts that is not allocated and covers the full costs of the project are not eligible for Facilities Improvement Grant funding.

To find out if a parish has any S106 funding, contact Stephanie Jones, Communities & Partnerships Support Officer at fig@eastcambs.gov.uk or telephone 01353 665555. To find out if a parish has any CIL receipts, contact the parish council for the parish in which the facility is located. The types of organisations that can apply are listed at Q13 in the application form.

If the balance of Section 106 funding or CIL receipts available to the parish is less than the total cost of the project, an application can be submitted to make up the balance of the monies up to a maximum grant of £10,000. Non-parish council applicants applying for this grant must check with their parish council whether S106 or CIL monies are available to fund the project. Applicants must check whether S106 and/or CIL monies are spent and/or allocated. An application for this grant can only be made if S106 and CIL monies are spent and/or allocated and therefore there is insufficient funding available for the project proposal.

The grant scheme is open all year round. Please note that there is a total of £45,000 available for allocation each year, so it may not be possible to fund every application that meets the criteria. Please check on the webpage prior to submitting your application to make sure that there are sufficient funds available. It is possible that more than one application could be submitted at the same time, which would exceed the final balance available for allocation. If this occurs, the council will contact the applicants with a view to supporting as many projects as possible, whilst ensuring their viability.

The types of projects that might be eligible will be dependent primarily upon evidence that an assessment has been made of local community needs. The project must fit into one of the following categories:



1. community centres/village halls
2. multi-purpose sports and leisure centres which serve the public
3. play facilities
4. open spaces

Some examples of the types of projects which might be appropriate are listed below:

1. Community centres/village halls

Upgrading facilities which are the main community centre in a village, and which are available for anyone in the community to use. The funding can support works such as new build, extensions, refurbishment, provision of disabled facilities, works to improve a buildings energy efficiency or community safety, and provision of facilities which will enable the hall to diversify its use. Examples of an eligible project include the following:

- installation of a new kitchen
- complete re-roofing of a facility
- the addition of solar panels
- entrance improvements including access ramps and automatic door openers

Minor repairs, redecoration and movable equipment items are excluded from the grant scheme. Examples of projects that would not be eligible for funding include the following:

- a new cooker
- the replacement of broken roof tiles
- painting a meeting room

2. Multipurpose sports and leisure centre which serve the public

Building a new facility, extending, or refurbishing an existing facility, works to improve a buildings energy efficiency, community safety or the provision of disabled facilities. These works will only be considered for a grant if the need for the project has been approved by the management committee and has the support of user groups.

When designing and developing facilities and implementing projects, applicants are advised to consider best practice guidance provided by Sport England and the relevant national governing bodies. The Sport England guidance can be found at the following link:

www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance

Examples of an eligible project include the following:

- the installation of a new sprung floor
- the addition of an astro pitch
- Upgrading toilets and changing areas to improve accessibility



Minor repairs, maintenance, redecoration, and movable equipment items are excluded from the scheme. Examples of projects that would not be eligible for funding include the following:

- patch repairs to an astro pitch
- fixing a broken shower
- goal posts or other sports equipment

3. Play facilities

Building new or substantially refurbishing play areas, teenage zones, skateboard facilities and similar. The need for the facility should also normally have been identified within the district council's Play Audit 2012-13 and Action Plan 2013-14 to be eligible. This audit has identified gaps in current play provision across the district and grant aid should focus primarily on addressing these needs. In addition, we would expect to see evidence that families and young people have been consulted and have participated in the design of the proposed play facility. Examples of an eligible project include the following:

- new play equipment
- new safety surface
- a youth shelter

Maintenance and repairs to existing provision are excluded from the scheme. Examples of projects that would not be eligible for funding include the following:

- patch repairs to safety surfaces
- painting existing play equipment

4. Open spaces

Grants are available to parish councils and community groups for the purchase or leasing of land for formal/ informal public open space, recreation, and allotments. Leases must be for a minimum of 25 years or, where land is to remain in private ownership, there needs to be a Covenant or written agreement in place which protects public access and use of the site in perpetuity. Grants are also available for improvement to existing open spaces such as improving access, education, or other facilities. Please note that planting enhancements will only be considered as part of whole woodland/orchard development projects.

Examples of an eligible project include the following:

- a new trail and signage in an existing open space that improves accessibility
- securing a piece of land to develop into a community orchard

Maintenance and repairs to existing provision are excluded from the scheme. Examples of projects that would not be eligible for funding include the following:

- repairing a sign
- replacing or repairing a damaged bench



Q1. Please provide the project title, a description of the project, its purpose, and an explanation of what the Facilities Improvement Grant funding will be spent on:

Please ensure that you have attached your organisations business plan demonstrating the requirement for the project (if a business plan is available).

Q2. Please provide written evidence of endorsement for the project from the local parish council: This could be in the form of parish council meeting minutes or an email from the chairman or clerk.

Please note that if you are unable to provide this evidence, the project will not be eligible for Facilities Improvement Grant funding.

Section B – Eligibility of the organisation for Facilities Improvement Grant funding

This grant scheme is open to all community-based organisations that operate on a not-for-profit basis in East Cambridgeshire. An organisation can apply for Facilities Improvement Grant funding once during any given financial year.

The facilities provided must be open and accessible to the public with no membership restrictions in relation to the Equality Act 2010 and have wide public and community benefit.

Applicant bodies must have a constitution or set of rules.

The organisation must demonstrate that they have consulted with the local community, including the local parish council; that they have an equal opportunities policy in place and where relevant, have a child protection policy.



Organisation's details

Q3. Name of organisation:

Q4. Address including postcode:

Q5. If a grant is approved, to whom should the cheque be made payable?

Q6. Is your organisation able to recover VAT?

Note: If you can recover VAT the amount awarded from this grant fund will

Q7. Are there any membership restrictions on use of your organisation's facilities?

If yes, please explain why:

Q8. Does the parish where the facility is located have S106 and or CIL monies more than the total project cost, but funds are allocated to other projects?

If yes, please explain what project the S106/CIL is allocated for:

If yes, please confirm that you have obtained and included written confirmation from the parish council stating that S106 and or CIL monies more than the total project cost are allocated to other projects:



Main contact for the project

Q9. Name:

Q10. Position in organisation:

Q11. Address including postcode:

Q12. Daytime telephone number:

Q13. Email address:

Q14. What type of organisation are you? Please tick the relevant box:

- charity
- company limited by guarantee
- industrial or provident society
- community interest company
- parish or village council in East Cambridgeshire
- other (please specify)

Please attach written evidence of your status, for example, group constitution or charity number.

Q15. If your organisation is not a parish Council, please provide a brief description about what you do, your aims and objectives, management arrangements and past achievements:



Section C – Details of the proposed project

Location and ownership of the facility/land

Q16. What is the geographical location of the proposed project? For example, the nearest road or postcode.

Q17. What security of tenure do you have on the facility? Tick below:

- freehold
- leasehold

Q18. If leasehold, what is the length of the lease and how many years are remaining?

Note: The lease must be for a term of at least 25 years to be eligible for funding

Q19. Is the lease vested in the applicant's name?

If no, who owns the lease?

If you do not own the asset, please attach evidence of the landowner's permission for the works to be carried out. Please note that if you are unable to provide this evidence, the project will not be eligible for Facilities Improvement Grant funding.

Q20. Is planning permission required before the project can start?

If yes, please provide the planning application reference number:

Q21. Is a building regulation application required?

If yes, please provide your reference number:



Need and justification

Q22. Please indicate the approximate start and completion dates of the project:

Q23. Are the reasons for doing this project instigated by legislative requirements? For example, health and safety, fire regulations, Equality Act 2010.

If yes, please provide details:

Q24. Please indicate how the evidence of need for this project has been gathered: Include details of any research that you have carried out or strategies/plans which identify this project as a priority (such as a community led plan, village survey, play audit and action plan, public/user consultation)

Please ensure that all documents providing this evidence are attached.

Q25. What is your justification for this project if there is another similar facility nearby? For example, is there is already a similar facility being provided in the same village?

Q26. Will your project increase the use of a community facility?

If yes, please explain how:

Please note that if you are unable to provide evidence for this question, the project will not be eligible for FIG funding.



Q27. Will your project broaden the use of a community facility? For example, would be works to improve access based on age or disability?

If yes, please explain how:

Please note that if you are unable to provide evidence for this question, the project will not be eligible for FIG funding.

Q28. What attempts have you made to make this project environmentally sustainable? For example, energy saving mechanisms, recycled materials, local suppliers.

Q29. If the project involves provision for children (up to the age of 18), what consideration have you given to any child protection issues that may arise from the project you are delivering?



Section D – Project costs, sources of funding and sustainability

Grant awards of up to a maximum of £10,000 are available. A minimum of 15% match funding must be provided by the applicant organisation or another grant provider so that the Facilities Improvement Grant fund can support as many local projects as possible.

For advice on other potential sources of grant aid contact Stephanie Jones, Communities & Partnerships Support Officer via: fig@eastcambs.gov.uk or 01353 665555.

Q30. What do you anticipate will be the total expenditure for the project?

Including VAT: £

Excluding VAT: £

Q31. Please list the items that you plan to buy with Facilities Improvement Grant funds:

Q32. How much match funding is being provided?

Please note match funding must be monetary and the value of volunteer hours or cost savings cannot be used.

Q33. Is the match funding confirmed?

Q34. Where is the matching funding from?



Q35. Is your match funding offer conditional on securing match funding from this grant or any other grant?

Q36. What level of Facilities Improvement Grant funding is sought from the district council? If you are able to reclaim VAT please provide amount ex-VAT as the District Council will only pay the amount that cannot be reclaimed.

Please ensure that you have sought 3 written estimates for the works and have attached copies of all returned quotations including your highlighted preferred

Q37. Please explain your justification for choosing your quote if it is not the cheapest:

Q38. What do you expect the annual running costs to be?

Q39. What do you expect the repair and maintenance costs to be?



Q40. How do you propose to meet these costs in the longer term, as Facilities Improvement Grant funding cannot be used for this?

Q41. Has your organisation been in receipt of a covid-19 business support grant? If so, please give details of the amount, date awarded, and how the grant was used.

Section E – How the Grant Application is Assessed

The District Council is the accountable body for the East Cambridgeshire Facilities Improvement Grant Fund and therefore needs to ensure:

- that the process is transparent and fair to all.
- that projects supported are necessary, viable, will deliver value for money and meet a community need.

That there is a costed repair and maintenance plan in place. Assessment of proposed projects is therefore carried out by an officer against a set of criteria and presented to another officer for approval. The focus of the assessment is on the following:

- the eligibility of the organisation and project for facilities improvement funding.
- ownership of the asset and whether consent is in place for any works.
- endorsement of the local parish council.
- evidence of need for the project (for example, supported by the findings of ECDCs Play Audit and Strategy, identified as a priority in a parish plan, community consultation).
- an increase in usage of the asset as a result of awarding the funding (for example, a greater number of people will use the facility).
- a broader usage of the asset as a result of awarding the funding (for example, use by disabled people, older or younger people who may not have had access previously).
- that a minimum of 15% match funding is in place.
- that a complete funding package is in place with the offer of a Facilities Improvement Grant.
- that there is financial sustainability for the asset into the future.

We aim to let you know the decision within 3 weeks of receipt of all the necessary information required to make the assessment, by a formal grant offer letter.

Section G – Contact information

Officer: Stephanie Jones

Email address: fig@eastcambs.gov.uk

Phone number: 01353 665555



Section H – Declaration

By signing your name here, you are confirming that the contents of this form are correct, to the best of your knowledge.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Application submission

Online applications can be made via the following link:

www.eastcambs.gov.uk/finance/facilities-improvement-grant

Postal applications can be completed via this form. Please send your completed form and supporting documents to either:

Email: fig@eastcambs.gov.uk

Postal address: Communities & Partnership Support Officer, East Cambridgeshire District Council, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 4EE

Data Protection

In line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, East Cambridgeshire District Council is fully committed to protect the privacy of our constituents, staff and members. We ensure the safe processing of personal data through strict guidelines for collection, storage, and retention of information. Where appropriate, data sharing protocols are entered into and robust security measures are in place. The council maintains its Public Services Network (PSN) compliance, demonstrating its on-going commitment to supporting best practice in the maintenance and handling of data.

For further information contact: The Data Protection Officer, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, Cambs., CB7 4EE (email: dataprotection@eastcambs.gov.uk)

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) applies to East Cambridgeshire District Council and therefore information provided by you may have to be disclosed by the District Council in response to a request unless the District Council considers that a statutory exemption applies.