

Kenilworth Town Council



Application for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funds

Project Title Kenilworth Skatepark (Castle Farm)
Name of Organisation/Group Kenilworth Town Council
Address Kenilworth Town Council, Jubilee House, Smalley Place
Post Code
Contact Name Cllr Andrew Milton
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Background of your Organisation/Group (Tell us a little about your group/organisation e.g.: what does it do? Who is it for?)
This is a submission coming from the Kenilworth Town Council. In order to deliver the project successfully we will be heavily dependent on Warwick District Council (WDC) and we also have the support from the community of users at the skatepark and other local organisations like the Kenilworth Centre.
Overview of Project/Scheme (Outline proposed use of CIL funding)
The Skate Park at Castle Farm is a well-loved and well-used local facility. Initially established over 20 years ago, the facility is now looking a little tired despite the best efforts of Warwick District Council, and users who have worked hard to keep the facility in good condition. However, it is the nature of these modular facilities that over time they become more difficult to keep in good condition. Additionally the way that the site has developed, organically over time and with no overall masterplan, has meant that the riding experience is sub-optimal. This is a project that has had Town Council support since 2019 when a list of priority projects for CIL funding was initially drawn up. As a result, during 2022/23 we spent some weeks working with members of the skatepark community to build a new visionary design for the skatepark. This was enabled by £5,000 of CIL funding from the Town Council which allowed us to bring in a professional design company – Wheelscape – to work with users to translate their needs into a draft design. Since then the project has been on hold awaiting funding. A copy of the initial designs has been attached to this application.

We have made a number of approaches to WDC over time with different portfolio holders to gain support for the project. However, it wasn't until this year that we have been successful in gaining support, by way of earmarked funding from WDC.

The Green Spaces team have now put resource behind the project with a project manager (Sam Drain) and oversight (Helen Hancox.) They will be responsible for delivering the project, including engaging the community further and addressing funding any budget gap. WDC are also in the process of setting up a Project Board to oversee the project and have invited Cllr Andrew Milton to sit on this group.

We are now in a position where we have significant support from WDC, both financially and in terms of officer time. We have engagement from the skatepark community to assist with further fundraising. We now have the opportunity to move forward with this project and give the people of Kenilworth a state of the art skatepark that they deserve.

Project Timescales

(Please provide an outline of the implementation timetable including any key milestones. If the project is to be undertaken in this or the next financial year then set out the outline quarterly project plan)

WDC has already appointed a project manager as well as allocating some of the funding. It is hoped that this project can commence in the summer and be completed over a few months. The timescale isn't within the Town Council's control.

Total Amount of Funding Requested

(Please give the total amount of CIL monies sought)

£ up to £125k

Costing of Project with Full Detailed Breakdown

As part of the work with Wheelscape we asked them to provide an estimated cost for construction for the design as set out. They suggested a figure of £300,000 and it's important to note that this is an estimate rather than a cost. Construction cost inflation has likely increased this figure.

However, with projects like this there will always be opportunities for value engineering i.e. changing the design to fit the budget, but it is important that the final design remains an improvement on the current facility.

£150,000 has been earmarked by the District Council.

Detailed project costing will be the responsibility of the project team.

**Details of other sources of funding applied for and names of any partner organisations.
Please include any funding applied for by any partner organisations.**

At the setting of the 2026/27 budget WDC agreed to earmark £150,000 of funding from reserves to facilitate this project.

Over the years the community at the skatepark have raised in the region of £80,000 for improvements to the facility (e.g. the additional of lighting.) They are keen to be involved in raising further funding from local, regional and national bodies.

Please specify here the responsibility for ongoing maintenance costs

This is a WDC facility so responsibility for maintenance will remain with them (or their successor authority).

How your Proposal meets CIL Funding Criteria

(Your application may meet some or all of the criteria of the CIL priorities. Please explain, where applicable, how your scheme/project meets these criteria. If the criteria to not apply please mark N/A)

Community Priorities

How the proposal has been identified through consultation with residents and the community

As part of the design stage we held a number of consultation events in collaboration with the Kenilworth Centre. We had a core group of 8-10 users who then worked with Wheelscape to help to create the draft design. Many of the people involved had previously contacted the Town Council proactively to urge us to improve the skatepark.

This spirit of consultation will continue throughout the project, engaging the users of all ages but also the wider community.

How the Project will benefit the community as a whole; for the "Common Good"

The people who use the skatepark span age groups. Whilst a large number of them are teenagers, there are older skaters and also younger skaters and different genders. One of the most joyous elements of the facility is the way it fosters a sense of community. It's obvious that the older users 'look out' for the younger users, making sure that they're safe but also helping them to learn the next trick and improve their riding.

Since 2020, skateboarding has been an Olympic Sport. Perhaps this facility might help find the next skating star of the future!

How the Project will Benefit Young People and their Future

The skatepark has been an important facility for young people in our town enabling them to focus on an activity that they enjoy, develop their skills (and the skills of others) and providing important opportunities to build social contacts.

This facility also gives our young people the opportunity to actively engage in community building in their own right – making this investment now will benefit not just the users but our town and wider society.

Strategic Priorities

How the Project prioritises long-term Investment in Infrastructure

This project is an infrastructure project in its own right. In the past much of the impetus for this facility has been driven by the users themselves. We now have an opportunity to support this community to evolve the facility to its next iteration.

By committing funding to this project we are also enabling additional investment to come into our town, initially £150,000 from Warwick District Council but also additional investment from fundraising.

How the Project Promotes Kenilworth as a Business and Tourist Destination

This is not the primary aim of the project.

How the proposal addresses demands imposed by the increasing population in the town

The current skatepark is in need of significant refurbishment. Making this investment now will ensure that it is fit for purpose and provides a facility for the residents of the town for years to come.

How the proposal supports Kenilworth Town Council initiatives (e.g., Cycling Strategy Group, Tourism Group, the Town Centre Working Group, Climate Emergency Roadmap).

The skatepark was one of the priority projects identified by the Town Council when we considered our CIL priorities in 2019.

Management Priorities

Will the proposal seek joint funding/partnership arrangements with WDC/WCC and external bodies (e.g., universities, Sustrans, English Heritage) for infrastructure?

£150,000 has already been secured from Warwick District Council.

As part of the project additional funding will be sought through grant applications to other bodies, local, regional and national.

A project board will be established by WDC.

How will your organisation/group explain publicly how the CIL receipts are forecast, managed and reported?

Reporting will be provided through the Town Council and Warwick District Council. We will request that minutes of the Project Board are shared with the Town Council and public.

How will your organisation explain publicly how CIL has been spent and allocated?

This will be done through the standard Kenilworth Town Council reporting including through Council and Committee minutes.

How will your organisation ensure that the costs of consultation and project management are covered?

This will be provided by Warwick District Council and is provided for within their funding.

Additional Information that may support your Application

