



Joint Eastern Arun Area County Local Committee

Community Initiative Fund application



CLC Reference: 288/JEAAC

Local Councillor: James Walsh

Status: Fundraising Stage

Project Cost: £6,215.00 (as found under crowdfunding goal total)

Project Title: Sportsfield Irrigation

About:

The irrigation system requires upgrading so that better and more environmental friendly use can be made of water resources. An upgraded computerised system would permit watering at times when water is not wasted as a result of evaporation. The introduction of pop-up sprinklers, especially with the fine-turf areas, would make more economical, practical, less wasteful and more environmentally friendly use of water. Irrigation is an important and integral part of the grass management, especially as the demand for better quality playing surfaces has increased. It is essential for:

- plant survival and growth with deep and healthy roots, allowing grass to recover from use and wear
- for soil formation and hardness where it is important to provide even ball bounce and movement
- for soil strength with fewer weeds and insects, reducing the need for fertilizer and pesticide applications
- for chemical transport ensuring that plants and roots fully benefit from fertilizer applications
- for managing play-ability with safe, smooth and consistent ball bounce and roll
- for presentation and appearance purposes

Project Delivery Manager: Littlehampton Sportsfield Trust

Why we're pitching for a pledge:

I have been the Manager of the Littlehampton Sportsfield since 1991 and have tried to make it the best private sports facility in Sussex.

What we'll deliver:

- Better use of water as a scarce resource
- Safer playing surfaces
- Increased participation in sport

Why it's a great idea:

An efficient irrigation system will mean lower staffing, operating and maintenance costs; it will reduce water usage and contribute to a healthy turf. By introduction a more efficient irrigation control system it will be possible to make better usage of water as a scarce resource. It will reduce the effects of drought and hot weather; it will help the maintenance of adequate plant health and life, including allowing nutrients to be taken up by the plant; it will ensure a suitable grass density and allow an adequate strength and tolerance; it will maintain the playability of sports areas and maintain the overall standards of the facility.

Steps to get it done:

- Introduce computerised irrigation control system
- Upgrade pumping station
- Conserve water

The provision of a high standard of grounds maintenance is an on-going requirement of a modern sports facility. There can be no doubt that the success and future of such a provider can be measured by the excellence of its playing surfaces, particular those of a fine turf nature, where the development of young sports people is vital. It is of paramount importance that properly maintained playing surfaces are provided that encourage the young sports person to continue playing sport on good sporting surfaces and in a safe environment. The proper and most effective use of water will continue to be a priority and ways of improving the use of water will continue to be investigated and appraised.