



## Joint Western Arun Area Committee Community Initiative Fund application



**CLC Reference:** 363/JWAAC

**Local Councillor:** Derek Whittington

**Status:** Fundraising Stage - overfunding enabled (refer to 'what we'll deliver' section)

**Project Cost:** £16,641.00 (as found under crowdfunding goal total)

**Project Title:** Community Playcentre all-weather garden

### About:

Remove current grassed area and replace with an all-weather surface to enable all the children who access this facility to enjoy and discover the benefits of outdoor play all year and in any weather.

An all-weather surface will provide babies with the opportunity to explore the outdoors from the moment they arrive when they are non-mobile through to crawling, walking and then running. As the children get older our garden offers them the opportunity to develop their movement and skills in a larger space. All children will have an opportunity to go outside during all sessions and discover the feeling of being in fresh air and experiencing all different elements in the natural world. Our primary school age children enjoy the opportunities provided by our outdoor space after their school day, often sharing the activities with their younger siblings and friends. This all-weather surface will provide the opportunity to use the whole garden every day of the year, whatever the weather, which is so important for all our children.

**Project Delivery Manager:** Community Playcentre @ Walberton

**About me:**

We are a registered charity, that provides childcare for children from babies to 11 years, every weekday from 7.30am to 6pm throughout the year. Our nursery children, can attend for a full or part of the day, and take part in a variety of activities designed to meet their individual needs and support their development. We offer an "out of school club" during school term time for breakfast and after school, taking and collecting children to and from our local school. We also offer a holiday club for any primary school age children. Our purpose-built building, funded by the local community, opened in September 2015, and stands on the Parish Council owned local recreation field. We have our own fenced garden, which the children access in all weathers, every day. We can take 35 children in our own building, but also use our Parish Council Pavilion for up to 20 school age children to access activities which are more appropriate for their age group. Community Playcentre @ Walberton is the charity that manages the Playcentre, and consists of seven volunteer Trustees who ensure that we meet the needs of local families, ensure the financial viability of the setting, and support the staff in delivering high quality day care provision. We work closely with the local community and are continuing to work towards developing our resources and opportunities within the local community. We are a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered as a charity in April 2011 and incorporated in May 2011. Registered Company No. 07640357 Registered Charity No. 1143734.

Website: <http://communityplaycentre.org/>

**Why we're pitching for a pledge:**

An all-weather surface will provide our babies and children the opportunity to explore the outside environment all year in all weathers.

**What we'll deliver:**

- Replace the grassed area with an all-weather surface
- Provide a separate garden area for the babies and toddlers to explore outside
- Provide a nursery garden with opportunities to develop, create and explore

**How any extra funds raised from overfunding will be spent:**

- Purchase and install additional fixed play equipment
- Purchase additional outside resources

**Why it's a great idea:**

Our children access the outside every day. The current outdoor play space is inaccessible for the majority of the winter months, due to the grass becoming extremely slippery, and changing into a large area of mud, the safety of our children is paramount, but being outside is essential for young children's wellbeing and development. Currently the children enjoy planting and growing, and the new design of the garden will still encourage the children to continue with this opportunity to explore the natural world, but the new surface will provide them with the opportunity to be outside every day whatever

the weather. Our garden will be open on a Saturday in June as part of the Walberton Open Gardens Day. Our garden is used at weekends during Community Playcentre events, and when the setting is hired for private parties. We are continuing to develop opportunities for the Playcentre and garden to provide opportunities for children's play within the wider community.

**Steps to get it done:**

- Remove the current grass and earth.
- Prepare the surface to provide drainage.
- Fit the all-weather surface.
- Fit fixed play equipment, and dividing fencing, which will remain outside.

An accessible outdoor space that can be used all year, in all weathers, will offer our children the best start in life. Being outside is essential for our children's wellbeing, supports their physical development, encourages exploration, problem solving, co-operation, language, and most importantly gives them a great deal of enjoyment. We are fortunate that our setting also enables our children to go out on to the Parish Recreation field, exploring a large area of grass for play, but our fenced garden provides children with the opportunity to choose to play inside or outside every day. The babies and toddlers will have all their play area covered in a soft surface, enabling them to explore and learn on a rubber mulched area and artificial grass. The older children will still have a patio to ride their wheeled toys, but the rest of their garden will have artificial grass, for a wide variety of activities encouraging them to develop and learn outside.