

S106 Community Facilities Grants Eligibility & Selection Criteria

Application deadline: 9.00am 28 February 2020.

Applications are invited from community groups and not-for-profit organisations seeking a S106 grant to help provide and/or enhance recreation and outdoor space in Brixworth.

Brixworth Parish Council is keen to encourage the opening up of sports facilities to the wider community. As a result of additional housing within the village, Brixworth Parish Council is in receipt of £242,050.67 which has been provided in order to fund:

- the provision and/or enhancement of outdoor recreation within Brixworth £108,904.83
- the provision and/or enhancement of indoor recreation within Brixworth £67,882.53
- the provision and/or enhancement of parks and public gardens within Brixworth £65,263.31

Please see below an overview of S106 contributions and how it is to be used to mitigate the impact of development.

1. What are S106 contributions?

a. New housing and other development leads to more demands on local facilities (e.g., play areas, open spaces, community meeting spaces, sports centres, playing pitches and changing rooms).

Where this is not addressed through new on-site provision, the council asks developers (wherever possible) to pay off-site S106 contributions, for new/improved off-site facilities.

b. All S106 contributions have to be used in line with their intended purposes, as set out in legally-binding S106 agreements and Council policy. Official regulations also set three tests that councils must apply to ensure that S106 contributions are:

- necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
- directly related to the development;
- fair and reasonable in scale and kind.

2. What are the rules governing the use of S106 funding?

New regulations, which came into effect in April 2015, require councils to confine themselves to securing specific contributions for particular projects to mitigate the impact of the development.

The intended purpose of the S106 contributions received from Barratts in order to mitigate the impact of development include:

- a. Outdoor sports – eg tennis courts, basketball and multi-use games areas commonly known as MUGA), outdoor 'fit kit', sports pavilions/changing rooms for outdoor sport, sports equipment;
- b. Indoor sports – eg Indoor gyms, changing rooms for indoor sports and indoor sports equipment;
- c. Informal open spaces - For parks/open spaces: eg paths, signs, lighting, landscaping, fencing, trees/ shrubs, drainage, habitat creation, skate parks, benches, bins, noticeboard. Usually Council-owned/managed.

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The provision for children and teenagers must be included – eg new/improved play areas or more/better equipment for existing play areas, plus safety surfacing under equipment. Usually Council-owned/managed.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE EXAMPLES GIVEN ARE JUST EXAMPLES. The Sports Council has investigated the costs of some projects:

- Small leisure centre (MUGA providing badminton, volleyball and 5-a-side football, cardiovascular suite, café, changing facilities – COST £2M in 2012 – source Pitsford School. In addition to this there would be employment and operating costs in the region of £50k per annum – source Crunch;
- Swimming pool – COST base construction £2.1-£4.0m with an annual operating budget of £24k – source Sport England;
- Skatepark – COST £99,544 Cullompton in 2010.

3. DECIDING HOW IT IS TO BE USED

a. Proposals related to particular contribution types will be invited for improving council-owned amenities (e.g., play areas and open spaces). Grant applications are also sometimes invited from community groups and sports clubs looking to improve their facilities and make them available for wider community use.

b. The proposals and grant applications are assessed against clear selection criteria. In short, these highlight the need for projects to be:

1. eligible for S106 funding (i.e., within the village of Brixworth and not for repairs and maintenance, like-for-like replacements or running costs);
2. affordable within the S106 funding available;
3. an effective use of resources (e.g., reflecting priorities in Council strategies);
4. providing additional benefit;
5. accessible, in line with Council grants and equalities policies;
6. realistic, achievable and ready to be considered; and
7. financially viable, with a robust business case and/or management plans.

PLEASE SEE PAGES A AND B FOR FURTHER DETAIL

Eligibility of the project for S106 funding

To be eligible for funding, the applicant organisation must have a constitution or set of rules, demonstrate that they have consulted facility users/the local community, provide any other evidence of need for the project, and have the written support of Brixworth Parish Council.

S106 funding is available for capital projects only. Revenue funding towards on-going running costs will not be available. The types of project that might be eligible will be dependent primarily upon evidence that an assessment has been made of local community needs and that the project provides new or improved community or social infrastructure, the need for which has at least arisen in part as a result of new development in the community. Some examples of the types of projects which might be appropriate are listed below:-

Community Centre/Village Halls:

Upgrading facilities in Brixworth 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 and provision of facilities which will enable the hall to diversify its use. Examples of an eligible project:

- The installation of a new kitchen.
- Complete re-roofing of a facility.
- 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:
 - A new cooker.
 - The replacement of broken roof tiles.
 - Painting a meeting room.

Multi-purpose sports and centres which serve the general public:

Building a new facility, extending or refurbishing an existing facility or the provision of disabled facilities. 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.

Examples of an eligible project:

- The installation of a new sprung floor.
- Complete re-surfacing 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:
 - Patch repairs to a pitch.
 - Fixing a broken shower.
 - Goal posts or other sports equipment.

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 2017 in order 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:

- New play equipment
- New safety surface
- A youth shelter

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

- Patch repairs to safety surfaces.
- Painting existing play equipment.

Open Spaces:

Grants are available to community groups who have leases for a minimum of 25 years or, where land is 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:

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

Examples of projects that would not be eligible for funding:

- Repairing a sign
- Replacing or repairing a damaged bench.

S106 Community Facilities Grants Eligibility & Selection

- Applications are invited from community groups and not-for-profit organisations seeking a S106 grant to help improve their community through the provision and/or enhancement of indoor, outdoor youth and adult recreation and the provision and/or enhancement of parks and public spaces within Brixworth.
- Groups and organisations wishing to apply must have a bank account and must have the authority and legal status to make the requested improvements. The Council reserves the right to carry out a credit check to assess the organisation's viability.
- All grant recipients will need to sign a grant agreement, confirming that they will be able to continue to offer the facilities for wider community use for an agreed amount of hours per week at an affordable rate and for a period of 25 years (occasionally reduced for very small grants). They will be required to display a plaque acknowledging the Council's S106 support and actively promote the facilities. Please note that the funding round is a competitive process: the Executive Councillor will decide, from the proposals that meet the selection criteria, which ones to fund. To be considered for this S106 funding to improve community facilities, proposals must:

1. Be ELIGIBLE for S106 funding

- a. Proposals need to be for providing, improving or giving better access to a community facility within the village boundary, primarily for the benefit of village residents.
- b. The funding cannot be used for general repairs, maintenance or running costs.

2. Be AFFORDABLE within the S106 funding available for the area of the village where the community facility is located

- a. The availability of S106 funding is small and where funding is available from other sources it would be expected that applicants would approach those sources as well.
- b. The Council may not wish to invest all the available into a single project.
- c. Grant applicants must give assurances that the S106 funding requested is needed and that it does not already have sufficient funds for the project.
- d. Organisations seeking S106 grants are encouraged to undertake other fund-raising and not just be reliant on the S106 grant.

3. Be an EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCE in line with the Council's strategic objectives

- a. Priority will be given to proposals that can provide evidence that the project would help to mitigate the impact of development in Brixworth.

4. Provide ADDITIONAL BENEFIT

- a. S106 funding has to be used for providing more or better facilities or equipment that will help to meet increasing demands. It cannot be used for making like-for-like replacements.
- b. S106 grants are not available for buying land and property, but could be made available to refurbish/improve facilities once sites have been acquired by other means.

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5. Be ACCESSIBLE, in line with the Council's equality policy

- Successful applicants must sign a grant agreement, which is legally binding for 25 years (occasionally reduced for very small grants).
- b. This includes an undertaking that the community facilities will be available for wide community use for an agreed number of hours a week, with no discrimination against any protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, region and belief, sex, sexual orientation).
- c. Organisations may set reasonable charges for the hire/use of the S106-funded facilities by community groups, but S106 funding cannot be used for overtly profit-making purposes.

6. Be REALISTIC, ACHIEVABLE and READY to be considered

- a. Proposals need to be clear about what the funding is for, where in Brixworth it would be located and how the improvement project would be implemented.
- b. Applicants need to give details of preparations in place to secure planning permission (where necessary) and to consult the local community about the proposed project.
- c. Applicants need to provide evidence about their fund-raising efforts and their expected timescales for securing all the funding needed for the project to go ahead.
- d. Priority will be given to project proposals which could reasonably be expected to be completed within 18 months of a grant award decision.
- e. Applicants will need to provide proof of ownership of the community facility and a credit check will be carried out to ensure that the organisation is financially sustainable.

7. Be FINANCIALLY VIABLE, with ROBUST MANAGEMENT PLANS in place

- a. Applicants need to demonstrate sufficient resources are in place to ensure the effective management and running of the facility in the future.
- b. Grant agreements include pay back clauses if the project does not provide the expected public benefit for the time period agreed.
- c. S106 funding is for capital projects and equipment, not for revenue costs.