

REPORT 25.052(3) Grant Applications

Author: Trudi Deane, Parish Clerk

Date: 10th April 2025

1. REPORT SUMMARY

A report to councillors regarding a grant application from Laverstock and Ford Sports Club.
Application attached Annex One.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the council considers a donations to Laverstock Sports Club under the powers granted by
Section 164 of the Public Health Act 1875



Laverstock & Ford Parish Council

incorporating Bishopdown Farm, Ford, Hampton Park, Laverstock, Longhedge, Old Sarum, River Down Park and parts of Milford

Application for Grant for Voluntary Organisations Local Government Act 1972, Section 137

Please be advised that all applicants are invited to attend and address the Laverstock and Ford Parish Council Meeting deciding your application. Although this is not compulsory it is seen to be beneficial especially for grant applications over £500.

1	Name of Organisation and date (the name of your club, charity etc. plus date of application)
	Laverstock & Ford Football Club
2	Amount of Grant aid being requested (how much money are you asking for?)
	£2000 – £3000
3	Tell us about the project or activity you are applying for financial support for (this space is for a summary, you can also include further detail and supporting documents with this application).
	We are applying for financial support to contribute towards key infrastructure improvements at Laverstock & Ford Sports Club's main football pitch. These upgrades include: • Replacing outdated floodlights with modern, energy-efficient LED units • Repairing or replacing our deteriorated dugouts • Installing new spectator coverage to improve comfort and accessibility for fans These improvements will enhance the safety, sustainability, and inclusivity of our facilities, supporting a wide demographic of parish residents—from youth teams and adult players to families and elderly spectators. We regularly host over 200 attendees per match, and the ground is used by multiple age groups, including 9 youth teams and from next season, 11 youth teams, four senior teams and the 1st team which competes at Step 5 of the National Football non league pyramid including FA competitions (FA Cup, FA Vase). The goal is to provide a welcoming, safe, and high-standard community sports space that meets required league and ground grading standards.
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4	Please explain how your project or activity supports the Laverstock and Ford Parish Council's Parish Plan (available to view at www.laverstockford-pc.gov.uk)
	Our project directly supports the Laverstock & Ford Parish Plan in the following ways: • Community & Youth Development: By improving facilities used by local youth and adult teams, our project supports healthy lifestyles, encourages active participation in sport, and promotes social inclusion. • Wellbeing & Safety: LED lighting increases safety and access during darker months, enabling safe evening play and reducing energy usage. • Sustainability: The switch to LED lights reduces carbon footprint and running costs, contributing to environmental objectives in the Parish Plan. • Facilities & Infrastructure: Enhancing local recreational assets aligns with the Plan's aim to maintain and develop community infrastructure for current and future generations.
5	Please tell us how your project or activity meets the criteria set out in the Laverstock and Ford Parish Council's grant policy (available to view at www.laverstockford-pc.gov.uk)
	Benefit to Parish Residents: Our pitch is located in the parish and used 2-3 times a week by local players, volunteers, with 200+ attending home games. The improvements will serve a wide cross-section of the community. Laverstock & Ford Sports Club is a community-focused organisation that operates with the primary aim of providing sporting opportunities and facilities for the benefit of local residents. While the club is VAT registered and operates with some commercial responsibilities, it is run by a committee of volunteers and any revenue generated is reinvested directly into the club's maintenance, improvement, and the development of grassroots sport. Clear Community Benefit: Improved infrastructure will allow us to host more events, attract more teams, and better serve local youth and adult players, fostering pride and participation. Effective Use of Funds: We are sourcing competitive quotes and seeking contributions from multiple sources to maximise impact. Environmental and Financial Sustainability: LED upgrades reduce energy use and long-term costs, and are essential for compliance with league standards. Complementary to Parish Facilities: Our club complements other recreational spaces and contributes to the vibrancy of local life.
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5	Approximately how many people who will benefit from your project or activity are residents of Laverstock and Ford Parish?
	The number of beneficiaries varies throughout the season, but on a typical match day—including players, coaches, volunteers, supporters, and youth team members acting as mascots or ball assistants—we estimate that around 350-400 residents of Laverstock & Ford Parish are regularly engaged with the club. This includes participants across all age groups, families, and spectators. Our average home game attendance exceeds 200, the majority of whom are local residents, and we continue to see growth in community involvement each season.
7	What will be the TOTAL cost of your project/activity (not just the money you are applying for in this application but the overall cost of the project)
	Approximately £35,500 - £44,000 + vat Breakdown (estimates): • LED Floodlights: Between £25,000 - £31,000 + vat • Dugouts (repair/replacement): £9,000 - £10,500 + vat • Spectator Coverage/Shelters: £1,500 – 2,500
8	Have you applied for grant/s for this project or activity from any other source? (Please give details and tell us the dates of when these monies will be awarded)
	• Football Foundation grant – application in progress, it has been confirmed we can apply for 70% of total amounts required. We have previously successfully applied for grants to help improve changing room and toilet facilities (in 2021) • We have been in contact and applied for £5,000 from Strategic Engagement & Partnerships Manager (Karen Linaker) Wiltshire Council • Team Grassroots - https://www.teamgrassroots.co.uk/fund/ • Proud to Pitch In (Green King) - https://www.greeneking.co.uk/proud-to-pitch-in • Wiltshire Council- Area Board Grants - https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/6145/Area-Board-Grants • National Lottery - Community Fund - https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england • Wiltshire Community Foundation – Community Grants - https://www.wiltshirecf.org.uk/grants-and-support/groups/community-grants/ • Community First – Landfill Community Funding - https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/grants/ • WASP
9	If the TOTAL cost of your project/activity is more than the grant being applied for how will you fund the remaining costs?

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	Yes – we are actively seeking support from a variety of sources: • Local fundraising events (raffles, community days, car park rental for events) – ongoing • Sponsorship from local businesses – We have a sponsor's game 12th April where all current sponsors come and enjoy the day, before hearing our vision laid out to continue their joint partnership for our community drive. • Football Foundation grant – application in progress, it has been confirmed we can apply for 70% of total amounts required. We have previously successfully applied for grants to help improve changing room and toilet facilities (in 2021) • Club fundraising from matchday revenue and donations • Further sponsorship drives, new partners being discussed • Excellent social media coverage – We have a volunteer who is excellent at promoting and enhancing the audience attention We expect decisions from some of these sources in the coming weeks.
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10	Name and Address of your Organisation/Charity/Club etc. (as detailed on the bank account that any funds awarded will be paid to. Please include your Charity Registration number if you are applying as a Charity)
	Laverstock & Ford Sports Club Church Road Laverstock Salisbury Wiltshire SP1 1QX
11	Name and contact details of primary contact (the person who has responsibility for making this application within your group/organisation)