

Monday 16th December 2020

Dear Parish Clerk and Chair,

RE: Request for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds

We have been made aware that Tattenhall Parish Council has been in receipt of CIL funds, and would like to request a donation to Tattenhall Park Primary School's field development project.

The school, the Governors and the Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA), are working towards upgrading the outdoor space of the school. Unfortunately, there has been no Department of Education funding to assist with this.

As you will be aware, the school has been recently expanded with a view to increase each year group (apart from the nursery class) from 30 children to 45 over the coming years. The pupil numbers will continue to rise from 200 to a new maximum capacity of 341 pupils, with an unknown increase in the number of Special Educational Needs and Pupil Premium children. (The Pupil Premium is a sum of money given to schools each year by the Government to improve the attainment of disadvantaged children, and is intended to directly benefit the children who are eligible, helping to narrow the gap between them and their classmates.)

The reason we are attempting to upgrade the outdoor space is to ensure the outdoor facilities are maintained or improved as the pupil numbers continue to grow.

The development plan is to install a new drainage system in the field, hopefully in the summer of 2020. The drainage plan which has been designed by CWAC will cost approximately £30,000 to install. This drainage system will be a once in a generation investment which will improve the quality of the clay-based field immeasurably for many years to come.

So far the PTFA, a registered charity, has raised approximately £13,000 through a large number of fundraising activities. As you can see we are in urgent need of additional funding to assist our current fundraising efforts in order to start work on the field next summer. The drainage work can only be carried out in the summer months.

We would like briefly to explain why we believe we are eligible for a significant donation of the CIL funding:

Firstly, the reason for the school expansion is the growth of the village in recent years. We're unaware of another institution in the village which has been affected by recent house building as much as the school. That simple reason forms the basis of our request.

However, in order to provide evidence of the impact of this in recent years it is important to note the shortfall in funding the school has experienced. This is due to an increase in pupils who have Special Educational Needs (SEN), and also the number of Pupil Premium children has risen dramatically.

We are able to provide more detailed figures confidentially upon request, but in summary the funding shortfalls are as follows for the school year 2019/20:

Special Educational Needs funding = shortfall of £24,000.

Pupil Premium funding = shortfall of £11,880.

The second reason for requesting funds is the degrading quality of the field as the pupil numbers increase. The combination of a higher footfall of pupils on an already boggy, clay-based field is only making matters worse.

The amount of time the children are able to play on the field is decreasing year on year. Additionally, the school is having to organise the majority of school sporting matches at other schools due to the boggy nature of the field.

We hope that with the Parish Council's support the school can invest in a new drainage system that will vastly improve and increase the exercise routines, sporting opportunities, health and wellbeing for current and future generations of pupils.

In light of an extremely challenging time for schools financially, we would be very grateful if you would consider our request for a donation to the PTFA, our fundraising arm. We hope our request to invest in the youngest constituents in our village represents an opportunity to use the CIL funding for those who are most affected.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lis Oats,
Chair of the Governing Board, Tattenhall Park Primary School

Claire Russell,
Chair of the Tattenhall Parents Teachers and Friends Association