

Wellow Sports – speech to Cabinet by Ron Humphreys 10.09.2014

I'm Ron Humphreys and during my time as a member of the senior team at the University of Bath I've had the pleasure of working closely with the Council on issues relating to economic development and hosting the School Games, Olympic, Paralympic and Malaysian sports training camps.

Now retired, my role within Wellow Sports has been to raise funds to meet the overall requirement of £166,000. I am pleased to report that we now have pledges that amount to £143,000. This leaves us with a shortfall of £23,000.

The team before you this evening seeks your approval for the Council to award £15,000 to this outstanding project. Through local fundraising, we will meet the remaining balance of £8,000.

As you will have seen from the proposal circulated prior to this meeting, the breakdown of costs is as follows:

Two floodlit tennis courts plus netball court	126,000
Smoothing of playing field	10,500
Jogging track	7,500
Outdoor gym	10,000
Cricket nets	10,000
Boules court	2,000

Total	166,000

To meet these costs, we have secured pledges that will bring major investment into this area. For the tennis / netball courts we have awards from:

	£
Sport England 'Inspired Facilities' Fund	50,000
Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)	30,000
A major local Charitable Trust	25,000

For the outdoor gym equipment we have received £9,500 from Big Lottery 'Awards for All'

The cricket group have raised £10,000

We are extremely grateful to Cllr Neil Butters, Past Chairman for the £500 he contributed to the boules element

And from local fund raising we have £18,000 in our bank account ready to plug the funding gaps.

So that makes the total secured so far: £143,000

Since many of these offers are time limited, we need the Council to award £15,000 to guarantee that the project can proceed. It would represent the 'last brick' in the funding wall that would enable us to move from the planning and fundraising stage of the project to the execution phase. Site works to commence early 2015 with completion mid-year latest.

The reward for us all would be the satisfaction that we have created a new, healthy, active future for local residents, particularly our young people. Sibella is here to represent them.