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**Neighbourhood Portion of
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Bath**

**PROJECT EXPRESION OF INTEREST AND APPLICATION
FOR FUNDING FORM**

SECTION 1: FOR COMPLETION BY THE PROJECT APPLICANT

1) Contact Details:

Name:	Joy Saunders
Organisation:	Bath City Football Club Ltd.
Phone number:	
E-mail address:	

2) Project Details:

**2.1 Have you or your organisation previously applied for funding from
Neighbourhood Portion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Bath**

Yes – for a FIFA Quality PRO all-weather pitch at its Twerton park stadium but this CIL application was not progressed as our redevelopment application was rejected at the planning stage. Due to the likely time this will take to re-assess, re-design and resubmit an application we are years away from this original project coming to fruition and therefore need to make vital improvements to the pitch as outlined below.

Bath City FC has also benefited from the Community Empowerment Fund of 2017/18.

**2.2 Description of your project – including your outcomes and objectives
(maximum 300 words)**

The overall drainage performance of the football pitch at Twerton Park has deteriorated due to age and wear-and-tear (it has been in place for around 30 years) and is now in need of immediate and vital improvements to allow both Bath City FC Men's and Bristol City Women's Football team to continue playing there.

We are looking for CIL funding to help pay for these vital restoration works to the drainage system. Investing in these improvements will enable Men's and Women's Football to continue to be played at Twerton Park.

Football brings considerable physical and mental health benefits for players including improving aerobic capacity, cardiovascular health and promoting teamwork and a sense of wellbeing. Studies also show that watching football contributes positively to mental, physical and emotional health.

BCFC has positioned itself as a community-led anchor organization within Bath that is proactively seeking to make a meaningful contribution to community life through its football activities, community outreach, and business-hub and has a demonstrated track record of being a focal point for the wider football focused community. Sport benefits all and we are keen to operate in such a way that all parts of our community feel included and benefit from our presence.

2.3 Reasons for supporting this project (maximum 300 words)

The pitch is a key part of the club's strategy to become financially sustainable over the long term. The club has been successful in reducing its operating losses over the last 4 years primarily because of community ownership (which happened in May 2017) and our intentional strategy to be a friendly, welcoming community football club. We have purposely pivoted our mission and ethos to make helping our local community part of our daily purpose.

Like many others, due to COVID-19 disruption we have not been able to have crowds in this season (our key source of income) which has resulted in us not been able to save for the remediation works through normal operating activities. As a result, we are looking to raise funds to cover the needed work.

To give a feel for our community outreach, in the 12 months before COVID we were able to do the following:

- Given 156 hours of free room rental to 13 local charities and third sector groups
- Provided another 800+ hours of discounted facilities to a local children's charity
- Visited 15 different schools to talk about the benefits of sport and invite them to a match. Over 2,000 children and parents/guardians have attended games for free or at a reduced price
- Provided our inflatable beat-the-goalie to 11 school or community fetes, free of charge, raising £100s for PTAs
- Our charity, the Bath City Foundation, has provided hundreds of hours of free and discounted coaching
- Bath City Youth has run teams for hundreds of children and hosted an annual youth tournament at Twerton Park enjoyed by thousands
- Welcomed record numbers of local people to our Community pay-want-you-want and Family Day matches
- Seen BCFC average match day attendance grow from under 697 (season 2017/18) to over 1,100 spectators per first team game (to 30/03/19)

- Engaged directly and substantively with multiple third sector organisations including: *Bath MIND, Julian House including the refugee resettlement programme and foodbank scheme, Southside Project, Action for Children, Threeways, Bath City Farm, the Stroke Association, Bath 3SG, St Mungo's, BaNES Public Health department, the Community Playbus, Time2Share, Bath Area Play Project, Time Bank, Quartet Community Foundation, Dream Big Twerton, WEA Adult Learning, Localgiving*

Also attached is our community strategy and an idea of the wider projects we are involved with.

2.4 Is this a new project or does this project link into an existing project? (include a breakdown of how you plan to allocate the funding)

This is a new project, and all funds would be allocated to restoring the pitch.

2.5 Target Start Date

Spring 2021

2.6 Target Completion Date

Summer 2021

2.7 What milestones and targets have you included in the delivery of this project?

- 1) Obtain quote for works – Done – Feb 2021
- 2) Raise funds – Spring 2021
- 3) Schedule and complete works – Summer 2021

2.8 If planning permission is required for this project has it been granted? If Yes - please include the dates and reference numbers for these permissions.

N/A

3) Criteria

- 3.1 How does the project address the specific impacts of the new developments from which the funding has been generated? (You may consider this on a ward basis, a locality basis or a city wide basis.)**

The area close to Twerton Park has seen significant development over recent years including new housing developments such as Roseberry Place (175 flats), Western Riverside (permission has been granted for over 2,000 homes) and forthcoming developments at the former Bath Press site (244 dwellings), a nine-story building of 95 dwellings at Chivers House on Lower Bristol Road, a retirement village on the homebase site in Pines Way (up to 288 flats) as well as housing planned for the BMW garage on Lower Bristol Road (up to 700 units).

None of these new developments have significant sport (or community) facilities. A new pitch at Twerton Park could help more of our local community to enjoy family-friendly matches as well as attract new residents into Twerton High Street, boosting the local

economy and integrating them with the existing community. Any new residents from these developments may also be enticed by our community or business ties. For example, the commercial “Cross Fit” gym, which has been using the “Randall’s” event space at Twerton Park since February 2018, already attracts over 250 members of the wider Bath community to the stadium every week. Alternatively, we also offer focused volunteering opportunities for people who are able and willing to give their time to good local causes.

The new pitch would be easily accessible by foot or bike for residents from the new developments and would provide opportunities to build informal networks, which will improve social cohesion within the new housing developments. We believe that the new pitch would directly meet Policy SB14 of the B&NES Core Strategy & Placemaking Plan, which states “*Any change within Twerton Park should seek to enhance the facility and Twerton High Street as a local centre, where possible, by enhancing local retail or commercial leisure provision*”.

- **3.2 How does the project provide links to the locality in the area where development has taken place? (if your project has city wide impact you will need to demonstrate how the broader community in the city will benefit)**

Twerton Park is situated right in the heart of the community, easily accessible from the High Street, and a short bus ride or walk from other areas of Bath. We are well known as a notable community-led sport facility in Bath, so we anticipate being able to continue to provide community and business services for the benefit of the wider B&NES area as well as the immediate communities of Twerton, Whiteway and Southdown.

A restored pitch will enable us to attract more residents of B&NES to matches and therefore will allow us to build on our existing community impact and achieve even more in the heart of an area of acute deprivation.

We believe that regularly attracting a diverse range of people from across the city to Twerton (including those living in new developments) will help break down barriers between the city and the area, and help normalise visits to Twerton and reduce the stigma attached to the area.

- **3.3 Please provide evidence which shows how the community has been listened to and what support exists for your project?**

Our fan base is approx. 1,100 for an average match, but alongside visitors to Twerton Park we also have c. 3,000 newsletter subscribers, 5,000 Facebook followers, 12,600 Twitter followers, and 5,600 Instagram followers who are all keen to keep football at Twerton Park.

We know from the community consultation we performed in 2019 that:

- local people are keen that Twerton remains ‘a good place to live’ and that the sense of being ‘a strong community having deep footballing heritage’ is never lost
- residents often feel that the area is overlooked or neglected (compared to others in Bath) and feel that Twerton often gets ‘bad press’ due to its social deprivation but that this hides the hidden gems within – such as Twerton Park, Bath City Farm etc

With this project we are keen to restore a sense of pride by injecting investment into the area that will attract a diverse set of residents from across the city. As mentioned above, we

believe that this will help break down barriers between the city and the local area, reducing the stigma attached to the area. Overall, our community outreach concluded that people were positive about enhancements to the area and were keen to show 'that Twerton has turned a corner'.

3.4 The project must show that it either:

- **Supports the development of the relevant area by funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure or**
- **Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on the area.**

Please explain how the project fits with these requirements

Enhancing the current grass pitch at Twerton Park will improve the current infrastructure and therefore supports wider development areas.

With these vital pitch improvements, we will be able to continue to show our support for equality within football by hosting Bristol City Women at Twerton Park. This partnership has enabled us to raise the visibility of women's football locally and opened our stadium to a broader audience through the mainstream TV coverage of the FA Women's Super League.

4) Project Contact Details:

Contact details for the project (if different to person completing the form)	As above.
Project Name	Enhancing the Pitch - BCFC
Project Location	Twerton Park, Twerton, Bath
Locality or Ward which will benefit from this project	Twerton, Southdown & Whiteway in particular, but also the rest of Bath & North East Somerset

5) Funding:

5.1 Total Cost of Project:	£13,000
5.2 Amount of funding sought from Neighbourhood Portion of CIL Fund:	£9,950
5.3 Does this project benefit from any source of matched funding? (include below the sources, dates funds agreed/expected and the amounts)	Yes, see below
5.3.1 Volunteering Hours:	Our pitch is maintained totally by volunteers under the supervision of director Andrew Pierce. The only exception to this is where annual work is required that involves using specialist equipment which we do not

	own, or is of a nature which requires specialist training which we do not have in house e.g. weed control. The number of volunteer hours given varies from week to week, but over the course of a year will amount to around 1,000. In the last year this has involved 12 different people contributing towards this total.
5.3.2 Additional Funds which have already been agreed:	N/A
5.3.3 Funds which have been applied for but are awaiting a decision:	£3,050 from the Bank Rec Trust (tbc)

5.4 Please provide and breakdown of the costs for the delivery of this project
A full quote for this work from local firm Ecosolve Limited is attached.

6) Bank Details (for successful projects)

6.1 Details of the Bank Account into which the funds from the Neighbourhood Portion of CiL should be paid:			
Bank name:		Sort code:	
Account name:		Account number:	

6.2 If the project is being delivered internally, internal code is required below:												

SECTION 2: FOR COMPLETION BY STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE

Project Form Validation Decision (Officer decision)

SECTION 3: FOR COMPLETION BY BATH CITY FORUM WORKING GROUP

Project Expression of Interest Recommendations (Working Group decision)

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SECTION 4: FOR COMPLETION BY BATH CITY FORUM

Recommendations received (Bath City Forum decision)

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SECTION 5: FOR COMPLETION BY SUPPORTING COUNCIL SERVICE AREAS

Recommendations received on project delivery (Officer decision)

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SECTION 6: OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL CABINET DECISION

Recommendation (Cabinet decision)

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SECTION 7: PROCESS LOG

	Process start date	Date agreement reached
Expression of interest and Officer Validation		
Bath City Forum Working Group recommendations		
Bath City Forum recommendations		
Service Area recommendations		
Submission to Council Cabinet for agreement		
Grant Funding Agreement Signed		
Payment of Funds		

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SECTION 8: COMPLETION STATUS

Confirmation from the monitoring officer that the project has been completed satisfactory

Publication through @bath_forum and the B&NES Council website once the project is completed