



Saddleworth and Lees District Executive Funding Application 2014/2015

SECTION A

Please note that this section of the application will be made part of the District Executive's public reports and be available on our website at www.oldham.gov.uk

NAME OF ORGANISATION REQUESTING FUNDING (must be same as on Section B):
Dobcross Band & Social Club

PROJECT TITLE (must be same as on Section B):
New Floodlighting for Dobcross Band & Social Club Bowling Green

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT REQUIRING FUNDING setting out: what the project will deliver. Who will benefit, and how? How many people will benefit etc. Please provide as much detail as possible and continue on a separate sheet if required.

The project is the replacement of the existing floodlights with modern lights. The existing floodlights at the club are past their useful life. They only provide limited light. We have had to make emergency repairs to ensure the wiring is safe. The lights are on old posts and the only way to replace bulbs is by climbing up them, which is dangerous. Modern lights are hinged and much easier to maintain, and use less power. If the floodlights can not be renewed then the ability of the club to play evening fixtures would be restricted.

The club and bowling activities benefit the area. We provide strong social and health benefits for the community in an area without easy access to town centre facilities. It is a strong social focus in the area, particularly amongst retired people. It is an inexpensive hobby (£2 per match to play for the club and free to visitors, resting team members and spectators) which keeps people in the community fit and in social contact.

The project will work to address some of our local needs such as health and well-being (adult and young people), crime and ASB, as well as increasing footfall into the club itself to help sustain and develop ourselves over the coming years. We are now looking to engage with local Primary Schools and the community further to increase participation levels and also further use of the facility in general.

The club has 11 teams competing in leagues plus social bowlers. Each team has 10 to 12 members (some people are members of more than one team). There are approximately 80 members who bowl regularly each week. Some bowl on several occasions each week. Matches all involve visiting teams of 10 to 12 members, who come from the Oldham/Tameside areas to play against Dobcross. The green is also used by a neutral cup venue for visiting teams, this being a requirement of our league membership. The green is also used by other organisations for social bowling events, e.g. Saddleworth Male Voice Choir. The funding would therefore benefit upwards of 1000 people each year.

We are hopeful that new floodlights would last at least 30 years at their current usage levels.

Budget Report Appendix 3

We are requesting funding of £2500. We are sorry that our original application did not make this clear – it had not been our original intention to ask for the full amount but we were advised to complete the form in that way.

The application is made by Dobcross Band & Social Club, which owns the bowling green and will own the floodlights. A copy of the Club's accounts to 31 December 2013 are enclosed. You will see that while the club does have some cash funds these are outweighed by loans from members (the Dobcross Band Club Capital Fund), repayable over the next 5 years. The club had to raise funds from members recently in order to pay off brewery loans. The brewery loans were repayable through raised beer prices which were making the club unsustainable. Without this previous fund raising from members the club would probably not exist today.

The club houses three main groups – the Dobcross Silver Band, the Dobcross Youth Band, and the bowling section who must all fund their own activities from money that they all individually raise. The Dobcross Band & Social Club committee is responsible for the maintenance of the fabric of the building and its furnishings and is not in a position financially to fund individual groups. It cannot be seen to favour one section rather than another.

The bowlers raise money to fund the maintenance of the green and purchase of green equipment as well as annual league fees to the leagues in which our teams play. The annual cost for these items is £3000 to £4000. We raise money through players paying when they play, through running competitions, and holding fund raising events. During this past year these activities have been directed towards providing some of the funding for the new lights and we are in a position to fund £3600 of the cost of the lights due to the efforts of our members this year.

We did look at lottery funding but unfortunately we did not qualify for any funding, mainly because the amount we wanted was too small! The Awards for All funding for amounts up to £10,000 specifically excludes sporting facilities, and the Inspired Facilities funding for items such as floodlights has a minimum application level of £20,000.

We would be very grateful if the District Executive could contribute towards the cost of the lights and would seek to publicise the source of the funding through things like an article in the Saddleworth News.

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| Total Project Cost | £6100 |
| Amount requested from the District Executive | £2500 |

Please check that you have included all the necessary enclosures and return this form to your District Co-ordinator

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