

Neighbourhood Portion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Bath

GRANT APPLICATION FORM

1) Contact Details:

Name:	Joy Saunders / Peter Headington
Organisation:	Bath City FC Twerton Park, Twerton, Bath, BA2 1DZ

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 – in 2021, to improve the drainage performance of the football pitch at Bath City Football Club.

2.2 Please provide a clear description of your project proposal – including your outcomes and objectives (maximum 300 words)

We are looking for CIL funding to support the installation of a FIFA Quality PRO all-weather pitch at our Twerton Park stadium. This will turn Twerton Park into a destination and a thriving community hub that encourages and provides top quality facilities for exercise, team sport and will help foster community spirit.

Investing in these improvements will provide an additional green space easily accessible by the community, particularly as it is walking distance from the Twerton, Southdown, Oldfield Park, Moorfields, Odd Down and Newbridge areas but also easily reached by public transport for those travelling from further afield. Having an all-weather pitch will also enable Men's, Women's, Youth, Student and Community Football to be played at Twerton Park throughout the week, cementing Bath City FC's reputation as an outward looking community anchor organization.

These improvements will provide a safe venue where youth, community and student teams can play football, socialise, and support their health and wellbeing. With this all-weather pitch, we will dedicate c. 38 hours a week of pitch time (c. 2,000 hours / year) to community, youth or student-based games, providing a vital green space in the south of Bath for local and team-based sport. The approximate number of weekly users will be between 1,300 and 1,400. It will also allow our Men's and Women's first and development teams (an additional 50 users) as well as our youth teams (girls and boys aged 4 – 18) to train at our home ground, which is currently not possible with a grass pitch.

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. We believe sports and attending or participating in football matches is a vital community mechanism to improve physical and mental health and wellbeing. We have dedicated 38 hours of

pitch time to community (through our Foundation who work with local schools, women, and older people), youth (Bath City Youth from aged 4- 18) and student (through our partnership with Bath Spa) based games and will open at other times for the general public.

Being able to open our doors throughout the week through provision of an all-weather pitch will also increase visibility of our other community activities delivered with our charity and business partners such as Dementia Day Care, Romans Boxing Gym, and the NHS Vaccination Services ensuring that more local residents will benefit.

We specifically work within Twerton, an underinvested area that has over a third of children living in poverty. Being based in the heart of the High Street enables us to reach some of the most disadvantaged people within the Bath community through our involvement with the Twerton and Whiteway Community Network. This is a group of good causes who formed to address the most pressing issues during COVID lockdown (food and medicine delivery, isolation, and mental health) and have continued to meet to work on a community development plan.

The pitch improvement works will provide an additional financial sustainability for the football club. Please note this is a separate project from the wider upgrade of our facilities to improve visitor and community experience (which is planned for 2024/25). The planned improvements will further enhance the visitor experience for 3G pitch users.

2.3 Reasons for supporting this project (maximum 300 words)

The CIL community consultation during summer 2023 had 41 positive responses in support with quotes such as “improvement in Twerton is crucial for the residents and if the club is to flourish it does need upgrading”, “A 4G pitch will also provide an new outdoor space for residents of Twerton and Whiteway, and will help to rejuvenate the area after years of decline”. , “This project will enable youth, women’s and disabled football,...an important community asset.” “This project will give hundreds of adults and children participating in multiple bath city football teams access to year-round training. The value to the local community will be huge.” and “Amazing work they do helping youngsters get into football and providing healthy outlook.”

We also have political support with Wera Hobhouse, MP writing a letter to Michael Gove MP in support of our application for grant funding from the Department of Levelling Up (see attached) and local Councillor support “As local Twerton councillors, we are supportive of the CIL funding application for the artificial pitch at Bath City in Twerton High Street. The opportunity to bring in CIL and Department of Levelling Up funding for this project provides a real opportunity to regenerate the area and provide new and better facilities to local people. This project will provide a green space where local residents can come together to enjoy playing and watching football and is a great opportunity particularly for young people in the area.” – Tim Ball and Sarah Moore, Local Twerton Cllrs.

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 5 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 including setting up a Community Interest Company to manage the

pitch to demonstrate our commitment to achieve positive social outcomes for Twerton and the surrounds.

This means we can:

Build community - Being a welcoming family club who gets on average 1,200 supporters of all ages on match days from B&NES for our Men's team and through the introduction of our Women's first and development team welcomed a new community to Twerton Park.

Invest in our community – Allocating CIL funding will hopefully release further grant funding from the Dept. for Levelling Up (our full application is being assessed). It will also help us raise awareness of local good causes on match days by facilitating representation by a wide range of organisations in and around the ground (e.g., Stroke Awareness, Stoptober, Future Bright, Trauma Recovery Centre, Age UK, DHI etc). As well as working with Curo, local Police and Councillors to provide a safe, welcoming environment and addressing anti-social behaviour in our neighbourhood.

Offer resources to our community – This project will turn Twerton Park into a vital community green space serving the whole of Bath and helping them exercise, supporting positive physical and mental health, and building community cohesion. This type of green space is particularly needed in the South West of the city (which is otherwise underrepresented). We also provide event space and rooms meeting a need in the local community (parties, wakes, meeting rooms) and 4 hours of free meeting space each week to local third sector organisations.

Facilitate conversations that matter - Created with Bath City Farm a Twerton and Whiteway Community Network that has funding from Quartet and with a mandate to meet the needs of and be accountable to local people in the Twerton, Whiteway and Southdown areas.

Helping the less advantaged in our community - Supporting the charity of the season, Bath City FC Foundation who works with after school sessions, community coaching and disability sessions and over 2,300 beneficiaries. They host school holiday clubs providing food at lunchtimes for children participants. Bath City FC provides a home for our Foundation team with donated offices providing a valuable base for their activities. The Foundation works locally with primary schools such as St Michael's Juniors and Twerton Infants that have some of the highest numbers of pupil premium students in B&NES. These existing relationships will ensure that sports days, football tournaments and classes can be held on the all-weather pitch during the day time.

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, all funds from CIL would be allocated to improving the pitch.

**2.5 Target Start Date
Summer 2023**

2.6 Target Completion Date
Summer 2023

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

- 1) Obtain three quotes for work needed – Done – Dec 2022/Jan 2023**
- 2) Submit planning application – Done – Feb 2023**
- 3) Raise funds – Spring 2023**
- 4) Receive planning approval – Autumn 2023**
- 5) Schedule and complete works – Summer 2024**

Please note the works need to be completed in early summer 2024 during our football break to enable us to re-open for the friendlies in June/ July and be ready for the next football season.

**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.**

O/S – planning application submitted on 22/02/2023 (application number 23/00707/FUL

THIS HAS NOW BEEN AGREED

2.9 Are there any planned changes that will have an effect on the premises or location where your project is to be located?"

No - Our wider development project is still in planning and designs for a smaller upgrade to facilities and improvement project will be submitted in 2024/25. Any proposed scheme would build on the 3G pitch improvements.

2.10 Are there any planned changes in circumstances to your organisations operation that we should be aware of?"

No.

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 residential and student development over recent years including new developments such as Roseberry Place (175 flats), Western Riverside (over 2,000 homes), Chivers House on Lower Bristol Road (a nine-story building of 95 dwellings), 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), Jubilee Centre on Lower Bristol Road (120 units of PBSA), Scala in Oldfield Park (99 dwellings including PBSA).

None of these new developments have any sport (or significant community) facilities for the wider community. A new all-weather pitch at Twerton Park will help more of our local community and those new to the area 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.

The new pitch would be easily accessible by foot, bike, or public transport for residents from the new developments and would provide opportunities to increase physical and mental health and wellbeing, 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”*.

Any new residents from these developments may also be enticed by our community or business ties. For example, the commercial “Romans Boxing,” which has been using the “Randall’s” event space at Twerton Park since 2021, already attracts 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.

- **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.

An all-weather 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 aim to reach even more local fans at each match in the next season (up from 1,200) who would directly benefit from these pitch improvement works. We have actively sought to increase participation from women and girls through the introduction of our Women’s first and development teams and providing free entry to all their matches to ensure inclusivity, diversity, and accessibility in building a new community of girls participating in football.

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. We host specific match days that aim to reduce barriers for specific parts of our community (1) c. 1,400 local residents on community day where entry fee is voluntary, (2) c. 40 Women at the Match where we host a networking event and buddy system to make it less intimidating to attend on your own, (3) Refugees at the Match where we host our local refugee community, (4) 100s of Students – where we welcome new students to the game at the start of term (5) Celebrating Black Lives Matter where we have highlighted the benefits that the BAME community have contributed to the club over the years and sought to remove any obstacles that our neighbours from diverse backgrounds might have to enjoy football.

- **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. 1,200 for an average match (with aims to increase next season), but alongside visitors to Twerton Park we also have c. 3,000 newsletter subscribers, 7,000 Facebook followers, 18,000 Twitter followers, and 8,400 Instagram followers. We consulted supporters in 2018 on a move to an all-weather pitch and overwhelming they were in support of introducing an all-weather pitch to improve conditions at Twerton Park, welcome new parts of our community and support the financial sustainability of the club.

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.**

The CIL community consultation during summer 2023 had 41 positive responses in support with quotes such as this is an "Undervalued asset in a departed part of town. The impact could be massive for local clubs in the area," "We feel the pitch would transform access to football and exercise for people living in Twerton. Options for playing are currently limited to school playgrounds or Pennyquick which lacks facilities. With this pitch we can run youth tournaments, hold regular practice sessions for children after school and run introductory sessions for people that have not tried football. The pitch would integrate the elite women and men's teams with youth football, providing positive role models for local children."

The planning application community consultation during 2023 had 66 positive responses in support with quotes such as "The City needs a successful football club to support the local area and the future generations. A new playing surface that can be used 365 days a year would be very welcome by the whole community of all generations... support what has been a great tradition for many over the years and allow the future generations to do the same". And "Yes, yes, yes, yes....what a superb facility this will be for the club and wider community to utilise 365 days a year. Support your local club and safe guard future generations being able to enjoy a city tradition."

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.**

Important Note:

This section is the key test that must be met for neighbourhood CIL funding to be allocated.

You will need provide an explanation of whether this project relates to infrastructure or to something else that is concerned with addressing the demands arising from development.

An explanation is needed to show of how this project supports development of the area of in planning terms.

Introducing an all-weather pitch will improve the current infrastructure and therefore supports wider development aims. It will also introduce a new accessible green space to Twerton and the South of Bath. We have taken time to understand the environmental implications of introducing an all-weather pitch, researching which materials and technology have the least impact and have purposely chosen a supplier who will provide a pitch with 70% less rubber crumb than others to reduce our environmental impact.

As mentioned above, the new pitch would be easily accessible by foot, bike, or public transport for residents from the new developments and would provide opportunities to increase physical and mental health and wellbeing, 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*”.

4) Project Contact Details:

Contact details for the project (if different to person completing the form)	As above.
Project Name	Installing an all-weather pitch – Bath City FC
Project Location	Twerton Park, Twerton, Bath
Locality or Ward which will benefit from this project	Twerton, Southdown & Whiteway in particular, but also the South of Bath and the rest of Bath & North East Somerset

5) Funding:

5.1 Total Cost of Project:	£700,000
5.2 Amount of funding sought from Neighbourhood Portion of CIL Fund:	£150,000
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:	We have c. 150 volunteers helping out on each match day who dedicate tens of thousands of hours a year to run and improve the football club and provide benefit for the local community.
5.3.2 Additional Funds which have already been agreed:	£100,000
5.3.3 Funds which have been applied for but are awaiting a decision:	£516,000 from the Department of Levelling Up. Application currently being assessed with decision expected shortly.

5.4 Please provide and breakdown of the costs for the delivery of this project

Preliminaries £9k
 Groundworks and Drainage £262k
 Kerbing £6k
 Fencing £65k
 Shock pad £52k
 Carpet £193k
 Testing £2k
 VAT £118
 Total £707k
 A full quote from PST is attached.