

LYMPSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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21st March 2021

Dear Councillors,

Lympsham Parish Council has been asked by Lympsham and Belvedere Cricket Club to support a bid from the remaining Coastal Cluster Group RLT/3 Funds for an artificial surface cricket strip at their ground in Lympsham.

The Club has a thriving Youth squad which has grown quite dramatically over the last few years following the amalgamation in 2017 of Lympsham CC with Belvedere CC when both had found themselves struggling to raise adult teams for the previous two seasons.

Plans were put in place to ensure the future of the newly formed Club to form a junior section and a series of cricket fun sessions and coaching sessions tailored to the appropriate age groups were offered to children from Lympsham, Brent Knoll and Mark with outstanding results.

By 2019 the volumes of children attending had increased so much that the Club was able to enter an Under 11 and an Under 13 side in the Taunton District Cricket League. It should be noted that the youngest age group (5 to 9 years) reached 45 children, the second largest in the County.

These numbers stayed the same for 2020, and then COVID-19 hit and sadly no junior cricket was played last year. It is desirable that the Club is able to have the best facilities possible to continue this opportunity to produce Cricketers of the best calibre, like our own Sophie Luff (who plays for Somerset and Western Storm) for the future.

Currently the grass only square /wicket is not large enough to accommodate all of the cricket now played throughout the summer when Junior cricket sessions are included. The option is to install an additional artificial surface on the edge of the existing square.

This surface would be purely for the Junior section as Adult teams are only permitted to play on grass. This sort of surface is invaluable as it produces a consistent bounce which assists a young player in developing their skills. A surface such as this is expected to last 20-25 years, and for that reason is not a cheap option. The quotes obtained have a price range of £8,500.00- £9,535.00 plus VAT.

The bid is for 80% of that amount, or indeed any sum towards the total would be most welcome. Lympsham Parish Council have instructed me to ask the Coastal Council Groups' Members to consider backing this bid as an investment for the future of Somerset Cricket.

Thank you for your time,

Sally Ferguson

Clerk to Lympsham Parish Council.