

COMMUNITY SPORTS FACILITY GRANTS SCHEME

Purpose

To support the operation and development of community sports facilities and associated services.

Expected programme duration and application timeframes

The programme is expected to remain open from April 2022 to March 2025, subject to availability of funding.

Eligibility

The scheme is open to recognised not-for-profit organisations (including educational institutions and local trusts) whose sports facilities are regularly open to the community for at least 30 hours per week.

Funding limits

There are no set limits, and all proposals will be assessed on their individual merits, including technical quality and feasibility, expected community sports benefits, and value for money in relation to the expected outcomes. Organisations will normally be expected to have partnership funding for around 1/3 of the project cost, though this will remain flexible according to context.

Organisations are free to make more than one application over the life of the programme, and each will be evaluated on its individual merits.

General project criteria

The programme is intended to support:

- Facility additions, enhancements or refurbishments, for example to support a change or increase in the usage of a space
- Replacement of structural elements, plant or major equipment
- One-off costs for significant service improvements, such as IT investments, specialist staff training or industry-specific quality programmes
- Significant programme or service developments to support new or increased usage and activity in the local community

All proposals will need to be supported by:

- A clear and specific business case to detail what the project is intended to achieve, how it will do so, and how this will strengthen the business or service as a whole

- A current, clear and robust business plan for the site as a whole, including financial projections; service and/or facility development plans; and marketing plan
- Up-to-date financial accounts or management accounts
- Full details (unless this information has previously been shared with ECDC officers and there have been no significant changes) of how the site is operated and used by the community, including:
 - Ownership & governance arrangements
 - Operational management arrangements and staffing
 - Typical usage agreements and programmes of use

The Council may request more detailed operational, governance or financial information as required in order to have a full understanding of the project and site operations.

Priority will be given to projects which:

- Are intended to strengthen the scope of services or sustainability of the site, or of community sports provision in the locality: projects aimed only at maintaining existing services will carry lower priority.
- Are clearly aligned with the relevant overall strategy for the site: projects aimed at increasing usage of a space, or at overall service improvements, should align with the broader business plan. Refurbishments or renewals should form part of a coherent modernisation or development plan for the facilities as a whole.

Support will not be given to or for:

- Routine operating costs or revenue deficits
- Projects on which work has already commenced
- Facilities located outside East Cambridgeshire, even if used by East Cambridgeshire residents

General Conditions

Any grants awarded are subject to the following general conditions:

- Grants may only be used for the purposes specified in the application and otherwise as agreed in writing by ECDC. The Council must be advised of any underspend against those purposes, and the award may be adjusted accordingly.
- The grant will not be increased in the case of any over-spend, miscalculation of VAT or other tax liabilities, or addition to the original project; unless made as a condition of grant or with prior agreement in writing. In the event that VAT is recoverable in excess of that identified in the application, ECDC must be advised and the award may be adjusted accordingly.
- The balance of funding required for a project, and all necessary statutory or legal permissions, must be in place before commencement and before any grant funds are claimed from ECDC. Written documentary evidence must be submitted to the ECDC to confirm this.
- Details of the procurement process, specifications and costs should be notified to ECDC prior to commencement of works or purchase as appropriate. All works and equipment must be appropriately procured and be certifiably fit for purpose, and approval to proceed may be withheld by ECDC where there are reasonable concerns that this is not the case.
- Organisations in receipt of ECDC grant support may not transfer, assign, grant or dispose of any freehold or leasehold interest in any part of the facilities for which support has been provided; and will not sub-contract or otherwise delegate the operation of the facilities (either in whole or in part) to any third party, unless ECDC has given its prior written consent.
- In the event that the facility ceases to operate for community use, or the organisation is dissolved, the facility and assets supported by the grant may be transferred into the control of another organisation with similar aims and objectives, with the prior written consent of ECDC.
- ECDC may request relevant follow-up information in order to understand and evaluate the impact of the grant funding, and organisations in receipt of grant funds will be expected to fully cooperate in the provision of such information.
- Publicity relating to a supported project will be expected to give appropriate recognition to ECDC for its support; the nature of such recognition may vary from case to case and may be agreed with officers at the time.
- A full financial account for the project, with all relevant supporting documentation, must be provided to ECDC on completion
- Where appropriate, organisations will be asked to confirm that receipt of a grant will not infringe subsidy allowance regulations

GDPR & Freedom of Information

We will process the information provided in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. The information you provide will be stored securely by East Cambridgeshire District Council and will be destroyed after 7 years from the date of decision.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) applies to East Cambridgeshire District Council and therefore information provided by you may have to be disclosed by the District Council in response to a request, unless the District Council considers that a statutory exemption applies. In all cases where information is released, data relating to individuals will be redacted.

Information held by the Council is solely used for providing services and is not made available to any other party other than for the purpose of protecting public funds and the prevention and detection of crime. For more information, please see [ECDC's Privacy Statement](#)

Submission of applications

Applications, supporting documents and enquiries should be submitted to:

East Cambridgeshire District Council
The Grange
Nutholt Lane
Ely
Cambridgeshire CB7 4EE

Or by email to: martin.grey@eastcambs.gov.uk

COMMUNITY SPORTS FACILITIES GRANT SCHEME

Organisation / Facility:	Ely Outdoor Sports Association Ltd (EOSA)	
Principal contact:	Julia Gilbert	
Email:	[REDACTED]	
Telephone:	[REDACTED]	
Proposed project ('headline' only):	Building of 2 Padel Courts	
Anticipated total cost (please provide breakdown further below):	£163.5K	
Grant sought:	£10K	
Project Outline: Please explain the proposed project in further detail, explaining:		
The key elements to the project	EOSA has planning permission to build 2 padel courts on their site behind Ely Leisure Village and are raising the £160K needed to build the courts and the associated electrical works.	
The expected timetable for implementation of the project, including any key milestones	Groundworks are expected to start mid to end of June. The padel courts will then be erected mid-end of July and should be operational by the beginning of September 2025.	
How the work or services will be procured (quotations should be attached as supporting evidence where available or provided subsequently)	We have obtained three quotes from Hexa Padel/Colin Clay, Padel Galis and Padel Tech Our preferred contractor is Hexa Padel/Colin Clay as they are not only the cheapest, we have also worked with them in the past with the Tennis Courts and have been very happy with their work.	

<p>How the project fits into the overall development plan for the facility</p>	<p>EOSA's aim is make sport easily accessible to as many people in the local community from as many different backgrounds as possible. Ely Tennis Club is one of our member courts and we currently have 4 tennis courts available to hire by members of the local community as well as by members of the Club.</p> <p>Padel is the fastest growing racquet sport in the UK - there are currently 90,000 players in the UK and the LTA forecasts that this will grow to 600,000 by 2026 - and the nearest courts to Ely are currently at least 15 miles away in Bury St Edmunds, Cambridge and St Ives.</p> <p>Building two courts at EOSA will provide residents in Ely and the surrounding villages access to playing Padel. Once built members of the local community will be able to book a court for an hour's session either as a Padel Club member or a non-member. There will be 23 bookable sessions a day between 8am and 10pm, 365 days of the year.</p>
<p>How the project will strengthen the organisation's services or business</p>	<p>The increase in income that the padel courts generate will help EOSA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To further improve the facilities at EOSA and what we can offer to all members of the local community. - Build a much needed 5th tennis court for which we have planning permission - Employ a part time site manager. Having fallen into financial difficulties, EOSA did not reemploy a new site manager when the last one retired 7 years ago. Since then the facilities have been run by volunteers but as the facilities and their use grows this is unsustainable. Income from the padel courts should enable us to employ a part time site manager within the next 2 years. This will in turn enable us to market the use of the Clubhouse in particular, during the working week.
<p>How the project will help to support activity-levels in the local community</p>	<p>Padel is fun, easy to learn and extremely sociable. Groups of mixed ages and abilities can play together making it a very inclusive and appealing way to keep fit.</p> <p>All our member clubs – Ely City Hockey Club, Ely Tennis Club and Ely Rugby Club – have very active adult and junior sessions. The proposed Ely Padel Club will also be open to members of all ages – adult and junior.</p> <p>Our member club, Ely Tennis Club has an award winning diversity tennis group. The new padel courts</p>

	will be fully wheelchair accessible and will hopefully encourage further participation by disabled people in the local area.
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Project Budget (all costs to be shown net of VAT):

• Groundworks for 2 padel courts	£50,148
• Soil removal	£6,468
• Groundworks for floodlights	£10,900
• Courts & Floodlights x 2	£40,500
• Delivery	£3,950
• Court Installation	£9,000
• Plant & Machinery Hire	£1,750
• Electrical work, cables and switch pillar	£7,000
• 5% Contingency	£6500
•	£
Irrecoverable VAT	£27,243
Total	£163,500

Partnership Funding

• EOSA	£15K
• Ely Tennis Club	£10K
• ECDC Capital Growth Fund	£16K
• Crowdfunding Page	£15K
• Sport England Movement Fund	£15K
• Thalia WB Community Fund (TBC)	£50K

• Postcode Places Grant (TBC)	£25K
• LTA interest Free Loan	TBC
Total (TBC)	£146K
Net Project Cost & Grant Requested	£10K

Financial Context: please give an overview of the organisation's financial position and commitments, identifying any key issues or trends, and provide a brief rationale for the partnership funding proposed.

It is not necessary to replicate here detailed information which is contained within supporting documents.

With the exception of rental hire agreement for a coffee machine, EOSA does not have any loans.

As a not for profit organisation and large capital projects still needing to be done and funded, our aim is to try and remain debt free. With only 21 months left before our planning permission expires and with a number of investors looking to try and build padel courts locally we feel that we need to build the padel courts as soon as is possible. If we need to access the LTA Interest Free loan to enable us to do so we will have to but with the aim to pay it off as quickly as possible.

Please see attached business plan and accounts for further details

Supporting Documents (please indicate where provided):

Independent evidence of need for the project (please specify briefly below):

- Crowdfunding comments
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-
-
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Copies of quotations (if already obtained)

Yes

Summary of operational structure & staffing

Yes

Outline of governance arrangements, including Constitution or Memorandum & Articles of Association

Yes

Key operational policies (eg Health & Safety, Child Protection, Equal Opportunities) as applicable

Yes

Full Financial and / or Management Accounts for most recent year

Yes

Full operational budget for current or forthcoming year

Yes

Current business plan

Yes

Facility development plan

Yes

Declaration:

I confirm that the information I have given on this form and in any supporting documentation is correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if a grant is awarded on the basis of information which is later found to have been false or misleading, the FSC may withdraw any offer of support and / or take action to recover any monies paid.

Signed: Print Name: 

Position in Organisation:

DIRECTOR

Date:

31st March 2025