

Grant application to South Oxfordshire District Council

1. The proposal before the Council at this extraordinary meeting is to join forces with the Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall Committee and the Nuneham Courtenay Sports and Playing Field Association to apply for a grant of over £75,000 from South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC).

Purpose of application

2. The application, if successful, would enable both these local charities to make improvements the parish council on its own could not be expected to fund due to the enormous cost that would fall on the residents of the parish. These improvements are, in the case of:
 - a) The Village Hall, major repairs to the structure, which is sinking in one corner, and improvements to disabled access, which have long been sought by the Nuneham Courtenay Lunch Club
 - b) The Playing Field, numerous pieces of play equipment for children and fitness equipment for adults.

Role of the Council

3. It is understood that applicants must show they already possess 25% of the funding required to deliver their project(s). In this respect the Village Hall Committee and the Association are in very different positions because the Village Hall Committee has substantial reserves whereas the Association does not.
4. The Council is therefore asked to commit the £8,135 remaining in its Community Infrastructure Levy restricted reserve to the purchase of play and/or fitness equipment so the application can pass the 25% funding threshold.

Funding information

5. The application would be made to SODC's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Grant Fund and the deadline for an application is 5pm on Monday 30th March 2026.
6. SODC says on its website that grants are available of a minimum of £75,000 and a maximum of £250,000 and that funding requests should focus on demonstrating how the infrastructure project(s) is required to support the growth of the area and also how this meets the priorities from [The Way Ahead: Council Plan 2025–2029](#).

7. It is a matter of opinion whether the application has a high chance of success given that Nuneham Courtenay is not experiencing the levels of growth faced in many other parts of South Oxfordshire.

Options for the Council

8. The Council has the option, if it wishes, not merely to commit the £8,135 in its CIL restricted reserve, but other funds from its general reserves – parish councils have wide powers to fund village halls and playing fields.
9. At the end of December 2025, the Council's general reserves stood at £8,728 and the budget for 2026-27 approved by the Council at its January 2026 meeting envisaged using just over £1,000 of those reserves to limit the increase in Council Tax required to meet increased spending to support bringing the Playing Field back into use.

Geoffrey Ferres
Parish Clerk
Sunday 15th March 2026