

## Extraordinary Meeting of the Finance Committee Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – 6:30 pm

### Agenda

Venue: The Community Room, Sunningdale Parish Council, Broomhall Lane SL5 0QS

#### **Summoned to Attend:**

Cllr Pike (Chair), Cllr Morgan, Cllr Coxon and Cllr Newman

Members of the Public are welcome to attend.

Anyone wishing to address the committee must register by 10:00 am on the day prior to the meeting.

#### **FC 79 / 25      Chair's Welcome**

Chair to welcome those present to the meeting, reminding them that all mobile devices are switched to silent for the duration of the meeting.

A reminder will also be given regarding the venue's fire safety regulations.

#### **FC 80 / 25      Attendance and Apologies for Absence**

To receive for approval any apologies for absence and, if appropriate, any requests to defer receiving an acceptance of office to a later meeting.

#### **FC 81 / 25      Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Registerable Interests**

To receive from members any declarations of interests in relation to any items included on the agenda for this meeting required to be disclosed by the Localism Act 2011 and the Sunningdale members' Code of Conduct.

- FC 82 / 25      Budget Review for 2026/27**  
**DECISION:** To consider and approve the council's budgeting requirements for the financial year 2026/27 for recommendation to Full Council.
- FC 83 / 25      CIL Application: Charters School**  
To review the additional information received from Charters School regarding CIL funding for retractable seating for the school hall.
- DISCUSSION:** To consider and validate the additional information submitted in relation to the application from Charters school for £98,587 of CIL funding and make a recommendation to Full Council. (Full Council Minute Ref: 65/25)
- FC 84 / 25      CIL Application: Sunningdale Bowling Club**  
To review the additional information received from Sunningdale Bowling Club for their CIL application.
- DISCUSSION:** To consider and validate the additional information submitted in relation to the application from Sunningdale Bowling Club for £30,000 of CIL funding and make a recommendation to Full Council. (Full Council Minute Ref: 65/25)
- FC 85 / 25      Community Grant Applications**  
To consider the grant applications received and make a recommendation to Full Council.
- DECISION:** Application for £450 from Berkshire vision towards services supporting visually impaired people.
- TO NOTE:** The committee is to note the community grant applications already received from Holy Trinity Church and Ascot Day Centre (Minute Ref: FC 36/25)
- FC 86 / 25      Variable Direct debit – Castle Water**  
**DECISION:** To approve the setting up of a variable direct debit for the cemetery. (The Pavillion and allotments water supply is already set up with a variable direct debit Min ref: 86/24/4)
- FC 87 / 25      Information sharing and future meetings**
- TO NOTE:** Any relevant updates from members of the committee.
- The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on Tuesday 14 April 2026 at 7:30 pm.



Natalie Hayes, Clerk to the Council  
12 February 2026

## Budget Assumptions 2026 / 2027

The following assumptions were updated as per the feedback from Full Council (Min Ref: 86/25)

In setting the budget for 2026/27, the council would be wise to view the next 3 years and set a range of budget assumptions which cover this period.

The base upon which all assumptions are made must reference the current economic climate.

A copy of the budget assumptions for 2025/26 are attached for reference (Appendix B)

### Inflation statement

Current Rate as notified by Bank of England on 21.01.26 is 3.4%%

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy/inflation>

In August 2025, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 3.8%, the same as the previous month and the highest since January 2024, a significant increase from the 2% rate in January 2024 and the 3.3% in January 2025.

This is an incremental budget – that is based upon the budget set for 2025/26 with small variations where known (and set out in the Statement of Variation which will be circulated with this paper once the forecast has been completed) The assumptions used in bringing together the 2025/26 budget are appended to this paper for information.

1. Previous budgets have made generous provision for inflation and therefore it is not proposed to make any provision for inflation for 2026/27 save for provision of 3% is proposed for the National Joint Council (NJC) pay award for 2026/27. There are no planned increases to the staffing establishment. The staffing budget reflects the total cost of employing staff, including salary, and employer costs including National Insurance and Employer pension contributions. The budget assumes one spinal column point increment for eligible staff.

The council should only look to levy costs of new services on the precept after consultation with residents which clearly detail the cost implications of any decision the residents take.

2. The council will work to increase the income generated from council assets, however keeping the community use as the top priority when setting charging schedules.
3. The council will review all income generating opportunities, and where possible bring these forwards.
4. The council will continually review the spending on non-essential / non-statutory activities to ensure residents' benefit is the best use of council funds, e.g., Bloom, Christmas, Library.
5. The council will review the previous policies set for reserving income generated by Council assets incomes to Ear Marked Reserves and other asset reserves.
6. The council will continue to support the maintenance and where appropriate the replacement of the recreation equipment at the park.

7. The council will apply a year-on-year uplift for the following:

External Contracts – 3.4% (Exceptions may be for Gas, Electricity, Fuel and Water)

Remuneration – 3% (same as 2025/26)

8. The council will apply necessary increases as described in the charging schedule for council services as attached. Cllr would like clarification on this point.
9. Events: The council will host a programme of events in the park which are put on by 3rd parties at minimal cost to the council. The council will also organise a Christmas Event with the continued budget provision of £10,000. The council will make a further provision of £10,000 for other events.
10. The council will continue to support the Bloom Project and will increase the budget in line with assumption 7.
11. Village Hall. The lease is expected to continue on the same term (full repairing and insuring). The council will build the existing EMR for the hall.
12. The council will always aim to present a balanced budget unless external budget pressures in these 3 years occur.
13. The CIL income included in the budget is based upon the CIL instalments due and does not include any other CIL contributions which have not yet been notified to the council.
14. The budget based upon these assumptions does not include any provision for reduction in service delivery from RBWM during 2026 2027.
15. The budget based upon these budget assumptions does not include any provision for changes in Government Legislation during 2026 27.
16. Citizen Advice East Berkshire Outreach - this will not be funded going forwards as this service has been stopped by CAEB.
17. Council to continually review contracts with suppliers to receive best value.
18. To purchase a new van using EMR (exploring purchase and lease options, likely to require new van before end of 2025/26)
19. That the contributions to and from earmarked reserves included in the budget are summarised in the following table:

<b>Contributions to Reserves</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Playground Equipment	£17,376	£17,376	Replace old equipment
New Van	£7,500	£0	Officer advised enough budget to purchase a van
Cemetery	£18,000	£10,000	To purchase land in future
Tennis	£11,045	£7,026.24	Resurfacing (assuming no reserves)
Village Hall	£7,500	£7,500	
In Bloom	£800	£0	Budget and income cover costs
Property Maintenance	£0	£8,000	To allow for works to the Pavillion
<b>Contributions from Reserves</b>			
Property Maintenance	£4,000	£0	
<b>NET CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>£58,221</b>	<b>£49,902</b>	

### CIL Strategy

A CIL spending strategy will be developed in Q1 2026 to align with emerging community priorities and infrastructure needs.

### Glossary

**EMR** = Earmarked reserves (funds set aside for specific purpose or future projects)

**CIL** = Community Infrastructure Levy

**CPI** = Consumer price index (measures average change in time in the prices paid by consumers for goods and services)

### UK CPI Trends

The following table shows the Consumer Price Index (CPI) trends in the UK. This data provides context for inflation-related assumptions in the 2026/27 budget.

<b>Month</b>	<b>CPI (%)</b>
January 2024	2.0
January 2025	3.3
August	3.8
September	3.8
October	3.6
November	3.2
December	3.4

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/bulletins/consumerpriceinflation/november2025>

### Unknown changes that could affect the budget

- Potential changes due to the Autumn Budget 2025. (Wednesday 26 November 2025)  
The key points can be found here:  
[Budget 2025 summary: Key points from Rachel Reeves's speech - BBC News](#)
- The outturn for the year 2025/26 is to be confirmed. Report shared in January '26
- Utility costs are likely to be high. The most recent data can be found on these links below.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/historical-electricity-data>  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/timeseries/czda/mm23>  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/timeseries/czct/mm23>

### Appendix A: Summary of 2025 / 2026 Budget Assumptions

The following assumptions are drafted by the Locum Clerk in her role as RFO for the Finance Committee to consider and prepare recommendations to Full Council

1. This is an incremental budget – that is, it is based upon the budget set for 2024/25 with small variations where known (and set out in the Statement of Variation circulated with this paper). The assumptions used in bringing together the 2024/25 budget are appended to this paper for information.
2. Inflation is lower than previous years. The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose by 2.3% in the 12 months to October 2024, up from 1.7% in September.
3. Previous budgets have made generous provision for inflation and therefore it is not proposed to make any provision for inflation for 2025/26 save for a provision of 3% for the 2025/26 pay award (at a cost of £5,680 to be included in the budget as a separate contingency to be allocated when the pay award is settled).
4. The Government's changes to Employers' National Insurance Contributions (ERNIC) are inflationary and a further £4,677 is provided for these additional costs
5. That the contributions to and from earmarked reserves included in the budget will be (mostly) the same as in previous years and are summarised in the following table:

<b>Contributions to Reserves</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>
Playground Equipment	£27,645	£17,376
New Van	£7,500	£7,500
Cemetery	£18,000	£18,000
Tennis	£11,045	£11,045
Village Hall	£7,500	£7,500
In Bloom	£800	£800
<b>Contributions from Reserves</b>		
Property Maintenance	£4,000	£4,000
<b>NET CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>£68,490</b>	<b>£58,221</b>

## Earmarked Reserves

	Account	Opening Balance	Net Transfers	Closing Balance
321	EMR Tennis	61,412.35	7,283.97	68,696.32
323	EMR Village Hall	10,203.17	7,500.00	17,703.17
324	S106 - Open Space	1,723.85		1,723.85
325	S106 - Public Art	14,188.95		14,188.95
326	S106 - Community Facilities	137.84		137.84
328	EMR In Bloom	4,000.00	800.00	4,800.00
329	EMR Cemetery	76,721.65	18,000.00	94,721.65
330	EMR Van	7,950.00	7,500.00	15,450.00
331	EMR Property Maintenance	72,262.05	-4,000.00	68,262.05
332	S106 - Allotments	20.78		20.78
333	CIL Reserve	1,590,413.42	456,468.14	2,046,881.56
334	EMR Playground	115,955.59	17,376.00	133,331.59
338	EMR Training	40.00		40.00
		<b>1,955,029.65</b>	<b>510,928.11</b>	<b>2,465,957.76</b>



## Earmarked Reserves & Reserve Policy

### Background

The Practitioners Guide (2024 edition) which may be found here: <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/our-work/jpag/4040-practitioners-guide-2024/file> points out at paragraph 1.13 that to be able to give a positive answer to Assertion 1<sup>1</sup> of the Annual Governance Statement the following process (amongst others) needs to be in place and effective:

*"Reserves — The authority needs to have regard to the need to put in place a General Reserve Policy and have reviewed the level and purpose of all Earmarked Reserves."*

The Practitioners Guide goes on to say the following at Section 5:

#### **"Reserves:**

- 5.31. *As with any financial entity, it is essential that authorities have sufficient reserves (general and earmarked) to finance both their day-to-day operations and future plans.*
- 5.32. *Smaller authorities have no specific right to accumulate funds via the precept. All reserves should be reviewed and justified regularly (i.e. at least annually). It is good practice to transparently publish both the level and rationale of all reserves.*

#### **General reserves:**

- 5.33. *The general reserve of an authority comprises its cash flow and contingency funds to cover unexpected inflation, unforeseen events and unusual circumstances.*
- 5.34. *The generally accepted recommendation with regard to the appropriate minimum level of a smaller authority's general reserve is that this should be maintained at between three and twelve months of net revenue expenditure.*
- 5.35. *The reason for the wide range is to cater for the large variation in activity level between individual authorities. The smaller the authority, the closer the figure may be to 12 months expenditure, the larger the authority, the nearer to 3 months. In practice, any authority with income and expenditure in excess of £200,000 should plan towards 3 months equivalent general reserve.*
- 5.36. *In all of this it is important that each authority adopt, as a general reserve policy, the level appropriate to their size, situation, risks and plan their budget so as to ensure that the adopted level is maintained. Consideration of the minimum level of reserves requires not only consideration of level of income and expenditure but also the risks to that income.*
- 5.37. *Authorities with significant self-generated income (other than the precept or levy) should take into account situations that may lead to a loss in revenue as well as increased costs and adapt their general reserve accordingly.*

#### **Earmarked and other reserves:**

- 5.38. *None of the above in any way affects the level of earmarked and/or capital receipts reserves that an authority may or should hold.*

5.39.

*There is, in practice, no upper or lower limit to EMR/CRRs save only that they must be held for genuine and identifiable purposes and projects, and their level should be subject to regular review and justification (at least annually and at budget setting), and should be separately identified and enumerated. Significant levels of EMRs in particular may give rise to enquiries from internal and/or external auditors."*

<sup>1</sup> Assertion 1 says "We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements".

### Existing Reserves and Policy

The Councils earmarked Reserves and Policy were reviewed during the budget process. The earmarked reserves as of 11 February 2026 are appended to this report. The Finance Committee would like to ensure that there are 3 months' equivalent general reserves.

EMR/CRR's - Earmarked Reserves and Capital Receipts Reserves

<b>A/c Code</b>	310 General Reserve				<b>Annual Budget</b>	0
<b>Centre</b>	(none)				<b>Committed</b>	0
<b>Month</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Transaction Detail</b>	<b>Debit</b>	<b>Credit</b>
<b>Opening Balance</b>						<b>129,094.05</b>
8	31/10/2025	255	Journal	EMR Van	7,500.00	
8	31/10/2025	259	Journal	Bloom	800.00	
8	08/11/2025	254	Journal	Playground Equipment	17,376.00	
8	08/11/2025	256	Journal	Cemetery	18,000.00	
8	08/11/2025	257	Journal	Tennis reserves	11,045.00	
8	08/11/2025	258	Journal	Village Hall	7,500.00	
10	15/01/2026	268	Journal	Village Hall		7,500.00
Account <b>General Reserve</b>					<b>Account Totals</b>	<b>62,221.00</b>
Centre					<b>Net Balance Month 11</b>	<b>74,373.05</b>

# CIL STAKEHOLDER GRANT - APPLICATION FORM

1. Applicant organisation	Charters School
2. Name & position of main contact	██
3. Applicant contact details (phone no, email & address)	Phone: 01344 624826 ██ Address: Charters School, Charters Road, Sunningdale, SL5 9QY
4. Type of organisation If a charity, please provide registration number	Academy School Charity registration number: Academies are exempt charities – not registered with the Charity Commission however our exempt charity number is EW10993
5. Is the organisation able to reclaim VAT?	Yes
6. Location of project	Main Hall, Charters School, Charters Road, Sunningdale, SL5 9QY
7. Summary of the project proposal	<p>The project involves the installation of a high-specification retractable and movable tiered seating system in the Main Hall at Charters School. The seating will significantly enhance the hall's flexibility and capacity for school assemblies, examinations, performances, conferences, and a wide range of community events. With a capacity of 244 seats, the system will allow the hall to be rapidly reconfigured to meet differing needs, transforming it into a genuinely multi-functional community venue.</p> <p>This seating project – alongside an upgrade to the hall's sound system which is currently being sourced by an ex-student - forms the <b>final phase of a wider programme of substantial investment in the Main Hall over the past five years</b>, fully funded by the school and its community. These improvements have been deliberately phased to modernise the space, increase accessibility, and expand its use by the wider Sunningdale community.</p> <p>Recent investments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete replacement of the hall flooring to improve safety, durability, and appearance - £12,970</li> <li>• Installation of new acoustically improved doors to enhance soundproofing and event quality - £8,780</li> <li>• Installation of an electronic retractable projection screen to support conferences, visiting speakers, and community presentations - £1,000</li> <li>• Upgrade of the hall lighting to cost-efficient LED fixtures – £9750</li> <li>• Investment in new Parabolic Aluminized Reflector (PAR) stage lights — versatile, professional-grade fittings that provide focused beams for stage washing, performer highlighting, and dynamic lighting effects for theatre, concerts, and events - £6,000</li> <li>• Modernisation of the honours boards to reflect the school's updated crest, contributing to a cohesive, sleek, and contemporary environment - £4,600</li> <li>• Replacement windows to boost energy efficiency, cutting heating/cooling bills and improving comfort - £17,000</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans are in place to upgrade the sound system in the hall with the help of an ex-student who now works in the media industry. The new audio equipment and audio mixer is being sourced at cost and is expected to cost in the region of £30,000. This will be funded by events including a Race Night, Summer Fair &amp; parental donations.</li> </ul> <p>Collectively, these improvements have transformed the Main Hall into a modern, welcoming, and highly usable space. The proposed seating system is the <b>missing infrastructure element</b> needed to unlock the hall's full potential as a shared community facility. The hall will be regularly used by local schools, youth organisations, arts groups, and community bodies, many of whom will access the space free of charge. The new seating will improve comfort, accessibility, safety, and audience experience, delivering long-term benefits for residents of all ages and directly supporting the objectives of the Sunningdale Parish Council CIL Policy and Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
8. Estimated project cost	£97,946.00 (excluding VAT)

9. Please show in the table the amount of CIL funding being sought and any other contributions that may have been allocated for this scheme.

	Amount	Detail
CIL funding sought	£90,946.00	Retractable seating system
Any other Local Authority Contribution	£0	
Third party contribution	£7,000.00	Funds raised by the school community
Total Cost	£97,946.00	

10. Details of additional sources of funding available	<p>The school community has already raised <b>£7,000 through a combination of a Christmas Draw and parental donations</b>, specifically allocated towards the tiered seating project. This figure reflects the <b>actual cost incurred to hire temporary tiered seating for the school's most recent major production</b>, demonstrating both the necessity of the seating and the value-for-money case for permanent installation.</p> <p>This contribution evidences strong local commitment and ensures that the application is not seeking full funding from Sunningdale Parish Council. In addition, Charters School has made significant capital investments in the Main Hall over the past five years (detailed above), representing a substantial financial commitment from the school itself.</p> <p>Ongoing parental donations and lettings income will support minor ancillary costs and future maintenance, ensuring the project's long-term sustainability without additional calls on public funds.</p>
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<p>11. Why is CIL funding being sought? Please provide details of sources of funding already considered or applications made for funding</p>	<p>CIL funding is being sought to support the <b>final and most capital-intensive element</b> of a wider hall improvement programme that directly benefits the Sunningdale community. While the school has already funded multiple infrastructure upgrades independently, the cost of a permanent, high-quality retractable seating system exceeds what can reasonably be raised through school fundraising alone within the required timeframe.</p> <p>The project meets the CIL requirement to support development in the area by providing improved community infrastructure that addresses increased demand for flexible, high-capacity venues resulting from local housing growth. No other local authority or external grant funding has been secured for this specific element, and the application demonstrates clear match funding and community backing in line with the Parish Council's policy.</p>
<p>12. Please indicate whether the organisation has previously received CIL or other funding sources from RBWM or Sunningdale Parish Council. If yes please, provide amounts and timings</p>	<p>In November 2021, Charters School secured CIL funding of £12,600 from both Sunningdale Parish Council and Sunninghill &amp; Ascot Parish Council to jointly fund the installation of a new canopy as part of a collaborative infrastructure improvement project.</p>
<p>13. How does the project help address the demands of development in the area. What evidence is there to support this?</p>	<p>Sunningdale has experienced continued residential development, increasing demand for accessible community spaces capable of hosting large-scale educational, cultural, and social events. The upgraded Main Hall, equipped with permanent tiered seating, will provide a flexible venue that supports this growth and relieves pressure on other local facilities.</p> <p>The project directly aligns with CIL regulations by funding improved infrastructure that supports development and enhances community cohesion, accessibility, and wellbeing.</p>
<p>14. What evidence is there of support from the community?</p>	<p>There is <b>extensive and demonstrable community support</b> for the seating project. Letters of support have been received from a wide range of organisations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Berkshire County Football Club</li> <li>• Ocean Theatre Company</li> <li>• Cranbourne Primary School</li> <li>• Holy Trinity Primary School</li> <li>• St Michael's Primary School</li> <li>• Dormy House Care Home</li> <li>• Natalie Vinson School of Dance and Drama</li> </ul> <p>In addition, parents and carers have actively contributed financially through fundraising and donations. The £7,000 raised towards seating costs provides tangible evidence of public support and community demand. These organisations and individuals view the upgraded hall as a shared asset that</p>

	enhances cultural, educational, and intergenerational activity within Sunningdale.														
15. Proposed timelines for the project	<p>The project is fully specified and ready to proceed following confirmation of funding. All works will commence and be completed well within the twenty-four-month period required under the Sunningdale Parish Council CIL Policy. The proposed timeline allows for procurement, manufacture, and installation to be completed in line with school operational requirements and within the Parish Council's CIL delivery expectations.</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Milestone</b></th><th><b>Target Date</b></th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Funding confirmed</td><td>January 2026</td></tr> <tr> <td>Final specification and order placement</td><td>February 2026</td></tr> <tr> <td>Detailed design and manufacturing period</td><td>March 2026</td></tr> <tr> <td>Pre-installation site preparation</td><td>May 2026</td></tr> <tr> <td>Installation and commissioning of seating</td><td>July 2026</td></tr> <tr> <td>Seating fully operational and available for use</td><td>September 2026</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This timetable ensures installation takes place during the summer holiday period, minimising disruption to school activities while enabling immediate community use from the start of the new academic year.</p>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	Funding confirmed	January 2026	Final specification and order placement	February 2026	Detailed design and manufacturing period	March 2026	Pre-installation site preparation	May 2026	Installation and commissioning of seating	July 2026	Seating fully operational and available for use	September 2026
<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Target Date</b>														
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Pre-installation site preparation	May 2026														
Installation and commissioning of seating	July 2026														
Seating fully operational and available for use	September 2026														
16. Is there a related operating cost associated with the project? How will this be addressed?	Yes. The seating system requires annual servicing (estimated £1,000 - £1750 a year) to maintain its extended 10-year warranty. These costs will be covered through a mix of regular parental donations and lettings income. Profit-making organisations will be charged standard hire fees, while community groups will benefit from free access wherever possible.														
17. If the organisation is not in the public sector please provide details of the organisation's finances. Please include a copy of the most recently audited accounts, including unrestricted reserves.	<p>As an academy school, Charters School publishes audited annual accounts which are publicly available via the Department for Education and Companies House. We operate a balanced budget with prudent reserves, though capital funds for infrastructure such as this are limited.</p> <p><i>(Audited accounts available on request.)</i></p>														
18. Do you need planning permission to carry out the works?	<b>No.</b> The installation is internal and does not alter the building's structure or external appearance.														
19. If planning permission is required, is it in place to carry out the works? If so please provide the application number.	Not applicable.														

## **FC 74/25 – CIL Application: Sunningdale Bowling Club**

### **Council feedback:**

During the meeting, the council referred to the CIL policy which states ‘applications from membership organisations must be able to demonstrate a wider community benefit. New or improved facilities must be accessible to a wide range of people in the community.’ Anything the Bowling Club can do to strengthen its response to that part of the policy would be well received.

The council would also like to clarify a few points regarding accessibility and inclusivity at Sunningdale Bowls Club.

1. Is it correct that a person using a wheelchair would currently be unable to access the green to play bowls?
2. If someone cannot afford a membership, are there any options for them to still play, or does the membership requirement prevent participation?
3. Are there any measures in place to ensure that individuals who cannot afford to pay are not excluded from playing or becoming members?

### **Additional Information sent to the Clerk from Sunningdale Bowling Club**

- 1) It is not correct that a person using a wheelchair is unable to access the green. Ramps are available for the process though these are not fixed as to ensure maximum use of the playing area they would need to be removed whilst play is in progress. Without them we would not be able to get our mowers and other equipment onto the green for maintenance purposes.
- 2) We have never to my knowledge prevented any member from continuing their membership if their personal circumstances make our fees and charges a financial challenge. Committee members are always alive for signs that a member may be facing financial difficulties and as treasurer I have in recent years allowed fees to be paid in instalments.
- 3) We have no formal policy in respect to these situations. Potential members who come to our 'try bowls' events and do not apply to join are always followed up so that we understand any barriers that exist to their potential membership and can



attempt to removed them. Ability to pay is always a consideration in these enquiries.

Please be aware that lawn bowling is not an expensive hobby. Our membership fee of £172 allows members to use the green every day between the end of April and the end of September, around 150 days, and to play indoors for the rest of the year at no additional charge. Lawn woods can be an expensive item if purchased new but second hand sets are readily available on ebay and the club has a large number of sets that any member can hire for £50 per year. Compare this cost with that of a local football club whose playing membership fee is £320 a year and the typical cost of being a Scout is £372 per year.

All members have full free access to the green and to the clubhouse. We also have Social Members who do not participate in bowling but have free access to the clubhouse and social events. The fee for a social membership is £15.

I hope this answers all the council's concerns and trust that they will now feel able to come to a conclusion about providing funding for our desire to make our facilities suitable for the whole community not just the able bodied.

# Community Grant Application Form

## Application for Grant Funding for Voluntary Organisations

Name and Address of Organisation:
Berkshire Vision, Middleton House, 5 Erleigh Road, Reading
Postcode: RG1 5LR

Name and Role of Main Contact:

Contact details for Main Contact:

Is the organisation a registered Charity?	YES	
If yes, please provide Charity No.	1146413	

Total amount of Grant Requested:	£450
Purpose of the Grant or Project:	
<p>We currently support 1,644 visually impaired people across Berkshire, with 9 living in Sunningdale Parish. We are requesting funding for our services that address loneliness and isolation for our more vulnerable members who are less able to travel. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Social activities – both remote events such as book clubs and quizzes, and face-to-face activities such as the Windsor coffee mornings.</li><li>Telephone Befriending – regular friendly calls from a volunteer trained in sight loss.</li><li>Transport – any member wishing to attend face-to-face activities can be picked up/dropped off using our accessible minibuses.</li></ul> <p>These services will reduce social isolation, increase confidence and improve wellbeing for visually impaired people.</p>	

Total cost of the Project:	To provide these services across the county it costs over £50,000 annually, which includes staff costs, travel costs, minibuses, volunteer recruitment, venue hire and more.
From where will the remaining funds be sourced: (Please list funder and fund amounts)	

We have secured £19,250 towards the current year's costs from a range of funders including Heathrow Community Trust. We regularly apply to trusts, foundations and other charitable organisations to help fund the services we provide to our members, and at any time have a number of pending applications.

Who will benefit from the Project?

110 people are supported through the Telephone Befriending service, and 130 through Social Clubs.

How many of these beneficiaries will be residents of Sunningdale Parish:

9 and any new members who join us over the year.

What are the Project Outcomes?

The outcomes for our members are:

- Reduced feelings of loneliness and isolation
- Increased feelings of confidence and independence
- Improved mental wellbeing

Please return the application form to the Clerk via email: [clerk@sunningdaleparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sunningdaleparish.org.uk)

Sunningdale Parish Council