

Turves Community Recreation and Nature Park - Proposal for Pride in Place Funding

Thank you for your responses so far. I would like to provide clarification regarding the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) grant and to restate our request for support through the Pride in Place funding.

Clarification on the CPCA Grant

As previously communicated, the community group has not been able to come up with the £100,000 worth of shares required to meet the conditions of the CPCA grant. The reasons and feedback we have been provided by the villagers are as below:

- Current financial situation both nationally and locally
- The **current deprivation and isolation of Turves village** with continued loss of services/amenities, and being **continuously disproportionately looked after**, has meant people have lost faith in any improvements being seen in the village. As such they do not see this as a viable investment of their small (if any) savings left in the current climate, especially when we are not receiving our fair share of government/council funding and investment.
- There is **no public facility or space** currently available for us **to complete fundraising or community events**

We were in discussion with CPCA around the conditions being met if we were able to get the funding to purchase the pub through the Pride in Place grant as all other grant funding avenues have been difficult due to the building not being old enough to claim Heritage status. They were willing to look into this, but over the Christmas break they informed us that they would not be able to extend the grant due to confirmation that the FDC had made the decision to solely use the Pride in place funds for public green spaces (which was advertised in the February Discovering Whittlesey magazine). As such the previously CPCA grant has been withdrawn.

Request for Pride in Place Support – Purchase of Land in Turves

Given Turves' long-standing lack of public amenities, we are again asking the council to consider using part of the Pride in Place allocation to purchase approximately 10 acres of land within the village - such as the field near the bus stop or opposite Red Barn - for the creation of a public open space. I have reattached the proposal to this email. This project would meet the Pride in Place Impact Fund Objectives of (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pride-in-place-impact-fund/pride-in-place-impact-fund-prospectus>):

- 2.1.a - Community spaces: Creating... community facilities and enabling community organisations to take control... of underused but valued local assets
- 2.1.b Public spaces:... examples of initiative include new or improved green spaces
- 2.2. Local authorities should work in collaboration with MPs and other stakeholders to identify the interventions that will deliver the most benefits to local residents and breathe new life into the areas in which they live
 - We have a community survey supporting this request from the Turves (and surrounding area) community
- 2.4. To maximise the impact of the Pride in Place Impact fund and broaden its reach, local authorities are encourage to explore opportunities to leverage funding and/or seek match funding for initiatives

As outlined in our original message: "The Three Horseshoes Turves Community Hub could then lease this long term for a peppercorn rate... to develop into a community recreation and nature park."

This model mirrors the successful Fenland Orchard Project, where community stewardship and council ownership work hand-in-hand.

Our group is prepared to take full responsibility for maintenance and development. We already have volunteer support from local farmers for ground preparation and grass-cutting, and we intend to seek external funding from organisations such as:

- National Lottery *Reaching Communities*
- Cambridgeshire County Council *From the Ground Up*
- PECT - Peterborough Environment City Trust
- Additional environmental and community grant providers

This approach ensures that the council's investment is limited to the land purchase itself (which it will therefore maintain the asset value of the grant for future when the lease expires - if not renewed), while long-term development is funded externally and delivered by volunteers.

Why This Matters for Turves

Turves remains one of the few villages in the district with:

- No public green space
- No community building
- No other facilities to support villagers
- Minimal investment over the past decade

This feels like yet another missed opportunity for Turves and reinforces the fact the village is continuously disproportionately looked after.

Creating a community recreation and nature park would not only address this long-standing deficit but also support future housing growth, improve wellbeing, and strengthen community cohesion.

What We Are Requesting

We respectfully ask the council to provide:

1. **Confirmation that the proposal to purchase land for a community recreation and nature park will be given serious consideration.**
2. **Clarification on how the villagers Turves (and surrounding roads) are expected to benefit from the Pride in Place funding**, if not through the proposals being provided by the community group
 - Cllr Jan French stated in that "this investment will make a tangible difference to open spaces that are so valuable to our communities", yet Turves has no public open spaces

We remain committed to working constructively with Fenland District Council and hope that, together, we can finally deliver a meaningful community asset for Turves.

Kind regards,
Anthony White
Vice Chairman
The Three Horseshoes Turves Community Hub