

# Shutlanger Parish Council

Parish Clerk	John Scott
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## **Introduction**

Shutlanger Parish Council has formed a Playing Field Committee, established in 2018 consisting of Parish Councillors and members of the community, to be the guardians of the covenants of the playing field (Purchased in 2018) and to improve the onsite facilities. Our aims are to create a safe and stimulating outdoor environment for all residents of the village. The Village Plan indicated that village residents placed a high priority on the development of the playing field facilities and therefore this is something we would like to address.

The village of Shutlanger is situated 3 miles South East of Towcester in Northamptonshire and has a population of around 300 people, with an electoral roll of 231. The village has 65 children under the age of 15 and 54 residents over the age of 65, which therefore may increase the chance of a grandchild visiting, increasing the number of children who may want to utilise the playing field.

Due to recent subsidy cuts, bus services are limited and therefore access to alternative outdoor spaces is restricted for many residents. With the playing fields being our only outdoor facility, it is of vital importance that they are stimulating and safe for our residents and provide them with a space to exercise and enjoy the wonderful countryside setting Shutlanger provides.

In addition, recent studies suggest that UK secondary school students spend up to 9 hours a day exposed to electronic media and around 22,000 school children are obese. Local schools are under pressure to ensure that the curriculum is delivered as well as supporting young people's social and physical health and therefore are under significant pressure to stretch resources. With these pressures placed on communities, we as a local committee can ease some of these pressures and provide a safe, stimulating space for children and young people to socialise and exercise.

As a committee we need to invest in new play/fitness and recreational equipment to replace the tired and worn out equipment currently on site, which therefore would ensure the recent purchase of the playing field reaches its full potential. We hope to provide a focus point for the young people of the area and a location for community spirit to be fostered. Specifically, we are asking for funds to compliment the investment the Parish Council has committed to make. The more we invest the more it will get used.

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It is important that this project happens and happens quickly, the recent cancellation of bus subsidies will hit the village hard particularly the youngsters and elder residents who are finding it increasingly difficult to visit local towns for entertainment / recreation. A comprehensively equipped playing field will negate the need to leave the village in many instances. The upgrade to the facilities will give the residents more feeling of ownership in the village life and will allow us to create more opportunities to bring the residents together as a community.

Consequences of failure to create a suitable environment are many, the elderly have no central meeting point and therefore could become isolated, the youngsters have no outlet for their energy, no meeting point for interaction with others. Juvenile crime in the area is low and we intend to keep it this way. This project will help immensely in this area.

The initial estimated project cost was £70,000 + VAT (Recoverable) but after negotiations and equipment review this is now estimated to be approximately £50,000. + VAT. (£49,738).

## **Key Points**

- 1) Council has already invested £30k purchasing the playing field.
- 2) Needs to move to the next phase and invest in upgrading equipment.
- 3) This is for the wellbeing of the entire community.
- 4) The more invested the more the facilities will be used.
  - a. Shutlanger Parish Council has already allocated £8k in funds for the project.
  - b. South Northants Council has committed £17.4k.
  - c. National Lottery has given £10k.
  - d. Shortfall £14,330.
- 5) Upgrade is what the village has asked for (2014 Parish Plan).

## **Proposed works**

Remove existing equipment

Slide, Swings Goalposts netball post.

Make good the ground

Fill holes with topsoil, re-turf open areas.

Install New equipment

Swings x 3

Copies of all council papers are available to download at  
[www.shutlangerparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.shutlangerparishcouncil.org.uk)

Council members can be contacted via the Clerk

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Climbing frames and slides x 3

Seating area

Benches, Toadstools, Picnic table.

Goal posts x 2

Framed and including netball nets

Fencing to enclose all the above except the goalposts.

## **Estimated Costs (Ex VAT)**

Swings	7,654
Tables & benches	1,872
Slides & Frames	25,514
Goals	5,100
Sub Total	40,140
Fencing	5,000
Removals	2,487
Security and welfare	2,111
Total	49,738

Funding		
Parish Council		8,000
SNC New Homes Bonus		6,714
SNC Development Capital Fund	35	10,694
Lottery		10,000
		-
Other		-
Total		35,408
Equipment Cost		49,738
Shortfall		14,330

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## Planned layout

Images are for illustration purposes only, as final product may vary

### Option One

Scale: At A3 (1:200)

	Grass
	Gate (existing)
	Hedge
	Trees
	Directional gradient
	Fall zone
	Play zone
	Removed Area

**Notes:**  
 A 2.4m Log Swing with Flat Seats - 16x Grossquad Tile (1.5 x 1m Tile)  
 B 2.4m Log Swing with Basket Seat - 16x Grossquad Tile (1.5 x 1m Tile)  
 C 1.8m Log Swing with Cradle Seats - 14x Grossquad Tile (1.5 x 1m Tile)  
 D 2x Sherwood Table (inc. Ground Fixings)  
 E Buddy Bench 1.5m (No Text) (inc. Ground Fixings)  
 F Set of Three Red Toadstools  
 G Captain Mannering (With one slide upgraded to double bumpy slide) - Scribbled - 61x Grossquad Tile (1.5 x 1m Tile)  
 H Compo - Scribbled - 31x Grossquad Tile (1.5 x 1m Tile)  
 I Time Out Trail - 3 Stepping Stones - Caster Bridge - Balance Weeever - 16x Grossquad Tile (1.5 x 1m Tile)  
 J 60m Palsade Fencing - 1x 1000mm Palsade Alpha Gate - 1x 3000mm Palsade Alpha Gate  
 K 2X Senior Wooden Football Goal With Net and Basketball End (Scribbled)

**Header:** SOVEREIGN  
 Bringing imagination into play

**Footer:** Shutlanger Parish Council  
 Images shown are for representational purposes, products may vary. T: 01702 291129 - www.sovereignplayequipment.co.uk

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## Finance

The Parish Council has funds set aside (£8k) for the redevelopment.

South Northants Council has granted the Council a further £17.4k.

The National Lottery has given the council (in the bank) a further £10k.

The council will **not** be increasing the Precept to cover the additional loan repayments.

To cover the shortfall of approximately £15k the council has agreed at a Council meeting to apply for a loan from the PWLB, this was on the agenda and minuted at the meeting on 12 September 2019.

**19-09-14** It was **RESOLVED** that the council would proceed and apply for additional funding (£15k approx.) from Public Works Loan Board for the playing-field improvements.

The council considers that the additional costs for funding the loan can be covered within the existing budget plan, see below. As a contingency, new projects could be reduced for future years, the council also has reserves which it could call on, the council keeps approximately the same value of reserves as the Precept.

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Balance Brought Forward	26,676	18,677	18,868	19,059	19,250
<b>Precept</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>
Lottery Funding	10,000				
South Northants Council Grant	17,408				
PWLB Loan (if approved)	15,000				
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>86,084</b>	<b>35,677</b>	<b>35,868</b>	<b>36,059</b>	<b>36,250</b>
Normal Annual Expenditure	17,669	16,809	16,809	16,809	16,809
<b>New Playing Field Expenditure</b>	<b>49,738</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>67,407</b>	<b>16,809</b>	<b>16,809</b>	<b>16,809</b>	<b>16,809</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>18,677</b>	<b>18,868</b>	<b>19,059</b>	<b>19,250</b>	<b>19,441</b>

These figures include the additional loan costs.

The services to the residents will not be impacted by the additional costs, and future new project costs are built into the overall financial planning.

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## Budgets

	2019-20	2020-2021
<b>Precept</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>
<b>Grants</b>		
VAT Refund	1,500	-
Fundraising		
Loan		
Miscellaneous		
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,500</b>	<b>17,000</b>
Audit	250	275
Bank Charges	75	80
Churchyard	200	200
Defibrillator Phonenumber	375	375
Expenses	500	250
General Admin Direct	500	250
Grants	75	75
Insurance	400	410
Lighting Electricity	600	400
Lighting Repairs	200	200
Loan Repayment	2,354	3,854
Miscellaneous	1,000	500
Playing Field	1,000	500
Replacement Clerk	1,000	1,000
Staff Cost	3,500	3,500
Subscriptions	400	400
Training	500	250
VAS maintenance	250	250
Village Hall	120	120
Website	600	200
Salt Box Refills	120	120
New Signage	400	-
Drain Cleaning	1,000	-
Dog Bins	750	500
Litter Pick	200	
Re Site VAS 1	800	
Bulb Planting	100	100
Bus Subsidy	400	-
New Projects	0	3,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,669</b>	<b>16,809</b>

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In the year **2020/2021** the additional costs (£1500) for funding a new loan have been included, this is an estimate until we get the relevant interest rate form PWLB which is currently 1.77%

Real cost could be in the region of £1,277 per year based on above rate.

## **Consultation**

The Village Plan 2014 (extract below) and the questionnaire completed by a third party clearly indicated that the residents wanted the Parish Council to redevelop the playing field area, to do this the council decided that the playing field should be purchased on behalf of the village, this was completed in January 2018.

At the Annual Village Meeting in May 2018 it was agreed to put together a committee to oversee the redevelopment, it was also agreed that 2 councillors and 2 residents would form the team. This however changed when it was clear, after web site and face book page advertising revealed that there was more interest from the residents and now there is a committee of 2 councillors and 4 residents who meet regularly to discuss and agree the way forward. The expenditure and equipment plan have been agreed by the committee.

The plans are reported at the bi-monthly meetings of the council where residents can see the progress of the development.

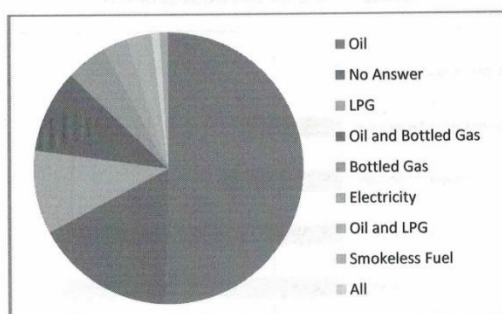
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## Shutlanger Parish Plan February 2014

**Figure 13**  
**Q27. Which of the following energy supplies do you use in your home?<sup>20</sup>**



With regards to the play area (Question 28), over two thirds of those who answered this question felt it didn't meet the needs of children aged 0-5 or 6-11 years. All respondents aged 1-17 years felt the play equipment was inadequate for 0-11 year olds. Nearly half of respondents (n=45, 44.6%) felt the play equipment at the recreation ground should be improved (Question 29), but, again, all of those aged 1-17 years old felt the equipment should be improved.

Issues of most importance in terms of community buildings (Question 30) were considered to be toilet facilities (n=81, 80.2%), heating (n=74, 73.3%), catering facilities (n=61, 60.4%) and a large activity hall (n=56, 55.4%). The least important facility in relation to community buildings was the provision of small committee rooms (n=17, 16.8%). The questionnaire results show that the village hall in Shutlanger (Question 31) was largely felt to be sufficient for the village needs (n=78, 77.2%). The reading room (Question 32), however, was considered sufficient by 39.6% of people (n=40), insufficient by 27.7% (n=28) and a third of those responding had no opinion on the matter (n=30, 29.7%).

The most popular forms of raising funds to resolve issues raised by the questionnaire (Question 33) was fundraising (n=83, 82.2%), followed by grants/lottery funding (n=78, 77.2%). The least popular method was higher Council Tax increases (n=3, 3%). More details can be found in Figure 14.

<sup>20</sup> Note all properties have electricity supply

Extract from the Parish Plan indicating consultation.