

**Mendip Communities Fund  
Stoke St Michael Parish Council Application Proposal  
Millennium Green / Lychgate**

*Grant Criteria:*

*Improving community facilities*

*Community organisation / network resilience*

*Supporting community volunteering opportunities and training*

*Promoting physical and mental wellbeing*

*Encouraging social connection*

*Financial and digital inclusion*

*Accessible participation in arts, creativity and heritage*

Stoke St Michael Millennium Green is a parcel of public land right in the centre of the village owned by the Parish Council. It is home to a local stone and oak Lychgate shelter with a clay roof and has a stream running through the centre of the land with an arched timber bridge over. It is an area well frequented by local people and is very popular with young people and families as there is access to shallow water ideal for paddling and exploring the stream's wildlife. An annual 'Duck Race' takes place on this land in August which is very well attended. It is very much a central focal point for the village. The young people of the village congregate there each day for the school bus.

The land and the Lychgate are in need of some essential maintenance. Works are planned soon to pollard a large willow tree, reduce the size of the canopy of several other trees, repair the roof of the Lychgate and generally tidy up the area, all funded by the Parish Council, however due to the central location and popularity of this land a Parish Council working party has been established to look at a broader development and improvement project..

Stoke St Michael PC recognise that has never been a more important time to provide safe outdoor space for people to enjoy for their physical and mental wellbeing, there are very few public areas in the village where people can sit and rest. Considering the village is hilly and we have a high proportion of elderly residents, Millennium Green provides an opportunity to take a break and safely meet with others.

The working party proposes to engage the community in the planning and development of this project which will include:

- 1) Providing pathways to enable access to all taking into account access for those with mobility issues using materials that are sympathetic to the environs. At present there is one uneven pathway and an arched bridge with slippery decking. The other walkways through are just well trodden and muddy in wet weather
- 2) Install a new level bridge that is easier and safer to negotiate
- 3) Provide 3 x family sized picnic tables (8 seater tables) sited on level bases. At present there is just one serviceable 2/3 seater bench in situ
- 4) Create raised beds/planters to enable the growing of plants at a height suitable for volunteers of all ages and abilities
- 5) Create planting schemes and maintenance regimes that encourage pollinators and other wildlife. Re-establish grassed areas that are in poor condition
- 6) Create a slope down to a platform with bench seating so that access to the stream is safe and accessible to all, at present there is no safe access, the water is shallow however the access is just a scramble down a muddy bank
- 7) Provide cycle racks so that we can encourage families to cycle to Millennium Green. We also have a lot of cyclists coming through our village so the seating areas and cycle racks would allow them to stop and park their bikes and maybe take advantage of refreshments at our local pub or shop, both of which are a very short walk away
- 8) Purchase gardening and maintenance tools for the area
- 9) Provide a secure shed to store gardening tools and other equipment
- 10) Upgrade litter bins