

**For immediate release**

## **Let's Play 2021 celebrates after receiving £53,000 in National Lottery funding**

Geldeston Village Park and Let's Play 2021 based in Geldeston is celebrating today after being awarded £53,000 in funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, the largest funder of community activity in the UK.

The Geldeston Village Park and Let's Play 2021 project addresses several gaps in provision of services for the Geldeston Community. It provides a safe place for children to play and recreational facilities for all ages and abilities. These will consist of a Boule court, wheelchair accessible table tennis and an area for football and basketball.

The play facilities aim to enhance all areas of childhood development and build self-confidence and self-esteem. The adult recreation areas will provide the opportunity for residents to be active and to interact with other people. Peer support and exercise are proven to be beneficial in the maintenance of good mental and physical health.

The sensory garden will be named after one of the villages most revered female residents, Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin, Nobel prize winning British chemist. It will provide a place where people can escape to away from the stresses and difficulties exacerbated by the recent pandemic.

This new National Lottery funding will support people of all age groups primarily from across Geldeston and the neighbouring villages but also the many holiday makers that visit throughout the year.

Work will start as soon as the official arrangements have been finalised. Apart from the installation of professionally installed equipment there are all sorts of ways residents can join in even before the park is up and running, for example with the sensory garden. If you would like to get involved, please visit our dedicated Facebook page for more information or contact [geldestonclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:geldestonclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

National Lottery players raise over £30 million a week for good causes across the UK. The National Lottery Community Fund distributes a share of this to projects to support people and communities to prosper and thrive.

Project spokesperson Linda Rowntree a member of the Geldeston Village Park and Let's Play subcommittee said: "Thanks to National Lottery players, this grant means that we can

create a space where everyone can benefit. The project will provide a fully equipped all-inclusive play area that considers the needs of lesser able children.

In taking care of the welfare of our children however it is vital that we embrace the wellbeing of the whole community. To do this we want to support its diversity and find a common interest in which all can come together.

The sensory garden will provide a universal concentration of experiences designed to connect people closely with nature and each other. It can be a quiet calming place or equally stimulate activity. Children can take part in nature clubs thus providing a constructive environment to bring the community together.

The football and basketball area, Boule Court and wheelchair accessible table tennis will encourage socialisation and eventually may lead to competitions between local villages.

Once completed it is anticipated that the community will continue to be involved especially in the maintenance of the sensory garden. By providing for the whole community within the village the park will make a big difference to people's lives."

During the pandemic, in 2020 alone, The National Lottery Community Fund distributed almost £1 billion to charities and community organisations across the UK.

To find out more visit [www.TNLCommunityFund.org.uk](http://www.TNLCommunityFund.org.uk)

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## Contact

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Pictures are available upon request.

## Notes to Editors:

### **About The National Lottery Community Fund**

We are the largest funder of community activity in the UK - we support people and communities to prosper and thrive.

We're proud to award money raised by National Lottery players to communities across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and to work closely with Government to distribute vital grants and funding from key Government programmes and initiatives.

Our funding has a positive impact and makes a difference to people's lives. We support projects focussed on things that matter, including economic prosperity, employment, young people, mental health, loneliness and helping the UK reach NET Zero by 2050.

Thanks to the support of National Lottery players, our funding is open to everyone. We're privileged to be able to work with the smallest of local groups right up to UK-wide charities, enabling people and communities to bring their ambitions to life.

National Lottery players raise over £30 million each week for good causes throughout the UK. Since The National Lottery began in 1994, £43 billion has been raised for good causes. National Lottery funding has been used to support over 635,000 projects - 255 projects per postcode area.

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