



Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee

3 February 2020

Title	Member's Item – Applications for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funding
Report of	Head of Governance
Wards	Woodhouse, Golders Green
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix 1 – Stephens Hall proposal for Area Committee Appendix 2 – Wildflower HoneyBee and Fairylight Project
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Summary

This report informs the Area Committee that requests for CIL funding have been submitted. The Committee is requested to consider the information highlighted within this report and make a determination on its desired course of action in accordance with its powers.

Recommendations

1. That the Area Committee consider the requests as highlighted in section 1 of the report.
2. That the Area Committee decide whether it wishes to:
 - (a) agree the requests and note the implications to the Committee's CIL funding budget;
 - (b) defer the decision for funding for further information; or
 - (c) reject the application, giving reasons.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The following requests for funding from the Committee's allocated CIL budget have been raised:

Title	Refurbishment of Stephens Church Hall at Christ Church, High Road North Finchley N12 to improve capacity for community use
Raised by (Councillor)	Anne Hutton
Ward	Woodhouse
Area Committee	Finchley & Golders Green
Member Request	To request funding to go towards the costs of refurbishing Stephens Hall, Christ Church North Finchley in order to improve capacity for community use. Detailed proposal from the church is attached for more information
Funding Required (£)	25,000

Title	Green Estate Residents Association – Wildflower Honeybee and Fairylight Project
Raised by (Councillor)	Shimon Ryde
Ward	Golders Green
Area Committee	Finchley & Golders Green
Member Request	<p>Green Estate Residents Association (GGERA) applied to Semble for a grant to brighten up the Green Spaces on The Vale and fortunately we were successful in obtaining £1,500. The company I work for donated £100.</p> <p>Our Project is called the WILDFLOWER HONEYBEE & FAIRY LIGHT PROJECT.</p> <p>In London it is really important to create as many wildflower corridors as possible which help bees and butterflies to find food and thrive.</p> <p>Indeed these insect pollinators are vital for the maintenance of our ecosystem's health.</p>

	<p>ALBERTS EINSTEIN SAID : <i>'If the bee disappeared off the face of the earth, man would not last long thereafter'</i></p> <p>We have purchased some fairy lights which look magical on the bare winter trees. They light up at dusk (3pm ish) so that the young children on their way home from school can enjoy. However we have only been able to light up 3 trees so far.</p> <p>Our Wildflower Corridor will plant in March when the earth softens.</p> <p>It would be lovely to have the additional funds to purchase fairy lights for the remaining trees on our 'showcase' green space and complete at least one space. We are short of about £400 and we would be very grateful if F&GG Area Committee would let us have a small grant to complete the project.</p> <p>The uplift and joy this Wildflower Honeybee and Butterfly Project will give not only to residents but the many schoolchildren who traverse The Vale, together with regular pedestrians and motorists.</p> <p>Our Community, as you well know Shimon, put in oodles of "elbow grease" and continually look for way to improve our environment and therefore the F&GG's support for this scheme would be much appreciated.</p>
Funding Required (£)	400

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 As identified above Members of the Council have requested that the Committee consider requests for CIL funding. In line with guidance for Members' route to support applications for CIL funding, the Committee is asked to determine the desired course of action.
- 2.2 CIL funding can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure (as outlined in section 216(2) of the Planning Act 2008, and regulation 59, as amended) to support the development of a local area. The Act specifically names roads and transport, flood defences, schools and education facilities, medical facilities and recreational facilities; but is not restrictive. Therefore the definition can extend to allow the levy to fund a very broad range of facilities provided they are 'infrastructure'.

- 2.3 Further examples are: play areas, parks and green spaces, cultural and sports facilities, district heating schemes, police stations and community safety facilities. The flexibility in how the funds can be applied is designed to give local areas the opportunity to choose the infrastructure they need to deliver their Local Plan.
- 2.4 Guidance states that the levy is intended to focus on the provision of new infrastructure and should not be used to remedy pre-existing deficiencies in infrastructure provision, unless those deficiencies will be made more severe by new development. Therefore if funds are intended to be used to address existing deficiencies, it is recommended that funds are used to either increase the capacity of existing infrastructure or to repair failing existing infrastructure, where it is recognised as necessary to support development in the area.
- 2.5 Guidance states that local authorities must allocate at least 15% of levy receipts to spend on priorities that should be agreed with the local community in areas where development is taking place. Therefore a decision was made to honour the provision of a 15% contribution to each of the Council's Area Committee. This is capped at £150k per committee per year.
- 2.6 Applications relating to requests should be made to this Area Committee via Members' Items as outlined in the Council's Constitution. In line with guidance, applications submitted by Members should receive an initial assessment by an appropriate Officer, and should be accompanied by a recommendation (i.e. that the Committee should support or refuse the application).
- 2.7 Members should note that the committee has the power to discharge CIL-related environmental infrastructure projects and therefore has joint budget responsibility across the Area Committees which can be spent in 2018/19. Furthermore it is noted that any request can be considered only by this Committee if it is in line with its terms of reference as contained in the Council's Constitution.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 Not applicable.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Post decision implementation depends on the decision taken by the Committee, and the assessing officer's recommendation.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.1.1 The Committee has an allocated budget for Barnet Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) from which it can award funds to Area Committee grant applications. Any allocation of funds will be assessed by Officers.
- 5.1.2 The Committee is able to award funding of up to £25,000 per project for CIL Funding. Requests for funding must be in line with the Council's priorities which are outlined in the Corporate Plan 2015 – 2020.

5.2 Social Value

- 5.2.1 Requests for CIL funding provide an avenue for Members to give consideration to funding requests which may have added social value.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.3.1 Council Constitution, Article 7 contains the responsibilities of the Area Committees, which includes to: "Determine the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy funding within the constituency up to a maximum of £25,000 per scheme / project in each case subject to sufficient of the budget allocated to the committee being unspent."

5.4 Risk Management

- 5.4.1 None in the context of this report.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.5.1 Requests for Funding allow Members of a Committee to bring a wide range of issues to the attention of a Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution. All of these issues must be considered for their equalities and diversity implications.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.6.1 None in the context of this report.

5.7. Corporate Parenting

- 5.7.1. Not applicable in the context of this report

5.8. Insight

- 5.8.1. None in context of this report.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Meeting of the Community Leadership Committee 8 March 2016 Area Committee Funding – Savings from non- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) budgets: <http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s38413/Area%20Committee%20Funding%20Savings%20from%20non-%20Community%20Infrastructure%20Levy%20CIL%20budgets.pdf>
- 6.2 Review of Area Committees – operations and delegated budgets (24 June 2015): <https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s24009/Area%20Committees%20%20Community%20Leadership%20Committee%2025%20June%202015%20-%20FINAL.pdf>