

	<h2>Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee</h2> <h3>8 April 2021</h3>
<p style="text-align: right;">Title</p>	<p>Member’s Item – Applications for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funding</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p>	<p>Head of Governance</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p>	<p>Ward(s) within Finchley and Golders Green constituency</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p>	<p>None</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Salar Rida – Senior Governance Officer Salar.Rida@barnet.gov.uk Tel: 020 8359 7113</p>
<p>Summary</p>	
<p>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.</p>	

<p>Recommendations</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (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:

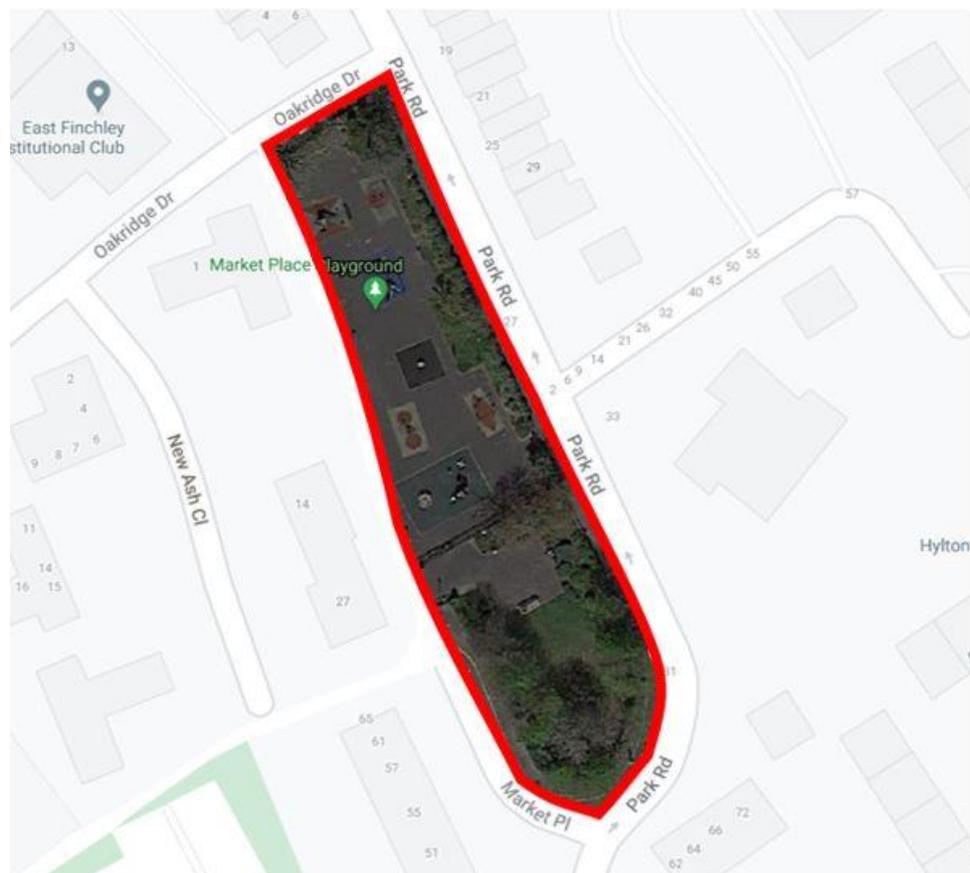
Title	Refurbishment and Improvement of Market Place Playground N2
Raised by (Councillor):	Alison Moore
Ward:	East Finchley
Area Committee:	Finchley and Golders Green
Member Request:	<p>The Proposal: This CIL funding application is being submitted in the name of Cllr Alison Moore but has the support of all three East Finchley ward councillors; the Friends of Market Place Playground N2 and The Grange Big Local Lottery Project. It has been discussed with Greenspaces Offices (see later section).</p> <p>The proposal is for £30k funding to support the renovation and remodelling of the existing playground, including both the play equipment and the site. As can be seen in the pictures (link to google maps below) the site is of a good size but the current equipment, layout and surfacing do not make the most of the space. It is envisaged that a more creative approach could both provide enhanced public play facilities and significantly improve the wider site. It is an opportunity to use the space more creatively; varying the surfacing, increase the number of trees, adding sustainable soft landscaping and increasing the biodiversity. This would benefit not only of the families that use it but the wider community.</p> <p>The full cost of the project is likely to be in excess of £75k (see section three for officer details of 2017 design) however, the £30K funding requested from the Area Committee would augment the £40K already earmarked by The Grange Big Local Lottery Project for improving the playground, and serve to unlock additional sources of funding, including those for which the Friends of Market Place Playground N2 may apply and that might be raised locally by the community.</p> <p>The Context and background: Market Place Playground N2 sits at the historic heart of the old East Finchley and 'The Walks', the route of an ancient droving path which brought livestock to the market, runs alongside the playground. Market Place which thrived until the 1940s was badly</p>

damaged by bombing during the second world war and subsequently redeveloped for housing. The playground is adjacent to the Norfolk Close, Prospect Ring and Chapel Court Barnet Homes estates which comprise three tower blocks and a number of low rise flatted blocks. A further high rise block on Prospect Ring, which will add an additional 50 units, is nearing completion and there are additional low rise flatted blocks in Oakridge Drive and Ash Close. In addition to the flatted accommodation, local streets are largely characterised by older terraced houses or maisonettes. The playground was originally designed as an important source of open and play space for local families in the adjacent estates, although it does serve the wider area. The need for this has been strikingly evident in the past year during the pandemic and three periods of 'lockdown' when usage of the playground has been particularly high when lockdown rules have permitted.

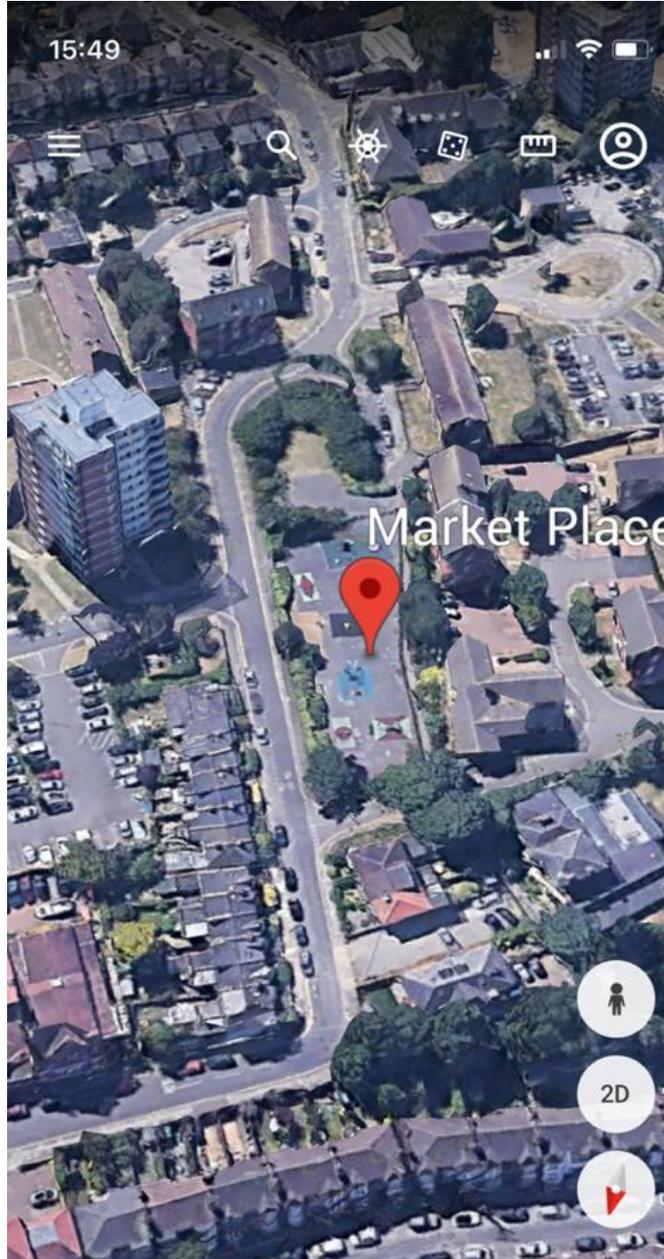
The Market Place playground has been a lifeline for those families living in flats with limited access to safe and secure play facilities. However, it hasn't had any major investment for more than twenty years. The current somewhat sparse (though well used) play equipment was installed about 15 years ago and the site is recognised as being in need of a renovation, as evidenced by the 2017 unfunded proposals.

The site:

[Market Place Playground - Google Maps](#)



<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Market+Place+Playground/@51.592317,-0.1690411,18z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x48761b0fc07e2e5d:0x1608a38178814762!8m2!3d51.5924053!4d-0.168333>



× Market Place Playground
Playground in London, England

Market Place Playground was identified in a recent Barnet council study as being of poor quality and a local petition calling on the council to 'Protect and Improve Market Place Playground East Finchley', was submitted by the newly formed Friends Group.

	<p>The council did develop plans for some renovation works in 2017 (see next section) and so there are some existing costings of circa £75K for replacement of the current play equipment. However, there is an opportunity to significantly improve the play, educational and environment value and amenity of the site.</p> <p>This is an exciting opportunity to ‘build back better’ in the post-Covid recovery and provide an innovative addition to the public infrastructure in this area of East Finchley, particularly at a time when the physical and mental health and wellbeing of our young people will be under the spotlight. It benefits from being flanked on one side by The Walks footpath and on the other by the relatively quiet Park Road.</p> <p>The site is a good size and there is a real opportunity to harness the energy and enthusiasm of the local residents to improve both the playground and its adjacent seating area. The Friends Group are already engaging playground users and local residents through an on-line survey (until lockdown rules are eased), to develop this as an innovative community project, potentially reflecting the site’s history and meeting the needs of both children and older residents.</p> <p>The Friends (which includes a former early years teacher/advisor) have been working with Roger Chapman, who chairs both the Friends of Cherry Tree Woods and Barnet Open Spaces group, and have been inspired by the work of Tim Gill rethinkingchildhood.com a nationally and internationally recognised play specialist in exploring project ideas.</p> <p>They have also been in dialogue with council officer (see section 2) throughout and ward councillors have been involved.</p>
<p>Funding Required (£):</p>	<p>The request is for £30K (which will augment £40K allocated by the Grange Big Local Lottery project and act to unlock further funding sources) against a cost estimate of £75-100K for play equipment.</p>
<p>In consultation with (e.g. named Highways/Greenspaces Officer, and any comments which would assist the application):</p> <p>On (DATE):</p>	<p>There has been extensive dialogue with officers Martin Thompson (until early Feb 2021) and Matt Gunyon, both Parks and Greenspaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal discussions in autumn 2020 (MT) • Site visit 18th December 2020 (MT, AM and Kathy Batten) • Email from MT 13th January 2021 • Information supplied by email about the 2017 draft proposals between officer and the then play equipment contractor

	 <p>Q-18597-J5P9-C-0.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up emails with MT and subsequently MG • Phone call with MG (AM) 17th March 2021 to discuss further details and progress on the tender for new play equipment providers.
<p>Any additional information (please list any documents here and email to relevant Governance Officer to circulate to the Committee):</p>	<p>Details of the position of the playground and surrounding area, including photos illustrating the existing equipment, layout and one of the adjacent tower blocks.</p> <p>Market Place Playground - Google Maps https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Market+Place+Playground/@51.5924053,-0.168333,3a,75y,90t/data=!3m8!1e2!3m6!1sAF1QipOOiOQW3JqnGvByz5Bqf1kolkQcalX6TrMsxf-c!2e10!3e12!6shttps:%2F%2Fh5.googleusercontent.com%2Fp%2FAF1QipOOiOQW3JqnGvByz5Bqf1kolkQcalX6TrMsxf-c%3Dw114-h86-k-no!7i4000!8i3000!4m5!3m4!1s0x48761b0fc07e2e5d:0x1608a3817814762!8m2!3d51.5924053!4d-0.168333</p> <p>https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Market+Place+Playground/@51.592317,-0.1690411,18z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x48761b0fc07e2e5d:0x1608a38178814762!8m2!3d51.5924053!4d-0.168333</p> <p>The Joint Strategic Needs Analysis for Barnet https://jsna.barnet.gov.uk/7-children-young-people details that East Finchley ward has 29.1% children living in poverty when housing costs were included. While not the highest in the borough, this is significant and is likely to increase as the national furlough scheme comes to an end.</p> <p>The JSNA also discusses the challenge of childhood obesity, the need to build resilience in children and young people and the increasing challenge of mental health problems in young people, all of which have subsequently been impact by the pandemic and periods of lockdown.</p> <p>Play, socialising and building resilience are all recognised as important in the recovery of children and young people post Covid-19.</p>

Title	Gainsborough Road, N12 close to the junction of Nether Street- traffic measures
Raised by (Councillor):	Ross Houston
Ward:	West Finchley
Area Committee:	Finchley and Golders Green
Member Request:	<p>There is a section of Gainsborough Road with bad traffic congestion combined with poor visibility. This results in frequent road rage incidents and damage to parked vehicles.</p> <p>One solution would be to allow pavement parking, or widen the road for a small section where the visibility is poorest and where frequent traffic congestion occurs.</p> <p>To look at the feasibility of allowing pavement parking or widening a small section of Gainsborough Road near the junction with Nether Street.</p>
Funding Required (£):	3,000 – 5,000 (tbc by Highways)
In consultation with (e.g. named Highways/Greenspaces Officer, and any comments which would assist the application):	Highways
On (DATE):	
Any additional information (please list any documents here and email to relevant Governance Officer to circulate to the Committee):	

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 £30,000 per project for CIL Funding, as approved by Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on Monday 8th February 2021. Requests for funding must be in line with the Council's priorities which are outlined in the Corporate Plan, Barnet 2024.

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>
- 6.3 Policy and Resources Committee, 8 February 2021; Review of CIL criteria; <https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=692&MId=10200&Ver=4>