



## Finchley & Golders Green Area Committee

30 June 2021

<b>Title</b>	<b>Members Items – Applications for Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) Funding</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Head of Governance
<b>Wards</b>	Various within Finchley & Golders Green Constituency
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	None
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Salar Rida – Senior Governance Officer <a href="mailto:salar.rida@barnet.gov.uk">salar.rida@barnet.gov.uk</a> / 020 8359 7113

### Summary

This report informs the Finchley & Golders Green Area Committee that the applications listed under section 1 for Neighbourhood CIL funding have been submitted. The Committee are requested to consider the information highlighted within this report and decide on its desired course of action in accordance with its powers.

### Officers 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) award funding (either fully or partially) and any conditions attached and note the implications to the Committee's NCIL funding budget;**
- (b) defer the application for funding for further information, giving reasons; or**
- (c) reject the application, giving reasons.**

**1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

1.1 Applications for funding from the Committee's allocated NCIL budget have been raised. The applications are as follows:

Title	Friends of Finchley Way Open Space – Environmental Improvement
Raised by (Councillor):	Ross Houston
Ward:	West Finchley
Member Request:	To fund shrub and wildflower planting and rustic oak seating in a previously neglected area of Finchley Way Open Space
Funding Requested (£):	£5,596.00
In consultation with (e.g. named Officer): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is within the parameters outlined in CIL statutory and regulatory definitions</li><li>• Falls within the CIL Funding Priorities agreed by the relevant Area Committee</li><li>• Links to priorities in any existing Council policy or strategy and/or whether any insight and intelligence may support the application</li><li>• The scheme has considered any potential impact on the Council's Strategic portfolio including those considered for strategic CIL funding</li><li>• The scheme has no ongoing incremental revenue costs to the Council</li><li>• That the scheme budget is forecast accurately</li><li>• That the scheme deliverability has been assessed to ensure it can be resourced and successfully implemented</li><li>• That the scheme outcomes and benefits have been assessed</li></ul>	This application has been discussed with and is supported by both Matthew Gunyon (Greenspaces Service Manager) and Philip Hoare (Assistant Director, Parking and Area Lead Officer). Discussed at a meeting on 8 June 2021 and subsequently.

including benefits for the wider community and/or including those with protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010 And Area Lead Officer (Philip Hoare), on (08/06/2021):	
Any additional information (please list any documents here to be published with the agenda, or circulated to the Committee):	Document 1 – The Case for Funding Document 2 – Budget (Please see below)

## Document 1 – The case for funding

### Objective

Our objective of this grant is to build on the £2,200 already invested by Barnet in clearing parts of a derelict area of Finchley Way Open Space that had been taken over by bramble and other plants of little value to wildlife. This new grant would provide funding for planting and seating to enable the area to be rejuvenated as a wildlife area and enjoyed by local residents. By replacing the bramble with more diverse and wildlife friendly planting, a wider range of animals, amphibians and reptiles will be encouraged on to the site.

### Introduction

Finchley Way Open Space was the site of Brent Lodge (now demolished) and its gardens which were bequeathed to Finchley Borough Council by Augustus Cooper in his Will of 1939. The Will states that the site should be *'retained always as an open space for the use and enjoyment always of the public'*.

Friends of Finchley Way Open Space (FoFWOS) was established as a Friends group for the site in December 2019 and became a registered charity in December 2020, Registered Charity No. 1192844. There are 130 Friends and the Chair takes an active role in Barnet Green Spaces Network. We have built a strong relationship with Barnet's Greenspaces Team.

All eight trustees plus the other two members of the management committee who are not trustees support this application. Eight of these ten live within five minutes' walk of the site.

The site is in the London Borough of Barnet list of assets as two sites but the whole site is now known as Finchley Way Open Space with the main entrance in Finchley Way, N3 1AG and two smaller entrances in Hamilton Way, N3 1AN. Within the site there are distinct areas, The Orchard, The Copse and The Green Field, as shown on the map below.

The whole site is approximately 6,900 sq. m. (0.69 hectares or 1.7 acres) but as can be seen from the map, it is effectively 'U' shaped as it wraps around Cedar Court on three sides. The Orchard is approximately 53 m x 34 m – 1800 sq. m.



## Benefits

The benefit to the local community is the opening up of a previously derelict and overgrown area as a place for exploration of the natural world and somewhere to sit quietly. The benefit to wildlife would also be considerable.

At the moment the Orchard and Copse can be categorised as degraded W8 Woodland (mixed deciduous and oak/birch woodlands) and an ecology survey in the autumn of 2020 found little wildlife. The public consultation in the autumn of 2020 found strong support for improving the Orchard and Copse for wildlife and managing it as a wildlife area.

The purpose of this grant is to plant a diverse range of shrubs and wildflowers that will attract a wider range of wildlife following Professor James Hitchmough's planting plans.

FoFWOS has already begun the process of making the site more wildlife friendly. Bird and bat boxes, donated by a local resident and CJ Wildlife have been erected and bug hotels, hedgehog houses, log piles for stag beetles, etc. will be added as the project progresses.

The site is open 24/7. The aim is to improve access to the whole site as a community resource. The local primary and nearby nursery schools have been contacted about using the site as a 'forest school' and FoFWOS has received a

positive response, although it has been difficult to take this forward. The site will also support informal family-based learning and provide activities for the nearby scout's group. Indeed, the first open meeting of Friends was keen to add an educational objective to the Vision.

Our start date of December 2019 means that we do not have pre-lockdown figures but observation strongly suggests that during lockdown use of the site has increased. It is now highly valued as a local resource. The Lottery Community Fund has provided money for people counters and a user survey which will take place later this year.

**The application is supported by Matthew Gunyon, Greenspaces Service Manager**

**Consultation**

Through the monthly newsletter FoFWOS keeps Friends up-to-date with developments on the site. FoFWOS also regularly posts up-dates on the West Finchley Residents' Association Facebook group and Next Door West Finchley as well as having its own Facebook open page, Facebook group, You Tube channel and Instagram account. FoFWOS trustees frequently receive very positive feedback from the local residents. The Chair is stopped in the street and congratulated. Input is welcomed by the charity from all local residents and users.

A public consultation was undertaken in the autumn of 2020. There was strong support for having a pocket nature reserve in the Orchard, with no one disagreeing with the idea.

8. The third area is intended to be a pocket nature reserve, as marked on the Masterplan Key. Do you agree or disagree with this plan?			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		60%	46
2	Agree		31%	24
3	Neither agree nor disagree		9%	7
4	Disagree		0%	0
5	Strongly disagree		0%	0
			answered	77

Leaflets were distributed to addresses within 0.4km of the site and the consultation was publicised using social media, mainly local Facebook and Next Door. There

were 77 substantive responses to the on-line consultation survey, plus nine people who commented separately by email. This is just sufficiently large to be able to provide percentages. There is no way of knowing how representative of the local residents are those who responded but we believe that this represents a fairly good level of response for this type of local consultation, especially given the size of the site, just 0.67ha.

### **Links to Barnet's Corporate Plan 2019-2024**

The project will support Barnet's corporate plan by:

- helping to provide a pleasant, well maintained borough by working to get the best out of an open space and improve air quality and wildlife habitat;
- enabling residents live happy, healthy, independent lives by volunteering and encouraging residents to lead an active and healthy lifestyle and maintain their mental wellbeing; and by
- supporting the building of a strong community where people get along well. The charity's work has already reduced anti-social behaviour by increasing the visibility to passers-by of another part of the site. The project will help to build a family friendly borough and is focusing on what the community can do to help themselves and each other. FoFWOS buys from local businesses as far as possible and aims to support traditional craft skills by buying handmade rustic seating.

### **On-going Costs**

There are no on-going costs to the Council. The planting and aftercare will be done by volunteers. FoFWOS has been supported by local residents and local businesses and would expect to be able to fund any additional incidental costs from these sources.

The seating will be green oak which will weather and turn silver-grey over time and need no maintenance.

By choosing wildflowers and native species shrubs and other planting suitable for temperate climates, maintenance will largely be an annual job of pruning, cutting back and tidying. This will be done by volunteers. From time-to-time replacements may be necessary but this will be covered from other funding.

### **Implementation**

There are between 12 and 30 volunteers on site every Sunday morning willing and able to undertake the necessary clearance and planting. Some volunteers are local but through our monthly newsletter, Facebook, Next Door and Barnet Volunteering we now draw volunteers from across the borough, including Ducks Island, Golders Green and Childs Hill.

## Document 2 – Budget

Task	Cost
3 rustic benches (Appendix 1)	Cost from supplier: Bench with arms: £1,000, 2 benches without arms: £650 each, delivery and installation cemented in £250  TOTAL: £2,550.00
Planting (Appendix 2)	Estimated cost £3,046.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5,596.00</b>

### Appendix 1 – Rustic benches



### Appendix 2 – Planting

Bulbs £183 <https://www.iparkers.co.uk/csp/parkers/web/viewword.csp>

Shrubs, ferns and perennials £1,113

Wildflower seed £1,000 <https://www.pictorialmeadows.co.uk/product/woodland-edge/>

Compost £750

## Shrubs, ferns and perennials - examples



## Wildflowers - examples



Title	Friends of Victoria Park – Environmental Improvement
Raised by (Councillor):	Danny Rich
Ward:	West Finchley
Member Request:	To fund shrub a tree trail in Victoria Park
Funding Requested (£):	£5,000.00
In consultation with (e.g. named Officer): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is within the parameters outlined in CIL statutory and regulatory definitions</li> <li>• Falls within the CIL Funding Priorities agreed by the relevant Area Committee</li> <li>• Links to priorities in any existing Council policy or strategy and/or whether any insight and intelligence may support the application</li> <li>• The scheme has considered any potential impact on the Council's Strategic portfolio including those considered for strategic CIL funding</li> <li>• The scheme has no ongoing incremental revenue costs to the Council</li> <li>• That the scheme budget is forecast accurately</li> <li>• That the scheme deliverability has been assessed to ensure it can be resourced and successfully implemented</li> <li>• That the scheme outcomes and benefits have been assessed including benefits for the wider community and/or including those with protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010</li> </ul> And Area Lead Officer (Philip Hoare), on (08/06/2021):	This application has been discussed with and is supported by both Matthew Gunyon (Greenspaces Service Manager) and Philip Hoare (Assistant Director, Parking and Area Lead Officer). Discussed at a meeting on 8 June 2021 and subsequently.
Any additional information (please list any documents here to be published with the agenda, or circulated to the Committee):	Document 1 – The Case for Funding Document 2 – Budget (Please see below)

## Document 1 – The case for funding

### Objective

Our objective of this grant is to develop and install a tree trail with an associated app, in Victoria Park, working with the council's Greenspaces Team.

### Introduction

Victoria Park occupies 7 hectares (17 acres) and is in West Finchley ward in Finchley in the London Borough of Barnet. Much of the park was originally part of Colby's Farm, where Charles Dickens wrote part of *Martin Chuzzlewit*. In 1887 Henry Stephens proposed converting the area to a park to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, but it was not opened until 1902, a year after Victoria's death. It was the only public park in the former Borough of Finchley until 1914.

The park is mainly grassland, with playgrounds, ornamental gardens, playing fields, six public tennis courts, Finchley Victoria Bowling and Croquet Club, and a cafe open 7 days a week. Victoria Park is fortunate in having an exceptionally diverse range of over 100 different types of trees.

What is exciting for us is that we are moving the Friends Group forward and we have a new Bowling Club that has taken over management of the two bowling greens from the Council/Municipality and is growing nicely.

We have inherited a nice small capital sum that will give us new children's playgrounds, a new café and should stretch to improved/repared walkways.

Friends of Victoria Park was established as a Friends group for the park in June 2018. We have built a strong relationship with Barnet's Greenspaces Team and worked with them to develop the Victoria Park masterplan.

The main aims of the Friends:

- develop a community to protect and look after Victoria Park
- work with the Council on maintenance activities and future improvements in Victoria Park.
- support other stakeholders like the Finchley Farmers Market and the Finchley Victoria Bowling and Croquet Club

The park is a local favourite and features a cafe, tennis courts, two playgrounds, gardens and benches. It is next door to the Finchley Victoria Bowling and Croquet Club.

### Benefits

The purpose of this grant is to develop a tree trail, with an associated cellphone app and appropriate explanatory boards, that will enable visitors to identify any of the over 100 types of trees in our park. This project will help to build a family friendly and community focussed tree trail with the educational purpose of helping increase awareness and knowledge of nature and the variety of local trees. Lockdown has seen increased usage of Victoria Park and the tree trail would be able to be used by local residents, visitors and local schoolchildren and help build appreciation of the diverse range of tree types in our local park.

**The application is supported by Matthew Gunyon, Greenspaces Service Manager.**

### **Links to Barnet's Corporate Plan 2019-2024**

The project will support Barnet's corporate plan by:

- helping to provide a pleasant, well maintained borough by working to get the best out of an open space and improve air quality and wildlife habitat;
- enabling residents live happy, healthy, independent lives by volunteering and encouraging residents to lead an active and healthy lifestyle and maintain their mental wellbeing;
- supporting the building of a strong community where people get along well.

This project will help to build a family friendly and community focussed borough and has an educational purpose in helping increase awareness and knowledge of nature and the variety of local trees.

### **On-going Costs**

There are no on-going costs to the Council. Friends of Victoria Park has been supported by local residents and would expect to be able to fund any additional incidental costs from these sources.

With successful funding the tree trail would be introduced this municipal year.





## Document 2 – Budget

Task	Cost
Supply and installation of a tree trail in Victoria Park, N3	Budget estimate provided by Matthew Gunyon, Greenspaces Service Manager.  TOTAL: £5,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5,000.00</b>

Title	
Raised by (Councillor):	Rohit Grover
Ward:	Garden Suburb
Member Request:	<p>De-cluttering of street scene on Childs Way NW11 to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the number of School Keep Clear signs from 4 to 2 and relocate on lamp columns</li> <li>• Remove one 20&amp;30mph zone sign and post</li> <li>• Remove one "Pedestrian zone" sign</li> <li>• Remove the disused post at the end of Childs Way</li> </ul>
Funding Requested (£):	£1500
<p>In consultation with (e.g. named Officer):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is within the parameters outlined in CIL statutory and regulatory definitions</li> <li>• Falls within the CIL Funding Priorities agreed by the relevant Area Committee</li> <li>• Links to priorities in any existing Council policy or strategy and/or whether any insight and intelligence may support the application</li> <li>• The scheme has considered any potential impact on the Council's Strategic portfolio including those considered for strategic CIL funding</li> <li>• The scheme has no ongoing incremental revenue costs to the Council</li> <li>• That the scheme budget is forecast accurately</li> <li>• That the scheme deliverability has been assessed to ensure it can be resourced and successfully implemented</li> <li>• That the scheme outcomes and benefits have been assessed</li> </ul>	Yes

<p>including benefits for the wider community and/or including those with protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010</p> <p>And Area Lead Officer (NAME), on (DATE):</p>	
<p>Any additional information (please list any documents here to be published with the agenda, or circulated to the Committee):</p>	<p>Please see photo below</p>



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.2 The Committee is requested to decide in respect of each application submitted by Ward Members for Neighbourhood CIL Funding, in line with its terms of reference set out in Article 7 of the Council's Constitution.
- 1.3 The Policy & Resources Committee were requested by the Finchley & Golders Green Area Committee in February and October 2020 to review and clarify the current CIL Funding Policy and Eligibility Guidelines.
- 1.4 On 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021, the Policy & Resources Committee discussed a report concerning the CIL funding process. It was agreed that each Area Committee should consider, develop and approve their own CIL funding priorities for each financial year starting in 2021/22. In addition, it was recommended that comprehensive guidance be developed for CIL Area Committee Budget and the Road Safety & Parking Fund to ensure that Members can make informed decisions when receiving applications for funding.
- 1.5 At its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021, the Policy and Resources Committee agreed in respect of Area Committees:
  - that each Area Committee be allocated £400,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding per financial year
  - to remove the funding limit for each individual Area Committee CIL funded project (which will operate within the approved annual budget)
  - the new CIL Funding Application Guidelines and Funding Application Form
- 1.6 The Area Committees have considered and agreed their priorities for CIL funding for 2021- 22 and these can be accessed via the links provided in section 6 under Background papers.
- 1.7 The priorities do not restrict the Area Committees from approving funding requests that are not agreed priorities. The Area Committee could choose to approve something that is not an identified priority providing it meets the legal definition of infrastructure.
- 1.8 The purpose of the priorities is to enable Area Committees to make informed decisions about the requests before them. This will allow each Area Committee to make appropriate decisions on how funding is allocated in line with the specific infrastructure needs of the area.
- 1.9 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a planning charge that was introduced by the Planning Act 2008 Part II to help deliver infrastructure to support the development in an area. CIL is a standard charge collected from developers on a rate per square metre basis and the funds raised are spent on infrastructure to support the development of an area. Part of CIL funding is allocated to the

Neighbourhood Portion and managed by the three Area Committees for Finchley & Golders Green, Hendon and Chipping Barnet.

- 1.10 For schemes approved by Area Committee for funding above £50,000 these are recognised as more complex to deliver. The relevant Executive Director will ensure the appointment of a senior Council Officer to sponsor the scheme and the coordination of Council services, ensure the appropriate project methodology is adhered to, with the scheme set up for a successful delivery. It is recognised that these schemes may deliver outside of the financial year in which they are approved.

## **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 2.1 Not applicable; Members of the Council are able to submit applications for Neighbourhood CIL funding to the Area Committee via Members' Items. As a result, the Committee are requested to consider and determine the applications submitted by Ward Members. Therefore, no other recommendation is provided from Officers.

## **3. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

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

## **4. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

### **4.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 4.1.1 The Community Infrastructure Levy funding supports the delivery of the Corporate Plan objectives: A pleasant, well maintained borough that we protect and invest in Getting the best out of our parks and improving air quality by looking after and investing in our greenspaces Investing in community facilities to support a growing population, such as schools and leisure centres.

### **4.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 4.2.1 Starting in 2021/22, the Area Committee has an allocated budget for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) of £400,00 per financial year. This enables the Area Committees to consider funding a larger number of projects with the opportunity to unlock greater community benefits.
- 4.2.2 The Policy & Resources Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 agreed to remove the funding limit per scheme and that Area Committees operate within their annual budget. This enables Area Committees to consider using the increased CIL allocation to fund larger projects with the opportunity to unlock significant

community benefits.

#### **4.3 Social Value**

4.3.1 Requests for Area Committee budget funding provides an avenue for Members to give consideration to funding requests which may have added social value.

#### **4.4 Legal and Constitutional References**

4.4.1 Council Constitution, Article 7, Section 7.5 Responsibility for Functions details that the Area Committee is responsible for determining the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy funding within the constituency subject to sufficient of the budget being allocated to the Committee being unspent.

4.4.2 Council Constitution, Article 2 Members of the Council, Section 2.3 states that a Ward Member will be permitted to have one matter only (with no subitems) on the agenda for an Area Committee where the Member is submitting a request for CIL funding to an Area Committee Budget relating to their Ward. Members' Items for CIL funding Budget must be submitted 10 clear working days before the meeting. Items received after that time will only be dealt with at the meeting if the Chairman agrees they are urgent.

#### **4.5 Risk Management**

4.5.1 None in the context of this report.

#### **4.6 Equalities and Diversity**

4.6.1 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.

#### **4.7 Corporate Parenting**

4.7.1 None in the context of this report.

#### **4.8 Consultation and Engagement**

4.8.1 Members consult with Area Committee Lead Officers at an early stage on CIL Funding applications and where relevant with other departments and services. This will enable as much supporting information as possible to be included with applications to enable committees to make an informed decision. Applications where limited or no consultation has taken place are likely to be deferred or rejected by committees. This information will enable committees to make informed decisions. There is no prescribed format for supporting information, but it is recommended that it is sufficient for the committee to make an informed

decision.

## 5 **Insight**

- 5.1 The Committee may wish to utilise the CIL funding priorities agreed by the Area Committee as a guide towards determining an application. Officers will work on collating key information to assist Members in reviewing priorities including infrastructure needs by constituency area and insight data.

## 6 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 6.1 Meeting of the Community Leadership Committee, 24 June 2015, Review of Area Committees – operations and delegated budgets:  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s24009/Area%20Committees%20%20Community%20Leadership%20Committee%2025%20June%202015%20-%20FINAL.pdf>
- 6.2 Policy & Resources Committee, 9 July 2015, 'Delegating a proportion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) income to the Council's Area Committees'  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=692&MId=8346&Ver=4>
- 6.3 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>
- 6.4 Policy & Resources Committee, 8 February 2021, Review of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Eligibility Criteria and Guidance  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=692&MId=10200&Ver=4>
- 6.5 Policy & Resources Committee, 24 May 2021, Review of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Eligibility Criteria and Guidance  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=692&MId=10201&Ver=4>
- 6.6 Chipping Barnet Area Committee - CIL Funding Priorities – 21 April 2021 (item 12):  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=711&MId=10126&Ver=4>

- 6.7 Finchley & Golders Green Area Committee – CIL Funding Priorities, 8 April 2021 (item 12):  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=712&Mid=10257&Ver=4>
- 6.8 Hendon Area Committee – CIL Funding Priorities, 16 March 2021 (item 14):  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=717&Mid=10250&Ver=4>